

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE MINTEK-SCI GRAD HACKATHON?

It's a multi-stage innovation competition organised by Mintek challenging young minds to develop solutions for real-world problems, primarily in the minerals industry but also covering broader societal challenges like infrastructure and safety. Selected teams develop solutions over a month and then present them at a final two-day event.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE FINAL HACKATHON EVENT TAKE PLACE?

The final, in-person event is on **October 1st and 2nd, 2025, at Mintek, 200 Malibongwe Drive, Randburg, Gauteng, South Africa.**

WHAT IS THE OVERALL TIMELINE?

Key dates are:

- Applications Open: May 15, 2025
- Applications Close: July 15, 2025
- Teams Notified: By August 15, 2025
- Specific Instructions Sent: September 1, 2025
- Solution Development: September 1 - 30, 2025
- Solution Submission: October 1, 2025
- Final Hackathon Event (Presentations/Judging): October 1 - 2, 2025

2. ELIGIBILITY & TEAMS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

This is a youth initiative. Participants must be **35 years old or younger**. Eligible individuals include university students (undergraduate or postgraduate), unemployed graduates, and interns.

Interns working at state research agencies are welcome to participate provided they meet the age criteria and form part of a team.

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WHAT IS THE REQUIRED TEAM SIZE?

Teams must **not exceed 6 members**.

DO WE NEED TO APPLY AS A TEAM?

Yes, applications are submitted per team and require details and documents for all members

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW DO WE APPLY?

Applications must be submitted via the official **online application form**.

WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE APPLICATION?

For each team member, you will need:

- A copy of their South African ID or Passport.
- Proof of current university registration (for students) OR highest qualification certificate (for graduates/interns).
- A short profile/bio (max 150 words).

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

Applications close on **July 15, 2025**.

WHEN WILL WE FIND OUT IF OUR TEAM IS SELECTED?

Successful teams will be notified by **August 15, 2025**

4. THE COMPETITION

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER OUR TEAM IS SELECTED?

Selected teams will receive specific instructions, guidelines, and potentially datasets relevant to their chosen challenge on **September 1, 2025**.

DO WE DEVELOP THE SOLUTION BEFORE THE OCTOBER EVENT?

Yes. The main development phase is during **September (1st to 30th)**, based on the instructions provided. You will submit your developed solution electronically on October 1st, 2025

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WHAT RESOURCES DO TEAMS NEED?

Teams must use their **own resources**, including laptops, necessary software, data sources, internet connectivity, etc., for both the development phase in September and the final event in October.

WILL MINTEK PROVIDE MENTORSHIP?

Yes, Mintek will provide mentors for each selected team. Mentorship access will likely begin around the time instructions are sent (September 1st) and continue through the final event days (October 1-2), offering guidance during development and final presentation preparation.

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENS DURING THE EVENT ON OCTOBER 1ST AND 2ND?

- This is the culmination of the competition. Activities include the formal submission deadline (Oct 1st morning), opportunities for final solution refinement, formal presentations of your developed solution to judges;
- A sessions, access to onsite mentorship, networking opportunities, and the final awards ceremony.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES TEAMS CAN CHOOSE FROM?

There are seven challenge areas: AI for Mineral Processing, Sustainable Water Usage, Real-time Equipment Monitoring, Alternative Energy for Smelting, Proactive Pothole Repair, Nationwide Holings Detection, and Advanced Mine Shaft Closure. Details and specific deliverables are in the main Call for Entries.

5. PRIZES & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)

WHAT CAN TEAMS WIN?

The overall winning team will receive a noteworthy prize sponsored by Mintek's partners. There's also the potential for the winning solution to be implemented in industry.

HOW ARE THE WINNERS DECIDED?

Teams' solutions and presentations will be evaluated by judges based on criteria like Innovation, Feasibility, Impact, Technical Execution, and Presentation Clarity. **Importantly, the official announcement of winners will only occur after Mintek's Office of Technology Transfer (MOTT) has completed an IP assessment** on the top-ranked solution(s) to ensure no IP transgressions have occurred.

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WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) CREATED DURING THE HACKATHON?

IP will be managed according to contractual agreements established with participants. Mintek's Office of Technology Transfer (MOTT) oversees this process. Crucially, **team members responsible for creating a selected solution(s) will receive invention credits**, acknowledging their contribution to the innovation

6. CONTACT

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

For any inquiries about the Mintek-SCi Grad Hackathon, please email the organizing team at minteksci@mintek.co.za

