

SAFE STEPS D-Tech (Disaster Tech) Awards 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

A. Entering the competition

1. What is the SAFE STEPS D-Tech Awards?

The SAFE STEPS D-Tech Awards is created by Prudence Foundation and supported by humanitarian partner, the IFRC and technology partner, Lenovo Foundation. Other Strategic Partners include AVPN, Antler, e27, Give2Asia, Hatcher+, Jubilee Capital Management and National Geographic. The Awards looks to find, fund and support technology solutions which aim to protect and save lives before, during or after natural disasters.

The SAFE STEPS D-Tech Awards was created out of the belief that technological innovation has a significant role to play in improving disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience. With COVID-19, the need to generate awareness, build resilience and support solutions that mitigate or respond to disasters has never been greater. This need is especially magnified in Asia Pacific where half of the world's natural disaster events occur. In addition to the impact on human lives, countries in this region are left to bear the staggering economic costs of disasters. Despite this significant need, there is still a lack of financial and non-financial support to help viable solutions reach scale and maximize impact in this space.

Now in its second edition, the Awards looks to continue its work in catalyzing a network of support, raising awareness of the sector, and helping the remarkable companies that operate in this space grow and scale.

2. What is D-Tech (Disaster Tech)?

D-Tech (Disaster Tech) aims to protect and save human lives before, during or after natural disaster events. It refers to new technology or existing technology, used innovatively, to improve resilience against natural disaster events by enhancing the scale and efficiency of disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

The SAFE STEPS D-Tech Awards focuses on technology that can be applied to rapid-onset natural disaster e.g. earthquakes, floods, typhoons. D-Tech solutions can include both digital technology and other forms of technological innovation (e.g. in chemistry, mechanical).

3. What can I win?

Applicants have a chance to win funds from a pool of USD 200,000. The prize fund will be split between 4 winners, across 2 categories: For-profit and non-profit organisations.

For-Profit Category

Winner: USD 75,000

Runner-up: USD 25,000

Non-Profit Category

Winner: USD 75,000

Runner-up: USD 25,000

In addition to the financial award, applicants who reach the semi-final stage and beyond will have access to non-financial support such as coaching, mentoring and tech support from our Partners who include experienced VCs and corporations.

Finalists will also have the opportunity to showcase their solutions at an awards ceremony. Details will be announced in due course.

Finalists will be listed on AVPN's Deal Share Platform where AVPN's network of funders and resource providers will be able to access your solution and get in touch with you.

4. How do I apply?

To apply, please complete this [application form](#) by 11:59pm 19 February 2021 (Hong Kong / Singapore time, GMT +8).

The application form requires you to provide information about your organisation and your D-Tech solution across the following criteria:

- Market size
- Problem-solution fit
- Social impact
- Business/operating model, traction to date and financial feasibility
- Team, board and advisors

As part of the application, you will also be asked to provide:

- A 10-page powerpoint (further details available in the application form);
- A 90-second video clip (further details available in the application form); and
- Company registration documentation, and non-profit identification if applicable.

5. Why should I apply early?

Early submissions are highly encouraged because we can still assist you if you have any questions and it gives you more time to work on your application before the final cut-off date. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. We encourage you to take a look at the [judging criteria and list of questions](#) before you proceed to complete the application form.

6. How much does it cost to enter the Awards?

The Awards is free to enter.

7. When will I know if my application is successful?

The Awards will be closed to applications on 11:59pm 19 February 2021.

We will select up to 20 applicants (10 for-profit, 10 non-profit) to progress to the semi-final stage. Successful applicants will be notified by 26 March 2021.

The semi-finals will take place on 29 and 30 April 2021 via video conference, where semi-finalists will pitch their solutions to a panel of judges. Up to 8 finalists (4 for-profit, 4 non-profit) will be selected as finalists and notified of this by 7 May 2021.

In the lead up to the finals, the for-profit finalists will be coached by experts from Antler, the VC firm, while the non-profits will receive coaching from Jubilee Capital Management.

The finals will take place on 4 June 2021 via video conference, where finalists will pitch their solutions to a panel of judges. One winner and one-runner up will be selected from each category.

Details regarding the awards ceremony will be announced in due course.

B. Eligibility

8. Who is eligible to apply?

Both for-profit and non-profit organisations worldwide are eligible. For-profits and non-profits will be judged separately. The competition is not limited to just tech organisations; organisations using technology to scale the impact of their efforts in disaster management can also apply.

Furthermore, we only accept applications where:

- The technology solution resolves direct needs arising from rapid-onset natural disasters in Asia Pacific; and
- The technology solution is in pilot stage, production/commercial contract stage or beyond.

Rapid-onset natural disasters are defined as follows:

- Geophysical (e.g. earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, and volcanic activity);
- Hydrological (e.g. floods);
- Climatological (e.g. wildfires);
- Meteorological (e.g. cyclones, typhoons); and
- Biological (e.g. disease pandemics, plagues).

9. Does my organisation need to be registered in Asia-Pacific?

It is not necessary for your organisation to be registered in Asia Pacific, but your work should be relevant towards resolving a natural disaster-related issue in Asia Pacific. However, organisations that are already active in Asia Pacific are likely to have an edge in the selection process as they are likely already making an impact in the region.

10. Can I still apply if my work is active outside of Asia Pacific?

Yes, but you would need to illustrate why the proposed solution is relevant to a market(s) in Asia Pacific and how you intend to scale it up in Asia Pacific.

11. What types of documentation do you accept as proof of non-profit registration?

Please provide the documentation provided by national authorities. This will vary by market.

12. What happens to my application if I apply to compete in the non-profit category but cannot produce adequate proof of non-profit registration?

Your application will be moved to compete in the for-profit category.

13. English is not my first language; can I answer the questions in my native language?

Currently, we only accept applications in English.

C. Evaluation

14. Who evaluates the applications? How are they evaluated?

An external panel of judges comprising humanitarian experts, experienced investors, business leaders, entrepreneurs and domain experts will review the applications. For-profit and non-profit categories will be evaluated separately.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria, as set out in the judging criteria:

- Market size
- Problem-solution fit
- Social impact
- Business/operating model, traction to date and financial feasibility
- Team, board and advisors

D. IP and data privacy

15. What happens to the Intellectual Property (“IP”) in my submission / products / services?

Please note that Prudence Foundation and AVPN will not be taking any ownership of or responsibility for your intellectual property. You are advised against submitting any confidential or proprietary information through this application.

16. What happens when I opt-in and agree to have my organisational and personal information used for marketing and publicity purposes?

By opting in, we will be able to mention your organisation's name, logo, and products / services publicly in relation to the Awards on AVPN's, Prudence Foundation's and other Awards partners' websites, at the awards ceremony, and other relevant occasions. We

believe this will help increase exposure to your organisation and be especially important if you are a semi-finalist, finalist, runner-up or winner.

Where appropriate, we may also make introductions to relevant stakeholders to increase the flow of financial, human and intellectual capital towards your organisation.

If your questions have not been answered in this document, please send us an email at dtech@avpn.asia. As we will be facing a high volume of emails during this period, please specify in the email subject your name and the enquiry pertaining to the Awards (e.g. *Org Name_Disaster Tech_ [your enquiry]*).