For creative minds with vision - the iHUB pitch ideas competition

The iHUB Pitch 2027 has started - your chance to bring innovative ideas in sensor technology, digitalization or assistance systems to the big stage! Convince a top-class jury from science, business, public institutions and venture capital companies and become part of an exclusive network that will help turn your vision into reality.

The winners can expect not only fame, but also research services worth up to six person-months! Implement market-ready prototypes and feasibility studies with the partners of the InSignA High-Performance Center or develop future-oriented business models with us - apply now!

Creative minds

Do you have innovative ideas or solutions that have the potential to bring about real change? We are looking for you!

Companies with a drive for innovation

Are you a young company (founded no more than five years ago) with fresh concepts? Take the opportunity to present your ideas!

Students and researchers

Whether you are currently at university, working on a project, planning a start-up or have "invented" a great technology - show us your vision!

Start-ups and founders

Are you working on disruptive approaches or groundbreaking projects? The iHUB Pitch is your stage!

This prize is waiting for you

Research for you - free of charge

You will receive research services amounting to six person-months. Whether it’s demonstrators, prototypes, market analyses or feasibility studies - we will work together to advance your ideas.

Access to state -of-the-art infrastructure

Use our laboratories and test benches for your projects. Our state-of-the-art facilities offer you everything you need for your innovations.

Material resources for your project

As part of the competition, material resources can be provided for your project (e.g. prototype components, hardware or special productions). Although these remain in our possession, they are available to you for research and development.

Access to an exclusive network

Become part of a network of scientists, industry experts and company representatives. Use valuable contacts to investors, mentors and partners who will support you in the further development of your idea.

Visibility and reach

Present your idea to a high-caliber jury and a broad audience. Use the iHUB Pitch stage to attract attention for your innovation and inspire potential partners.

We address these and other sectors

Machine, plant and production engineering

Your ideas could help to make production processes more efficient, smarter and more sustainable.

Robotics and special machine construction

Whether automated systems or special solutions, technological boundaries are being redefined here.

Automotive

Ideas relating to mobility, autonomous driving and sustainable drive technologies are in demand here.

Energy supply and grid operators

From renewable energies to smart grid control - we are looking for innovative approaches for the energy sector.

Smart City, Digital Transformation

Shaping the cities of the future with solutions for smart infrastructure and digital innovations.

The roadmap to the iHUB pitch 2027

November 1, 2026

Start of the application phase for the iHUB Pitch 2027

Now it's your turn - submit your innovative ideas and be part of the next big competition!

January 24, 2027

Deadline for submission of project ideas (2 pages A4)

Present your idea to us briefly and concisely. You can find all the details and the application form online!

January 29, 2027

Notification of participation in the competition

Find out if your idea has made it and you get the chance to present in front of our expert jury.

February 18, 2027

iHUB-Pitch 2027 - Live at the Parkcafé in Ilmenau

Show what you can do: Present your vision and convince the jury at the big pitch event!
Please note: Your pitch can be in English, but the rest of the event will be held in German.

April 1, 2027

Start of processing all iHUB projects 2027

Now it's getting concrete - we are starting to implement the selected projects!
The term ends on December 31, 2027.

Members of the InSignA High-Performance Center

Your research partners

Fraunhofer IDMT

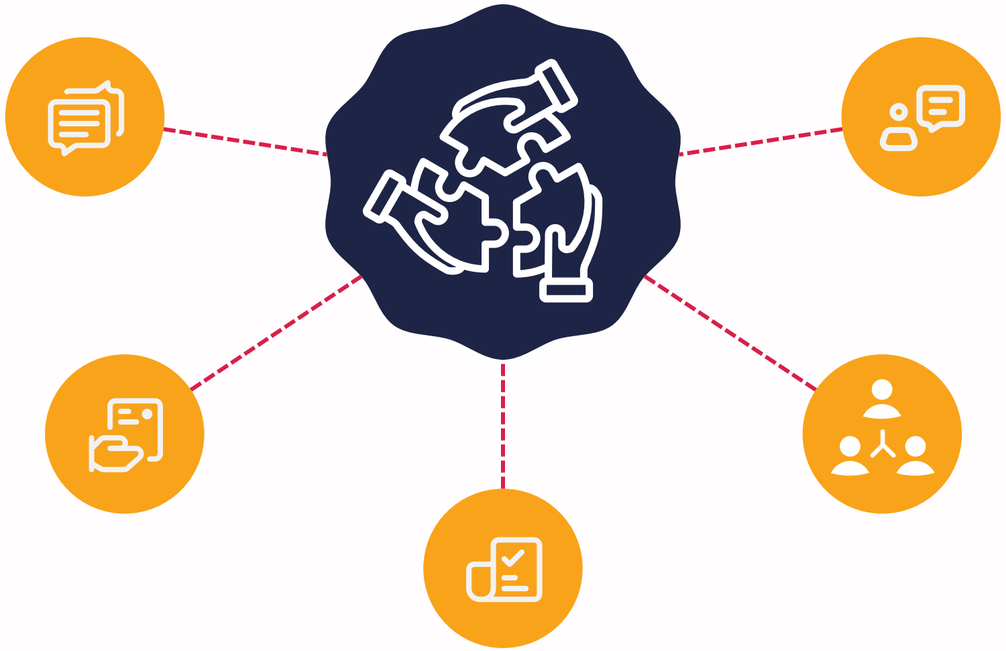
Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Media Technology IDMT
Ilmenau

Fraunhofer IKTS

Fraunhofer Institute for Ceramic Technologies and Systems IKTS, Battery Innovation and Technology Center BITC
Arnstadt and Hermsdorf

IMMS GmbH

IMMS Institute for Microelectronics and Mechatronics Systems non-profit GmbH
Ilmenau



TU Ilmenau

Department of Quality Assurance and Industrial Image Processing
Department Reliable machine-to-machine communication
Department of Electronic Measurements and Signal Processing
Department of Computer Architecture and Embedded Systems
Department of Electrical Power Supply
Department of Energy use optimization
Department of Production Engineering

Fraunhofer IIS

Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS
Ilmenau

Fraunhofer IOSB -AST

Fraunhofer Institute of Optronics, System Technologies and Image Exploitation IOSB, Advanced Systems Technology branch AST
Ilmenau

Fraunhofer IZFP

Fraunhofer Institute for Nondestructive Testing IZFP, Attract Research Group SigMaSense
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