TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Student Challenge: Agentic Autonomous Systems for Industrial Operations

From Smart Factories to Critical Infrastructure

BY REGISTERING FOR OR PARTICIPATING IN THIS CHALLENGE, EACH PARTICIPANT AGREES TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS. IF A PARTICIPANT DOES NOT AGREE, THE PARTICIPANT MUST NOT REGISTER, PARTICIPATE OR SUBMIT MATERIALS.

1. PREAMBLE

This program is sponsored by Siemens Energy Global GmbH & Co. KG and/or the Siemens Energy entity identified in the registration materials (collectively, “Siemens Energy”). Siemens Energy seeks innovative, technically credible and scalable approaches that support safe, resilient and efficient industrial operations.

The Student Challenge “Agentic Autonomous Systems for Industrial Operations - From Smart Factories to Critical Infrastructure” (the “Challenge”) connects university students, academic partners and Siemens Energy experts to develop and validate concepts, simulations, prototypes and implementation pathways for real-world industrial use cases.

The Challenge is collaborative and educational. It is not intended to require disclosure of unpublished patentable inventions, university-confidential research or Siemens Energy Restricted information during the open application stage.

2. THE CHALLENGE FRAMEWORK

The Challenge comprises two complementary tracks:

Track A - Agentic Fleet Management for Mobile Robotics in Brownfield Factories

Teams develop an agentic fleet-management concept for heterogeneous autonomous mobile robots in an existing factory environment. Solutions should coordinate tasks, routes, priorities, charging and recovery while considering legacy equipment, changing layouts, human-operated vehicles, restricted zones, IT/OT integration, safety, cybersecurity, explainability and operational continuity.

Track B - Autonomous Asset Monitoring, Situation Assessment and Operator Response

Teams develop an intelligent system for monitoring outdoor or geographically distributed industrial assets, such as substations or energy infrastructure. Solutions should combine data acquisition, anomaly detection, situation assessment and operator decision support. Teams must analyse applicable legal, regulatory, safety, security, environmental and operational constraints, particularly where countermeasures or interventions by the asset operator may be required.

For both tracks, AI may support planning, assessment, prioritisation and recovery. Safety-critical or legally significant actions must remain subject to defined guardrails, human oversight where required, traceability and applicable regulatory requirements. The Challenge does not authorise Participants to operate or interfere with real industrial assets, networks or safety systems.

3. FORMAT, PHASES AND SCHEDULE

The Challenge is primarily online. Access to university facilities or Siemens Energy locations may be offered to individual teams subject to availability, separate safety and access requirements, and written approval by the relevant facility owner.

- **Application and selection phase**: individual applicants or teams submit a non-confidential application, indicate their preferred Track A or Track B, and describe their skills, motivation and initial area of interest. A fully developed project idea is not required at this stage.
- **Challenge phase**: selected individual applicants are matched with teams where appropriate, and all selected participants refine or create their project idea during the Challenge. Teams then develop the solution architecture and validate their concept through simulation, digital models, synthetic data or approved test environments.
- **Milestone reviews**: teams present defined interim deliverables and receive feedback from Siemens Energy and academic mentors.
- **Final event**: teams demonstrate and pitch their solution to a jury.

Optional continuation phase: Siemens Energy may invite selected teams to further develop an MVP under a separate written collaboration, license, assignment, sponsored research or internship agreement.

Timeline: Siemens Energy may adjust the schedule for organizational reasons:

Activity	Type	Start	End
Applications open	Period	16 Nov 2026	31 Dec 2026
Information webinar	Event	09 Dec 2026	09 Dec 2026
Kickoff	Event	18 Jan 2027	18 Jan 2027
Milestone 1	Milestone	04 Feb 2027	04 Feb 2027
Milestone 2	Milestone	11 Mar 2027	11 Mar 2027
Milestone 3	Milestone	08 Apr 2027	08 Apr 2027
Milestone 4	Milestone	05 May 2027	05 May 2027
Final event	Event	03 Jun 2027	03 Jun 2027

4. ELIGIBILITY, TEAMS AND UNIVERSITY INVOLVEMENT

- Participants must be at least 18 years old or of legal age in their country and enrolled at an accredited university when the Challenge begins.
- Applications may be submitted either by individuals or by teams. Teams should normally consist of three to five students and maybe multidisciplinary or cross-university.

