

BLUEARK CHALLENGE 2022

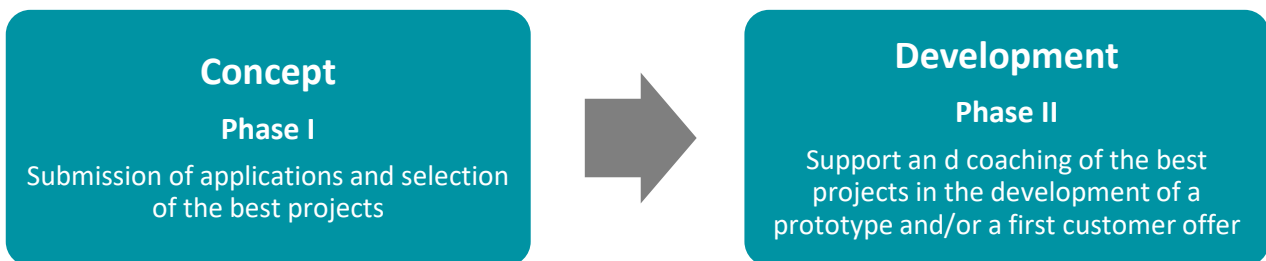
Rules for participation

These rules are considered to be known, understood and accepted when registering for the BlueArk Challenge 2022 (hereinafter "BlueArk Challenge").

I. Objective

The BlueArk Challenge proposes a call for projects with the aim of bringing out innovative concepts and solutions in water management while inviting professionals and specialists in the field, institutions and digitalization players to collaborate. The objective is to quickly generate/prototype "on the ground" solutions to concrete problems expressed by water stakeholders (e.g. distributors, steps, municipalities, etc.) while benefiting from the feedback of future users. This event is jointly organised by the BlueArk Entremont Innovation Cluster, ALTIS and The Ark Foundation (hereafter "Organisers").

II. Concept of the BlueArk Challenge 2022



The BlueArk Challenge is organised in two phases: a design phase and a development phase.

The first part is thus devoted to the development of a solution. The participants propose a **solution concept for** one or more of the proposed issues (= challenges). The concept is submitted in the form of an application file summarising the project proposal. The best projects are then invited to participate in the second part, the solution development phase.

The selected projects thus have the opportunity to **develop their proposal** directly in the field with the end-user, i.e. the challenge holder (mentoring). The Entremont BlueArk also supports the selected teams in defining ways of developing and marketing their project in the future (e.g. business model, etc.).

III. Agenda

Dates to remember:

Summer 2022

- **September:** Launch of the call for projects.
- **Friday 04 November:** **Deadline for submission** (midnight).
- **Thursday 01 December 2022:** Announcement of the results at the Smart Water Conference (Le Châble, Verbier). The best projects are invited to phase two: the development of their solution.
- **January to July 2023:** Accompaniment of the winners by BlueArk Entremont for the development of a prototype and/or a first customer offer. Co-creation with the challenge holder.

IV. Selection process

Conditions of participation

Participation in this call for projects implies full acceptance of these rules.

The BlueArk Challenge 2022 is open to all companies or institutions interested in or active in the field of water and/or its digitalisation. Actors from different backgrounds (academic, entrepreneurial, etc.) are encouraged to join forces and pool their skills to propose innovative concepts. Applicants can indicate their specific skills or technologies using the following form: <https://www.blueark-challenge.ch/formulaire-partenaires-technologies/>.

Application form

Applications to participate in the BlueArk Challenge 2022 can be made using the **application form**, which can be downloaded from the website www.blueark-challenge.ch. Applications must be submitted by **midnight on 04 November** at the latest and sent to contact@blueark-challenge.ch.

In order for the application to be valid, all fields required in the application form must be completed.

The project leader

Each application must define a "project leader", a key person who represents the application. This person is the Organisers' main contact, particularly for monitoring the application throughout the process and for administrative matters.

Selection of applications

A committee composed of 3 representatives from BlueArk Entremont, 2 from The Ark Foundation and 1 from Altis, checks the validity of the applications.

The holder of the challenge concerned has the right to exclude the proposal of an applicant if he/she considers it irrelevant and unsustainable in its future development.

Applications approved by the committee are then forwarded directly to a panel of experts in the field, who evaluate and select the applications according to the following **evaluation criteria**

- Response to the expressed need
- Relevance and added value of the solution
- Innovative or creative character
- Technical feasibility
- Economic and development potential
- Quality of the application
- Multi-disciplinary innovation team

Decisions taken in the application selection phase are confidential and not subject to appeal.

V. Participants' commitments

Participants in the call for projects commit to :

- a. To provide any additional information requested by the Organisers.
- b. To provide the information and elements necessary for the communication of the project in the framework of the communication campaign that will follow the call for projects.

In addition, all candidates undertake on their honour to guarantee the accuracy of the information they provide. Any inaccuracy or omission that could lead to an erroneous judgement will result in the cancellation of the application. In the event of a proven irregularity, the jury reserves the right to withdraw the prize awarded.

Participants who are selected for the second part (development phase) also commit to :

- a. To present their proposal at the Smart Water conference on 01 December (Le Châble)
- b. To co-develop their solution in collaboration with the challenge holder
- c. To present the results of their work at the end of the BlueArk Challenge to an audience.

VI. Prizes and prizes for the competition

The best projects receive a cheque for **CHF 10,000** for the development of their solution. In particular, they benefit from the support of the challenge holders for the development of the solution, or even an offer: fieldtest, feedback from end users, etc.

In addition, the Entremont BlueArk offers support for the business part of the project (e.g. business model, etc.). Various activities can also be offered to participants (innovation workshops, webinars, experience sharing, etc.).

Note that projects presented during the BlueArk Challenge (phase I) may potentially be supported outside of this call for projects, through The Ark Foundation's incubation or acceleration programmes.

VII. Participation fees

Any expenses incurred for travel, concept development or the preparation of the application file are to be borne by each candidate. No reimbursement can be claimed from the Organisers.

VIII. Image rights

The participant agrees that his/her work in relation to the BlueArk Challenge may be featured in the Organiser's media, and that photos and video recordings of the participant may be taken for reporting purposes¹.

IX. Rights to the results of the work and intellectual property

Each project leader and his/her team declare that they legitimately hold the intellectual property rights relating to the projects submitted under this call for proposals.

For all projects submitted in Phase I (concept), the project leaders and their team retain full ownership. The issue of IP within heterogeneous innovation teams must be discussed internally, among the team members.

For projects developed in phase II in collaboration with the challenge holders (development), the IP is to be discussed on a case-by-case basis, jointly between the two entities.

X. Other

The Organisers reserve the right to modify, shorten, extend or cancel this call for projects if circumstances so require. The Organisers shall not be held liable in any way for this.

¹ In the event that a patent is filed, the Organisers undertake not to alter the future possibility of the patent and thus to adapt the message communicated.