ISRC Leadership Pitch Competition 2026

Official Competition Timeline & Important Dates (Updated)

Deadline extended: applications are now due December 15, 2026.

Step	Competition Stage	Important Date	Details
Step 1	**Application Submission - Free**	**September 1, 2026** Applications Open ~~November 15, 2026~~ **December 15, 2026** Application Deadline (extended)	Students submit the initial application at no cost. The application includes the project title and an abstract of up to 250 words describing the idea, problem, proposed solution, and potential impact.
Step 2	**Proposal Report Submission**	**Within 7 days of applying** Semifinalists notified **January 1, 2027** Proposal Report Deadline	Applicants selected as Semifinalists will receive the official Proposal Report instructions by email and will be invited to continue to Stage 2. A $75 registration fee is required only after selection for this stage.
Step 3	**Grand Finalist Selection**	**January 15, 2027** Grand Finalists Announced	Submitted proposals will be evaluated by the judging panel based on innovation, feasibility, market need, leadership, impact, and overall quality. The highest-scoring Semifinalists will advance as Grand Finalists.
Step 4	**Business Pitch Round**	**January 30, 2027** Pitch Video Due **February 6, 2027** Results Announced	Grand Finalists will record their business or leadership pitch as a video of up to 10 minutes and upload it, together with the signed video and photo permission form, for the judging panel. Students will explain their idea, solution, implementation strategy, leadership approach, and expected impact.

The application deadline has been extended from November 15, 2026 to December 15, 2026, and the dates for Steps 2 to 4 have moved accordingly. All deadlines are 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (United States).

Note: Applicants are responsible for monitoring the email address provided in their application for official competition communications, selection notices, instructions, and submission information.