Judging and Awards Guide

June 23-29, 2021

This guide is intended for participants of the Earth Observation (EO) Dashboard Hackathon. The instructions contained in this document require users to be signed up and registered for this specific event at eodashboardhackathon.org.

Please note that some of the images used in this guide are samples from previous hackathons and are not exact replicas of the platform that will be used for the EO Dashboard Hackathon.

For more information:

If you have questions that are not addressed in this guide or in the other guides located on eodashboardhackathon.org/about, contact the organizing team at info@eodashboardhackathon.org.

For technical assistance with any of the content in this document, email web@eodashboardhackathon.org with a specific description of your problem.

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Introduction

The brightest ideas from the Earth Observation (EO) Dashboard Hackathon community will receive global recognition. You have the passion, the talent, and the knowledge – so how can you put it together to develop a winning solution? This guide contains information about the judging process, the Global Awards, the judging criteria, and more. Read closely!

Looking for inspiration? This hackathon is built, in part, on the success of the Space Apps COVID-19 Challenge. To see the winning projects from that event, go to covid19.spaceappschallenge.org/awards.

The Purpose of the Hackathon

We know that awards are exciting and compelling reasons to participate in the hackathon, but we can't emphasize enough that the hackathon is a collaborative enterprise — not a competitive one.

As you create your teams and craft your solutions, please keep in mind the ultimate goals of the EO Dashboard Hackathon:

- To bring attention to critical issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- To raise awareness of the one-year anniversary of the Earth Observing Dashboard, a collaborative enterprise sponsored by NASA, ESA, and JAXA
- To raise awareness around the world of NASA, ESA, JAXA data
- To inspire collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking
- To foster interest in Earth and space science
- To encourage growth and diversity of the next generation of scientists, technologists, designers, engineers, and artists

Eligibility for Judging

To be eligible for judging, your submission and/or team must meet the following requirements when submitting your project. For additional information, please see the *Project Submission Guide* at eodashboardhackathon.org/about.

- Complete all of the required sections on the team's project submission page. (See the "Completing Your Project Page" section within the *Project Submission Guide* for details.)
- The project submission must respond to one of the official challenge statements.
- The project submission must be completed using the English language. (In your videos, you are welcome to speak other languages; however, you must include English language subtitles.)
- The project submission must not contain any profanity or inappropriate language.
- All team members must be registered and identified on the team's Team Members page.
- All project files must be shared in accordance with the guidelines. (See the "Sharing Files on Your Project Page" section within the *Project Submission Guide* for details.)
- Your team must acknowledge that you have read, understood, and fully agreed to the program's submission requirements (as laid out in the *Project Submission Guide*), as well as to the Participant Terms and Conditions.
- Your team must choose to proceed with judging. (In other words, you must NOT choose to opt-out of judging. See the "Submitting Your Project" section within the *Project Submission Guide* for details.)
- The team must submit the project on the EO Dashboard website by the deadline, which is June 29 at 11:59 PM, in accordance with the local time of the person who created your team.

The Judging Process

Judging for the hackathon will take place in two stages throughout July and August of 2021.

Global Judging

All projects that adequately meet the requirements above will advance to Global Judging, where they will be reviewed by Subject-Matter Experts (SMEs) from NASA, ESA and JAXA. Each project will be evaluated by at least three Global Judges, who will use the judging criteria to evaluate the projects (see the "Judging Criteria" section below). The Global Judges will determine the top teams from each challenge, who will be known as the "Global Finalists." Once selected, Global Finalists may be contacted by the hackathon organizing team and asked to provide additional information. All Global Finalists will be announced via social media and on eodashboardhackathon.org.

Executive Judging

All Global Finalists will be reviewed by an executive committee from NASA, ESA, and JAXA. These judges are leaders and executives at the agencies with a variety of subject-matter expertise. This committee will nominate teams for one of the Global Awards (see below). The winning teams will be known as "Global Winners."

Global Awards

The Executive Judges will choose one Global Winner for each of the following awards:

- **Open Science Award:** The solution that best demonstrates the use of open science principles, which include transparency, inclusion, accessibility, and reproducibility.
- **Outreach Award:** The solution that most creatively communicates the storytelling power of the EO Dashboard.
- **Data Award:** The solution that maximizes the use of data from the EO Dashboard and leverages it to a unique application.
- **Technology Award:** The solution that develops an innovative technical approach and is equipped for integration into the EO Dashboard.
- **Impact Award:** The solution with the most potential to advance our knowledge of the effects of pandemics using the Earth Observing Dashboard.

Rewards

All Global Winners will receive the following rewards:

- The opportunity to be featured on eodashboardhackathon.org and social media.
- The opportunity to integrate their projects into (or be featured on) the Earth Observing Dashboard, if applicable. The EO Dashboard website is managed by ESA. For information on how to ensure your project can be successfully integrated into the Dashboard, see the *Dashboard Technical Background and Integration Guide* on eodashboardhackathon.org/about.
- Invitations to attend a NASA spacecraft launch when travel is deemed safe. (Each member of each winning team and one guest each will be invited and will be responsible for covering their own costs for their personal travel, meals, and incidental expenses, and accommodation expenses. Winners typically conduct fundraising activities to cover the costs of their trips.)

- 2,000 Euro to spend over the Network of Resources (NoR) portfolio.
- The opportunity to upscale their solutions using the EuroDataCube.

Additionally, *some* Global Winners will receive additional rewards:

- All Global Award Winners who utilize ALOS-2 data effectively to achieve the goals of their challenges will be provided with further access to ALOS-2 data by JAXA. Note: Provision of ALOS-2 archive data (PALSAR-2 Products L1.1, L1.5, L2.1) in the Area of Interests (AOIs) or expanding AOIs of existing Earth Observing Dashboard indicators for upgrading the indicators, scaling up the tools/applications of the indicators, or developing/implementing new indicators into the Earth Observing Dashboard based on the hackathon project results.
- The ESA ESRIN Award will be given to the Global Winner that maximizes the use of ESA data. This team will have the opportunity to visit the Science Hub of the ESA ESRIN site in Frascati (Rome), Italy in 2022 once travel is deemed safe. Travel cost will be supported by ESA.

Judging Criteria

The Global Judges and Executive Judges will evaluate the projects according to the following standards:

- **Impact:** How much impact (quality and quantity) can this project have? Does it solve a big problem or a little problem? Will it inspire or help many, or a few?
- **Creativity:** How creative/innovative is the approach? Is the project novel and something that hasn't been attempted before, or is it an incremental improvement on something that already exists?
- **Validity:** Is the solution scientifically valid? Will it do what it sets out to do? Can it work in the real world?
- **Relevance:** Is this project responsive to the challenge for which it was submitted? Is it a complete solution or does it have a long way to go? Is it technically feasible? How usable or user friendly is the solution?
- **Presentation:** How well did the team communicate their project? Were they effective in telling the story of the project: the challenge, the solution, and why is it important?

While many teams will consider the first four judging criteria carefully and excel at developing solutions with great potential, the best teams pay equal attention to the final criterion: presentation. After all, how can your solution make a difference if you can't effectively present and explain it in a way that will make people see your solution's value? We recommend devoting time and resources to developing your

pitch and building a great story around your project. Be sure to recruit team members with expertise in storytelling, design, and other skills to help document your project and share the value of your solution!

Happy Hacking!