- For team applications, each team appoints a Team Leader authorised to submit materials and receive communications on behalf of the team. For individual applications, Siemens Energy may coordinate team formation or assign participants to a track, subject to consent and availability.
- Participants must obtain any university approvals required for participation, use of facilities, supervision, software, datasets or university-owned intellectual property.
- Use of university facilities and resources is permitted if disclosed in advance and authorised by the university. Such use does not transfer university-owned rights to Siemens Energy under these Terms.
- A university may nominate an academic contact to confirm participation conditions and support clarification of intellectual property ownership.

Individual applications are explicitly permitted. Applicants do not need to submit a complete project idea with the initial application; it is sufficient to demonstrate relevant skills, motivation, availability and an initial interest in one of the Challenge tracks. Siemens Energy may combine individual applicants into teams and may also admit pre-formed teams. Siemens Energy determines admission based on eligibility, relevance, team composition, available capacity and compliance requirements. Admission decisions are final; detailed reasons need not be disclosed.

5. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSIONS

Applications and Challenge submissions must be in English unless otherwise communicated, a MS forms will be provided. The initial application shall contain only non-confidential information. It does not need to include a fully developed solution idea; participants may develop, refine or select their project idea during the Challenge with input from mentors, universities and Siemens Energy experts. Applications should normally include:

- applicant type: individual applicant or team application, preferred track and, if available, and a preliminary area of interest or working title
- individual, team and university information, including relevant study background and contact details
- motivation, problem understanding and relevant capabilities; a proposed approach may be included but is optional at the initial application stage
- initial assumptions on possible outcomes, learning goals or validation methods, if already known
- relevant skills, tools and anticipated use of university resources
- availability and commitment

Participants must not submit Siemens Energy Restricted information, personal data not required by the Challenge, export-controlled information, security-sensitive site details, credentials, exploitable vulnerabilities, or third-party confidential information unless expressly authorised through a secure process and, where necessary, a separate non-disclosure agreement.

6. MENTORING, DATA AND TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENTS

Siemens Energy and participating universities may provide mentoring, workshops, synthetic or anonymised datasets, reference scenarios, interfaces, software requirements or access to approved environments. All such support is provided on an “as is” basis without warranty and solely for the Challenge.

Any access to Siemens Energy systems, data, sites, networks, laboratories or equipment requires separate written approval and compliance with applicable access, EHS, cybersecurity, data-protection and export-control rules. No Participant may test against a live operational environment without explicit written authorisation.

7. EVALUATION

The jury may evaluate the final project pitches using the following criteria, with final weightings stated in the Challenge brief:

- industrial relevance and understanding of the use case
- innovation and appropriate use of Agentic AI
- technical feasibility and quality of architecture
- safety, cybersecurity, resilience and responsible AI
- regulatory and operational compliance, particularly for Track B
- quality of validation, simulation or demonstrator
- explainability, auditability and human oversight
- scalability, interoperability, cost and implementation pathway
- quality of final pitch and response to questions

The jury may select winners and may identify projects for further discussion. Selection or an award does not create an obligation for Siemens Energy to implement, fund, acquire or continue a project.

8. AI GOVERNANCE, CYBERSECURITY AND RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT

Participants may use AI tools only in compliance with applicable laws, licences, university rules and the Challenge instructions. Confidential Siemens Energy information, personal data, restricted data or security-sensitive information must not be uploaded to public AI services. Material use of AI-generated code, content, models or datasets must be disclosed in the submission.

Participants remain responsible for all submitted material, including accuracy, provenance, licensing, bias, security and fitness for the proposed purpose. Solutions must include appropriate human oversight and must not present an AI output as a legally binding, safety-certified or operationally authorised decision.

Participants may not probe, attack, bypass controls, introduce malware, gain unauthorised access or interfere with any system, robot, network, asset or facility. Security testing is permitted only within an expressly approved test environment and scope.

All Participants must act respectfully, inclusively, professionally and without harassment. Suspected misconduct or security concerns must be reported through the contact channel stated in the Challenge brief.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY

The open application and final public-facing pitch shall contain non-confidential information only. If confidential information is needed for a selected team, the relevant parties will first agree a separate non-disclosure agreement or an approved confidentiality protocol.

Confidential Information disclosed under an approved process shall be used solely for the Challenge, protected with reasonable care, and disclosed only to authorised team members, mentors and advisers who are bound by equivalent obligations. Information is not confidential if it is demonstrably public without breach, lawfully received without restriction, independently developed without use of the confidential information, or approved for release in writing.

Participants must promptly inform Siemens Energy of any suspected loss, unauthorised disclosure or cybersecurity incident involving information or systems provided for the Challenge.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND LICENCE RIGHTS

The purpose of this section is to give Siemens Energy a meaningful route to evaluate, use and scale Challenge results while recognising Participants' and universities' legitimate rights and incentives to participate.

