

Terms and Conditions

Startup competition

# **space meets manufacturing**

FINAL VERSION



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**Disclaimer:** This document provides involved stakeholders with detailed information on the startup competition **space meets manufacturing**.

# 1. Summary

Main Features	
Dates	<p>Challenge collection finished and start of application phase for startups: 25 September 2025</p> <p>Closing of application phase for startups: 16 October 2025</p> <p><u>First phase</u></p> <p>Eligibility and admissibility check for applications: 17 October 2025</p> <p>Selection of finalists for final pitch session: 20 October 2025</p> <p><u>Second phase</u></p> <p>Mentoring of selected finalists: 20 October – 16 November 2025</p> <p>Final pitch session / event day: 27 November 2025</p> <p><b>Communication of results:</b> a jury deliberation meeting will take place directly after the pitch session. Right after the jury decision is taken, the results will be announced publicly during the award ceremony of the event.</p>
Introduction	<p><b>space meets manufacturing</b> is a European startup competition organised in collaboration of SBIC Noordwijk, NL Space Campus and EIT Manufacturing (the organisers). Based on cross-sectoral industry challenges from space and manufacturing it aims to shed light on multi-market solutions and accelerate their application in cross-sectoral environments.</p> <p>It incentivises startups in the implementation of solutions to business challenges identified and disclosed by Corporates and SMEs of the organisers' ecosystems, available in chapter 3.</p> <p>The challenges are separated in two tracks: a track for space challenges and a track for manufacturing challenges.</p> <p>During the first phase, European startups can apply for the challenges and a maximum number of 10 startups per challenge will be selected to enter the second phase of the competition. During the second phase, the selected startups will receive mentoring in</p>

	<p>preparation of the final pitch session. They will be invited to pitch in front of a jury composed of space and manufacturing experts during the live, in-person event <b>space meets manufacturing - final competition</b> organised by SBIC, NL Space Campus and EIT Manufacturing Central at NL Space Campus in Noordwijk in the Netherlands.</p> <p>The <b>first prize winner</b> of the space track will receive the following prize package:</p> <p><b>Growth:</b> Business Development support from SBIC &amp; ESA Technology Broker.</p> <p><b>Visibility:</b> International Media, NL Space Campus podcast, newsletters &amp; social media</p> <p><b>Networking &amp; community:</b> Access to SBIC partner networks, invitation to selected space events</p> <p><b>Recognition:</b> "Best Space Startup" Award</p> <p>The <b>first prize winner</b> of the manufacturing track will receive the following prize package:</p> <p><b>Growth:</b> EIT Manufacturing Support Package for Internationalisation</p> <p><b>Visibility:</b> International media, EIT Manufacturing website, newsletter, events, social media</p> <p><b>Networking &amp; community:</b> Access to EIT Manufacturing community, invitation to selected manufacturing events</p> <p><b>Recognition:</b> "Best Manufacturing Startup" Award</p>
Link to the submission portal	<p><a href="https://nlspacecampus.swoogo.com/spacemeetsmanufacturingstartupcompetition/begin">https://nlspacecampus.swoogo.com/spacemeetsmanufacturingstartupcompetition/begin</a></p> <p>The submission platform will be available as of 25 September 2025 until 16 October 2025</p>
List of documents to be submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application form available on the submission platform</li> <li>• Company Pitch Deck in Microsoft PowerPoint format. The following details shall be clearly outlined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– description of the technology/solution and its novelty and uniqueness and relevance for the disclosed challenge from the corporate/SME,</li> <li>– description of previous use case(s) addressed by the company with their technology/solution that is relevant for the disclosed challenge,</li> <li>– team and company organisation,</li> <li>– existing business traction in the manufacturing and/or the space industry,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company logo in high quality graphic format (this will be used for the competition promotional campaign),</li> <li>• Company registration certificate</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation criteria</b>	<p><b>Evaluation criteria assessed by the independent experts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellence</li> <li>• Impact</li> <li>• Implementation</li> <li>• Strategic fit (only at first phase)</li> <li>• Problem-solution fit (only at second phase)</li> <li>• Pitch performance (only at second phase)</li> </ul>

## 2. General conditions

SBIC Noordwijk is the leader of the space track, in charge of event organisation, providing the location and personnel. Moreover, SBIC provides space business support expertise, for mentoring of startups during the project and jury at the competitions.

EIT Manufacturing is the leader of the manufacturing track, in charge of event promotion and marketing. Moreover, EIT Manufacturing provides manufacturing business support expertise, mentoring and jury roles during the project.

