

Press Release

Copernicus Masters 2017: Big Data Big Business Challenge

The Copernicus Masters Big Data Big Business Challenge by CGI invites entrants to submit their innovative applications with global potential using Copernicus data by 30 June 2017

For the Copernicus Masters Big Data Big Business Challenge, CGI is looking for new solutions with global potential based on Copernicus data.

Gilching, 6 June 2017 - Earth observation and big data from Copernicus hold huge potential for the creation of innovative products and services. Many industries and areas of public interest stand to benefit from the advances of the Copernicus programme.



CGI, a global end-to-end IT and business process services leader in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia, invites creative entrepreneurs to submit innovative business ideas. These ideas need to address an identified business problem in the commercial sector including a clear business case, which could be based on cost efficiency or a disruptive change to the way an organisation does business.

CGI is looking for compelling ideas that leverage the large volumes of Copernicus data to provide new operational services to businesses. Concepts should be able to be prototyped rapidly, or already exist in prototype form, so that they can be demonstrated quickly. The solutions could support sectors such as energy, utilities, financial services, insurance, agriculture and transport.

Examples of the criteria for the submitted idea are:

- Innovation index: What is the innovation level of this idea and its development potential?
- Technology feasibility: Is this solution possible today? Is the use of Earth observation data an integral part of the proposed solution?
- Risk index: What are the legal aspects and risks involved in this idea?

“CGI is very excited to be supporting the Copernicus Masters 2017 with our Big Data Big Business Challenge” said Andy Thompson, Vice President, Earth Observation at CGI. “We look forward to engaging with innovative organisations to create new space- enabled business services for commercial organisations and sharing these new ideas and services with the clients of our 30,000 colleagues, based in 17 European countries.”

The Copernicus Masters, launched by AZO in 2011, is an international competition which awards prizes to innovative solutions for business and society based on Earth observation data. Annually, different prize categories tackle global challenges with revolutionary competition entries in the fields of deep learning including IoT, big data analytics, smart mobility and industry 4.0.

The winner of the Copernicus Masters 2017 Big Data Big Business Challenge by CGI will showcase its application to the CGI industry teams and relevant customers in appropriate target markets. CGI will provide support to integrate the prototype into an exploitation platform, as well as provide assistance with industrialising the architecture (such as scalability, reliability, revenue collection, security), qualifying for pre-operation with industry customers. Additionally, a substantial satellite data quota worth EUR 5,000 (financial support by EC) is granted, along with access to the Copernicus Accelerator programme (if eligible) and a ticket to the next satellite launch in Kourou. Startups and other companies, researchers, and students need to submit their applications at www.copernicus-masters.com by 30 June 2017.

About Copernicus Masters

Earth observation and the big data it produces hold huge potential for the creation of innovative products and services. Myriad industries and areas of public interest stand to profit from the advances of the Copernicus programme. Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen (AZO) launched the Copernicus Masters in 2011 on behalf of the European Space Agency (ESA) and with the strong support of world-class partners as part of its mission to improve the user uptake of Copernicus services. The Copernicus Masters is an international competition which awards prizes to innovative solutions for business and society based on Earth observation data. The Copernicus Masters has developed into a driving force when it comes to promoting cutting-edge solutions. Each year, various prize categories tackle global challenges with revolutionary competition entries in the fields of deep learning, the IoT, big data analytics, smart mobility and industry 4.0 – to name just a few. More details at www.copernicus-masters.com.

About CGI

CGI is a global end-to-end IT and business process services leader in Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Australia. CGI works for government and commercial clients and has a large space business, with over 40 years' experience of delivering complex, secure, mission-critical space systems. CGI provides ground systems, exploitation platforms and space-enabled applications for clients such as the European Space Agency, the European Commission and for international organisations such as EUMETSAT and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts. The company is focused on using satellite Earth observations to help organisations meet their business challenges by developing operational, sustainable space-enabled services. Its global footprint, access to markets, strong IT and space skills make a powerful combination for building international partnerships and business relationships.

About AZO

AZO has established a global network for innovation and entrepreneurship. It supports product innovation and company foundations in the field of commercial space applications along the entire value chain – from the idea all the way to market entry. AZO has extensive experience in organising innovation competitions such as the European Satellite Navigation Competition, the Copernicus Masters (Earth observation), the Space Exploration Masters, the StartupWorld Awards (laser photonics and robotics), as well as the INNOspace Masters (New Space Economy), app developer camps and conferences, and manages ESA BIC Bavaria. More information: www.space-of-innovation.com

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