10.1 Definitions

"Background IP" means intellectual property, software, data, know-how, materials or tools owned or controlled before the Challenge or developed independently outside it.

"Challenge Results" means the concepts, documentation, models, software, code, designs, simulations, datasets, prototypes and know-how first created specifically by Participants during the Challenge.

"Submission" means material delivered to Siemens Energy as part of an application, milestone or final presentation.

10.2 Background IP

Each party retains ownership of its Background IP. Background IP must be identified in the Submission where reasonably practicable. No ownership transfer is implied. To the extent Participant or university Background IP is embedded in a Submission, the owner grants Siemens Energy a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free licence for internal evaluation, demonstration and review of that Submission during the Challenge and for twelve months thereafter.

10.3 Ownership of Challenge Results

Subject to applicable law and third-party rights, Challenge Results remain owned by the Participant(s) who created them. Where applicable law, employment arrangements, or inventorship rules provide that ownership vests in, or is shared with a university or Siemens Energy, ownership shall be determined accordingly.

To the extent a Challenge Result is jointly created by Participants, Siemens Energy and/or the university, such Challenge Result shall be jointly owned by the relevant rights holders in accordance with their respective intellectual contributions under applicable law, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

10.4 Siemens Energy evaluation and business-use licence

Each Participant grants Siemens Energy and its affiliates a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, fully paid-up licence to use, reproduce, execute, test, evaluate, demonstrate internally, modify for evaluation, and combine the non-confidential Submissions and Challenge Results for research, assessment, proof-of-concept and internal business-planning purposes. This licence is perpetual for submitted reports, presentations and non-executable documentation, and lasts for twenty-four (24) months after the final event for executable software, models and prototypes unless extended by written agreement.

The licence does not by itself permit Siemens Energy to commercially sell, externally license or deploy a Challenge Result where such rights are owned by a Participant or another rights holder, and such rights are subject to clause 10.5 below.

10.5 First negotiation right and commercialisation option

For six months after the final event, Siemens Energy shall have a first right to negotiate in good faith with the relevant rights holders regarding an exclusive or non-exclusive licence, assignment,or other implementation arrangement for selected Challenge Results. During this period, Participants shall notify Siemens Energy before granting rights to a third party and allow Siemens Energy twenty (20) business days to indicate whether it wishes to enter negotiations.

10.6 Improvement and continuation work

Improvements created solely by Siemens Energy without use of confidential Participant, university or third-party material belong to Siemens Energy. Improvements created solely by a Participant shall belong to the Participant who created them, subject to applicable law and any third-party rights. Where improvements or continuation results are jointly created by Participants, Siemens Energy and/or university personnel, ownership shall be determined in accordance with the principles set out in clause 10.3, unless otherwise agreed in writing before such continuation work begins. Participants shall reasonably support the documentation of inventorship, authorship and ownership, subject to applicable law and any relevant third-party obligations.

10.7 Open-source and third-party components

Participants shall ensure that they have all necessary rights, permissions and licences to use such third-party components in connection with the Challenge.Components with terms that could require disclosure of proprietary source code, restrict commercial use or prevent sublicensing must be clearly identified. Siemens Energy may require replacement or alternative licensing before continuation.

10.8 Similar ideas and independent development

Participants acknowledge that Siemens Energy may already be developing, may receive from third parties, or may independently develop ideas, technologies, products or solutions that are similar to a Submission or Challenge Result. Nothing in these Terms prevents Siemens Energy from using information, technology, ideas or know-how that are independently developed or lawfully obtained from another source, provided that Siemens Energy does not breach any applicable confidentiality obligations or the rights expressly granted to Participants or other rights holders under these Terms.

10.9 Publication and academic use

Participants and Siemens Energy and the university may use Challenge Results for educational, research and academic purposes, however, subject to confidentiality obligations, security requirements and any third-party rights. Before publishing any non-public Challenge Results that include Siemens Energy, Participant or university Confidential Information, or are based on information provided by a Party, the author shall provide the Party with a copy of the proposed publication at least thirty (30) days in advance. The Party may request the removal of Confidential Information and a reasonable delay of publication, not exceeding ninety (90) additional days, to permit the filing of intellectual property protection.

11. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

Each Participant represents that the Participant has authority to submit the relevant material and grant the stated rights; that required team-member and university approvals have been obtained; and that the Submission does not knowingly infringe third-party rights or breach confidentiality, data-protection, export-control or security obligations.