NL Space Campus supports the space track, event organisation, podcast publishing and supports promotion and marketing, as well as providing a large partner network.

**space meets manufacturing** is a programme for European startups to solve 4 challenges in industrial settings. It is an instrument to promote relationships between innovative startups and industrial Corporates and SMEs.

Shared objectives among the organisers are to support, scale and accelerate technology transfer, innovative ventures and small businesses into impactful powerhouses. In this context, they foster activities supporting growth of scaleups and startups, taking them beyond the regional and national borders of European markets and ecosystems.

It is an instrument to link and stimulate the two ecosystems by detecting the most innovative solution providers, matching them with challenges in the two different sectors and award them. Non-financial prizes such as business development support and promotion activities are planned for the winners, who are selected by a jury of experts.

## 3. Specific conditions

### 3.1 Thematic and expected results

#### PURPOSE

There is an untapped synergy potential of innovation activities in the space and the manufacturing sector. The European startup competition **space meets manufacturing** intends to discover and exploit that potential. It is designed as a European startup competition organised in collaboration of SBIC Noordwijk, NL Space Campus and EIT Manufacturing. Based on cross-sectoral industry challenges from space and manufacturing it aims to shed light on multi-market solutions and accelerate their application in cross-sectoral environments. Ultimately, it targets technology transfer through the implementation of proofs of concepts (PoCs) of innovative technological solutions to address business challenges identified by Corporates and SMEs of the space and the manufacturing sector.

#### TOPIC DESCRIPTION

##### Phase 1: Submission of application form

**space meets manufacturing** seeks applicants from across Europe with solutions in the realm of manufacturing or space technologies. The applicants shall present a technological solution that complies with both the two below-mentioned conditions:

1. Address at least one of the following technology domains:

- Additive Manufacturing / 3D printing
- Advanced sensors
- Advanced materials
- Battery / hydrogen / energy storage
- CO<sub>2</sub> capture, utilisation & storage / CO<sub>2</sub> tracking
- Computer vision / quality control / quality assurance
- Connectivity / IoT infrastructure
- Cybersecurity
- Data analytics / artificial intelligence / machine learning
- Electronics and semiconductors

- Logistics / asset tracking
- Mixed and extended reality / virtual reality / augmented reality
- Plastic and metal components
- Production planning / flexible production systems
- Recycling / reuse / remanufacturing
- Robotics
- Simulation / digital twins / advanced engineering tools

and

2. fit one of the four business challenges proposed by 2 European Corporates:

- Challenge #1: Predictive tool for weldability  
Description: Development of a predictive tool that quantifies both operational weldability (the likelihood of producing acceptable welds without critical defects) and technical weldability (properties of the weld zone after the thermal cycle: hardness, toughness, phase composition) for (C-Mn) steels and provides process parameter recommendations.
- Challenge #2 – Multi-purpose structural optimisation tool  
Description: Development of a software solution that couples parametric CAD models with automated FEA and multi-objective optimisation (e.g., stiffness vs. weight, payload vs. cost), including material selection and manufacturing constraints, to generate manufacturable design alternatives systematically.
- Challenge #3 – Non-destructive inspection (NDI) methods  
Description: Reduce cost and lead time of Non-Destructive Inspection (NDI) for (large-series) spacecraft manufacturing.
- Challenge #4 – Serial production technologies for hardware and (space) electronics  
Description: Reduce cost and lead time for space electronics Hardware, to support trend towards larger series commercial spacecraft.

## Phase 2: Submission of solution canvas

The shortlisted startups will be invited to submit a solution canvas showcasing in detail their technological solution applied to the specific challenge posed by the challenge owner. The solution canvas will be provided by the organisers. The submitted solution canvas will be assessed by the organisers, the challenge owners as well as two additional independent experts.



*The information above is provided for information only and does not constitute any kind of commitment on behalf of the organisers. The exact number of startups (maximum 10) to be selected as finalists will depend on the quality of the applications received.*

#### APPLICANTS PROFILE

The European startup competition **space meets manufacturing** is open to early stage or mature startups with potential solutions for the disclosed challenges. The startups applying must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a. Have registered headquarters in one of the European Union Member States or [countries associated to Horizon Europe](#) or UK and Switzerland (special rules apply) at the time of their application to the competition.
- b. Have a dedicated team of at least two (2) full-time equivalent employees.
- c. Only complete applications will be considered.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

**space meets manufacturing** takes the challenges of Corporates in the space and manufacturing sector and scouts for the best solutions and technologies from startups which in the final competition will be awarded with non-financial prizes. It strongly envisions a PoC implementation in the industrial environment of the corporate challenge owner. The organisers cannot commit to any consequent PoC project or provide a guarantee to the execution of PoC projects after the competition.

### 3.2 Prizes and awards

The competition is aiming to find and scale up the best solutions for a sustainable, resilient and socially impactful space and manufacturing industry.

During the second phase, the selected finalists will be invited to pitch in front of a jury composed by the organisers, the challenge owners as well as independent experts during the live, in-person event on 27 November 2025 at NL Space Campus in Noordwijk, Netherlands. The finalists will also obtain access to SBICs (space track) and EIT Manufacturing's pan-European innovation network (manufacturing track) and thus be able to enhance their visibility and international publicity through the respective communication channels.

The **first prize winner** of the space track will receive the following prize package:

**Growth:** Business Development support from SBIC & ESA Technology Broker

**Visibility:** International Media, NL Space Campus podcast, newsletters & social media

**Networking & community:** Access to SBIC partner networks, invitation to selected space events

**Recognition:** "Best Space Startup" Award

The **first prize winner** of the manufacturing track will receive the following prize package:

**Growth:** EIT Manufacturing Support Package for Internationalisation

**Visibility:** International media, EIT Manufacturing website, newsletter, events, social media

**Networking & community:** Access to EIT Manufacturing community, invitation to selected manufacturing events

**Recognition:** "Best Manufacturing Startup" Award

Startups shortlisted for the second phase shall participate in the in-person final event and pitch their proposal to an expert jury panel to be entitled to receive the award.

## 4. Proposal preparation and submission

All applications and supporting material must be submitted in English using the application forms linked on the [competition website](#) – no paper submissions will be considered.

The official language of the competition is English (i.e., all submission material must be submitted in English and the representative of finalist startups selected to participate in the final event must pitch in English).

The following documentation must be submitted by the applicants through the submission tool **no later than the competition deadline 16 October 2025, 23:59 CET**.

- Application form
- Company Pitch Deck in Microsoft PowerPoint format. The following details shall be clearly outlined:
  - description of the technology/solution and its novelty and uniqueness and relevance for the disclosed challenge from the corporate/SME,
  - description of previous use case(s) addressed by the company with their technology/solution that is relevant for the disclosed challenge,
  - team and company organisation,
  - existing business traction in the manufacturing and/or the space industry
- Company logo in high quality graphic format (this will be used for the competition promotional campaign)
- Company registration certificate

NOTE: Only applications submitted through the online link (as noted above) before the deadline will be accepted and considered. The organisers reserve the right to extend the submission deadline; any extension of the deadline will be communicated to the public on the competition website; link as follows: <https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/news-events/events/space-meets-manufacturing/>

Any documentation missing or considered incomplete may be a reason for application rejection.

## CONTACT EMAIL

All applicants may contact EIT Manufacturing to ask questions and clarify any points on general or technical procedures and competition content by sending an email message to [central@eitmanufacturing.eu](mailto:central@eitmanufacturing.eu) and with email subject “space meets manufacturing”.

# 5. Proposal evaluation and selection process

## 5.1 Eligibility and admissibility check

A submission will be considered admissible if:

<b>Completeness</b>	The submitted proposal is completed, submitted in time via the submission tool, in English with all its mandatory sections and compulsory documents included (application form, pitch presentation, company logo, company registration certificate).
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Admissible submissions will be considered eligible if:

<b>Applicant profile</b>	The applicant’s profile is in line with the requirements presented under point 3.1 “Applicants profile”
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Applications containing one or more inadmissible or ineligible elements will receive an official communication from the organisers setting out the outcome of the eligibility and admissibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

The applicant deemed ineligible and wishing to dispute the ineligibility decision, may appeal. This appeal must be made within five (5) working days from the official notification of ineligibility and sent to the contact email mentioned in section 4.

## 5.2 Evaluation of proposals

The evaluation of all eligible applications will be conducted in two steps:

### 5.2.1 First phase – evaluation of proposals

Applicants' submissions will first be reviewed online by a panel composed by three (3) evaluators with same weighting of scores:

- one (1) representative from EIT Manufacturing (1/3)
- one (1) representative from SBIC Noordwijk (2/3)
- one (1) representative nominated by the challenge owner (3/3)

Each evaluator will have to score each application based on four standardised criteria: Excellence, impact, implementation, strategic fit.