Where university facilities, supervision, sponsored-research resources or university-owned IP are used, the team must disclose this and provide any confirmation reasonably requested by Siemens Energy. Siemens Energy may require a university acknowledgement or separate agreement before confidential access, continuation funding or commercialisation.

12. DATA PROTECTION, EXPORT CONTROL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Personal data will be processed in accordance with applicable data-protection laws and the Siemens Energy privacy notice referenced in the registration process. Only data necessary for administration, communication, assessment and approved publicity will be collected.

Participants must comply with applicable export-control, sanctions, customs and foreign-trade requirements. Siemens Energy may restrict participation, access, data or technical information where required by law or internal compliance controls.

For Track B, teams must distinguish clearly between monitoring, assessment, recommendation and execution of a countermeasure. Proposed actions must identify the assumed operator authority, required human approval, applicable safety or regulatory constraints and evidence needed before execution. The Challenge does not authorise physical intervention, surveillance of individuals, law-enforcement activity or interference with public communications.

13. PUBLICITY, BRAND AND RECORDINGS

Siemens Energy may publish Participants' names, team names, universities, non-confidential project titles, approved summaries, rankings and event images for Challenge-related communication, subject to applicable consent requirements. Participants may opt out of optional photography or recording where stated in the registration process without losing eligibility, except where recording is technically necessary for online participation or judging.

Use of Siemens Energy names, trademarks, logos or brand assets requires prior written approval and must follow the materials supplied by Siemens Energy. Any reference to a university name or logo requires the university's approval. Participants must stop using superseded or withdrawn brand assets when notified.

14. PRIZES, CERTIFICATES AND FURTHER COLLABORATION

Participants in the Challenge can expect the following benefits, prizes and recognition:

- Gain hands-on experience applying Agentic AI to real-world industrial use cases
- Work with Siemens Energy experts and academic mentors through workshops and coaching
- Strengthen your innovation, engineering and problem-solving skills in a multidisciplinary team
- Pitch your solution to an expert jury
- Gift vouchers for each team member ranging from €200 to €50, depending on the team's final ranking
- Receive an Omterra certificate
- A donation of €5,000 to the university of the winning team
- The winning team will be invited to visit the factory site in Berlin, with travel costs and one night's accommodation covered by Siemens Energy
- Get the chance to continue your work – e.g. MVP development, internships, sponsored research or licensing discussions

Further details on prizes, travel support and certificates will be described in the official Challenge brief. Taxes and personal reporting obligations remain the responsibility of the recipient unless mandatory law provides otherwise.

Siemens Energy may invite selected Participants or universities to discuss further development, internships, sponsored research, licensing or implementation. Such discussions create no obligation unless documented in a separate written agreement.

15. WITHDRAWAL, DISQUALIFICATION AND CANCELLATION

A Participant may withdraw by written notice to the Challenge contact. Withdrawal does not affect rights and obligations accrued before withdrawal, including confidentiality and licences already granted for submitted materials.

Siemens Energy may disqualify Participants or teams for material non-compliance, misrepresentation, misconduct, plagiarism, unlawful activity, unauthorized security testing, breach of confidentiality or failure to meet mandatory requirements. Siemens Energy may modify, suspend or cancel the Challenge where reasonably necessary, without an obligation to reimburse costs unless expressly agreed in writing.

16. DISCLAIMERS AND LIMITATION OF RELIANCE

Challenge materials, datasets, tools, mentoring and feedback are provided “as is” without warranty. Participants are responsible for their own equipment, connectivity, insurance and costs unless the Challenge brief states otherwise. No Challenge output may be relied upon as certified, validated or authorised for live industrial operation without Siemens Energy’s formal engineering, safety, cybersecurity, legal and operational approval processes.

17. GOVERNING LAW AND MISCELLANEOUS

The Challenge and these Terms are governed by the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany, excluding conflict-of-law rules. Any mandatory consumer or participant protections applicable in a Participant’s country remain unaffected. The competent courts in Germany shall have jurisdiction to the extent legally permissible.

If a provision is invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions remain effective. Amendments will be communicated in writing. Where an amendment materially affects a Participant’s rights, the Participant may withdraw. The English version controls unless Siemens Energy expressly designates another version as authoritative.

18. CONTACT AND LINKS

Challenge contact: Christoph.heinze@siemens-energy.com
Org office mail: innovationcenter.berlin@siemens-energy.com
Privacy notice: Legal Privacy Notice
Code of Conduct: SE Code of Conduct
Cybersecurity and acceptable-use rules: Cybersecurity