External evaluators will assess each evaluation criterion according to the following scores on a scale **from 1 to 5**:

Score	Description	
1	<b>Extremely poor or none</b>	The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific competition provisions
2	<b>Bad</b>	The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific competition provisions
3	<b>Average</b>	The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific competition provisions
4	<b>Good</b>	The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific competition provisions
5	<b>Excellent</b>	The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity and coherence, compared to the specific competition provisions

The scores given at criterion level are then summed together to come to the final score.

Thresholds apply to individual criteria and to the total score. The maximum score for a proposal is 20. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3/5 and the default overall threshold is 12/20.

Evaluation criteria	Excellence	Impact	Implementation	Strategic Fit	TOTAL
	The application presents an innovative solution with potential of the product or service to improve the space and/or manufacturing sector.	The solution is scalable and demonstrates a competitive advantage over existing offers in the market.	There are clear references to the specific implementation domain. The team / founders have the expertise and entrepreneurial drive.	The startup contributes to the technology domains and the business challenge for which it has been submitted.	
Score	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	Up to 20
Thresholds	3/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	12/20

The three (3) evaluators will assess each startup application. Based on the individual evaluators' scorings (each application is evaluated three times) an average score per application is created.

The three (3) evaluators will meet in an alignment meeting to discuss and build an agreement on the selected teams for the second phase.

Up to ten (10) top ranked applications per challenge (the finalists) will be shortlisted for the second phase – challenge canvas submission incl. mentoring resulting in the in-person pitching event on 27 November 2025.

### 5.2.2 Second phase – In-person pitching event

The shortlisted finalists that enter the second phase will be evaluated by a panel composed by five (5) evaluators with same weighting of scores:

- one (1) representative from EIT Manufacturing (1/5)
- one (1) representative from SBIC Noordwijk (2/5)
- one (1) representative nominated by the challenge owner (3/5)
- two (2) external jury experts nominated by the organisers

The evaluation panels for the second phase will be organised per each challenge track.

Shortlisted startups will be invited to submit a solution canvas for the corresponding challenge they applied for. They will receive guidance and mentoring on the canvas proposed. The solution canvas will be part of the pitches at the final competition. The jury panel of the final competition will consist of two (2) external evaluators, one (1) evaluator from the corporate that is the challenge owner disclosed within this competition, and one (1) representative from SBIC as well as one (1) representative from EIT Manufacturing with the same weighting of scores.

The evaluators reserve the right to invite the applicants to an interview.

Each evaluator will have to score each shortlisted company based on five (5) criteria: Excellence, impact, implementation, strategic fit, pitch performance.

Evaluation criteria	Excellence	Impact	Implementation	Problem-Solution Fit	Pitch Performance	TOTAL
	The proposed solution represents a feasible and high-promising approach towards the space and/or manufacturing sector.	The solution is scalable and demonstrates a competitive advantage over existing offers in the market.	There is a clear understanding and capability to address the implementation domain. Expertise and drive can clearly be demonstrated.	The startup demonstrated the capability to solve the challenge for which it has submitted its solution canvas.	The startup can convey its solution in a credible and convincing manner. It is able to confidently answer the jury's questions.	
Score	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	Up to 25
Thresholds	3/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	15/25

The evaluators will assess each evaluation criterion according to the following scores on a scale **from 1 to 5**:

Score	Description	
<b>1</b>	<b>Extremely poor or None</b>	The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific competition provisions
<b>2</b>	<b>Bad</b>	The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific competition provisions
<b>3</b>	<b>Average</b>	The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific competition provisions
<b>4</b>	<b>Good</b>	The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific competition provisions
<b>5</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity and coherence, compared to the specific competition provisions

The scores given at criterion level are then summed together to come to the final score.

Thresholds apply to individual criteria and to the total score. The maximum score for a pitching startup is 25. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3/5 and the default overall threshold is 15/25.

The final evaluation will take place live during the **space meets manufacturing** competition final on 27 November 2025. The finalist startups will be invited to pitch.

The format of the live pitch will be a five-minute presentation by the applicants and five minutes questions from the jury panel. The final ranking of the successful applicants will be agreed by the jury members in a consensus meeting, which will be held right after the end of the pitching session.

The agenda for this in-person event will be announced on the [competition website](#). It is the participants' responsibility to keep track of announcements and information on the



space meets manufacturing [competition website](#). All shortlisted finalists will also receive an email with the detailed timing of the final pitching competition sessions prior to the event.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Shortlisted finalists which, for whatever reason, fail to attend the in-person final event at the given time and venue will be disqualified and will not be entitled to any award.

### 5.3 Communication of results

The results of the first phase (online evaluation and selection of finalists) will be communicated to the email address of the applicant representative registered at the submission platform (Note: Please check your junk folder). Results will be communicated with a rejection letter or email to non-qualified applicants or an invitation email to the second phase of the evaluation process.

The results of the second phase (in-person pitching event): A jury deliberation meeting will take place during the final event immediately after the pitch session. Right after the jury decision is taken, the results will be announced publicly at the award ceremony during the event. Individual scores and comments made by evaluators will remain confidential.

### 5.4 Procedure for complaints and appeal

The applicant (the representative of the legal entity) of a rejected application who disagrees with the decision may request an evaluation review. **Only procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review**, for example process errors or technical problems. The evaluation of the merits of a proposal shall not be the subject of an evaluation review. In this case, the applicant will have five (5) working days after receipt of the final evaluation results to submit an appeal to the evaluation.

### 5.5 Selected applicants and follow-up

The finalists will receive the following awards:

- All **shortlisted startups (the finalists)** will attend the in-person-event and pitch in front of the jury panel.
- **The track winners** will enjoy growth support, visibility and access to the community and networking as well as recognition as winners.

## 6. Other terms and conditions

### 6.1 Communication, dissemination, visibility of support

Prize winners must promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

The organisers may use, for their communication and publicising activities, information relating to the prize, as well as photos or audio-visual material that they receive from the applicants (including in electronic form), and photos and videos taken either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony. The organisers are allowed to publish the name of both the finalist(s) and the selected applicants, their origin, the award and prize and its nature and purpose.

### 6.2 Intellectual Property Rights

Participants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, participants affirm that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service. Participants agree to indemnify and hold harmless SBIC Noordwijk, NL Space Campus and EIT Manufacturing and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights infringement by the product or service of participants.

Participants shall have the right to further develop, use and license their intellectual property rights for creating, making, marketing and distributing products, services and technology.

### 6.3 Data protection

The organisers ensure that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object and the right not to be subject to a decision

based solely on automated processing. If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer on **dpo@eitmanufacturing.eu**. In the case of complaints, you can address them to the French regulator CNIL.

The collected personal data will be used solely for the procedure and assessment of the applications and the management, completion, organisation, dissemination of information and publicity of the Competition.

Personal data shall be deleted five (5) years after the announcement of the competition winners.

**YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA:** By submitting your application within this competition you consent that the organisers will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

## 6.4 Acceptance of the Guidelines

By submitting the application form, the participant agrees to these Guidelines and its Annexes, which form part of the submission. Participants agree that they have no legal entitlement to a prize.

The organisers reserve the right to make reasonable amendments to these Guidelines. Amendments and additions to these Guidelines shall be valid only if communicated in writing or otherwise made available to the participants on the [competition website](#).

The organisers also reserve the right to cancel or declare the Competition unsuccessful provided all applicants are informed and sufficient justification is given (for example no applications received, or all applications do not pass the default thresholds).

## 6.5 Confidentiality

The organisers undertake to use any confidential information shared by the applicants solely for the purposes of the **space meets manufacturing** competition. Confidential information shall mean data and/or information that is proprietary to, or possessed by, the applicants and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, whenever and however disclosed and might also be included in the application form. Confidential information must be expressly labelled as such in the application form.

Applicants agree that the organisers and their subsidiaries can disseminate, publish and make use of non-confidential information regarding the competition, to promote the activities or establish reports or other necessary documents.

The applicants agree that data and information in the application form not labelled as confidential may be disclosed.

Considering the confidential nature of the data and information referred to above, the organisers also undertake to (i) not disclose them in any way and in any form, without prior written authorisation of the company concerned; and (ii) **space meets manufacturing** competition.

Confidential information may be shared among the organisers and their subsidiaries (e.g. EIT Manufacturing ICs, ESA BICs) solely for the purposes of the **space meets manufacturing** competition. The organisers undertake to impose this confidentiality obligation on their employees and the employees of their subsidiaries and their collaborators, as well as on independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the competition for proposal as members of the Selection Committees or Jury, will take knowledge of or may have access to such confidential data and information.

## 6.6 Exclusion Criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the competition if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in [Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation](#). Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants concerned.

## 6.7 Applicable Law

The present guidelines are governed by the applicable European Union laws (i.e. the EIT Regulation, the EU Financial Regulation and the Horizon Europe Regulation) and is complemented, where necessary, by the law of France. The applicants agree to observe the obligations set forth in the [\(Model\) Grant Agreement](#) signed between the EIT and EIT Manufacturing and particularly Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping). These obligations will also be mentioned in contracts to be signed if the application is successful.