

Compete in the Battle of the Pitches at the #VFS22: Festival of Innovation.

Could your brilliant business idea become the next big thing? We're super excited invite you to compete in a new pitching competition at #VFS22: Festival of Innovation giving you the chance to win a whopping £10,000 prize from our headline partner CATAX.

Here's everything you need to know about the Battle of the Pitches competition.

What are the key details?

- Anyone can enter this competition as long as they have a business operating in the VFS region (defined broadly Bournemouth – Chichester and up to Surrey)
- You must be an established business that has an innovation or business idea that will help you scale to the next level
- You need to be available on the key dates outlined below
- You need to demonstrate why what you are doing is innovative
- You make a great case as to how the £10k prize money will be used in to grow your business and what effect it will have
- You agree to us using your information video entry and content in promotion of Venturefest South

What if I don't fit the entry requirements?

The £10k prize for Battle of the Pitches is designed to grow existing businesses and

help scale them. If you are pre-start up with a fantastic innovative idea, you can still come along to the event and [apply to be an innovator](#) or enter the [Open Mic contest](#).

How many stages does the competition have?

The competition has three stages:

1. Create and submit a PitchClip video pitch by Sunday 4th September.
2. The top PitchClips will make it onto the longlist and will be asked a few more questions by the judges
3. The top five will make it onto the shortlist and will be invited to pitch live at the #VFS22: Festival of Innovation

What happens if I make it onto the longlist?

All longlisted businesses will be notified via email and added to the shortlist announcement on the Venturefest South website, where they will have their own promotional page featuring their video and information about their business for all of the Venturefest South network to see. They will also receive promotion via the Venturefest South social media and email channels.

What happens if I make it onto the shortlist?

As well as all of the longlist benefits, all shortlisted businesses will receive a showcase spot at the live VFS22: Festival of Innovation in the Innovation Zone where they will present their innovation and get start-up and scale-up advice. All shortlisted businesses will take part in the live Battle of the Pitches where they will pitch live to a panel of expert judges. The winner on the day will take home the £10k prize fund to boost their business.

What are the key dates?

Please read the below details carefully and make a note of each key date. If you get through to the final stage you will need to be available for pre-event pitch training and on the live event date.

Stage one PitchClip entries are accepted from **1 June - 4 September**. Any submissions after this date may not be considered.

The longlist will be announced on **13 September**. If you are successful at this stage you will be notified via email prior to this date.

All longlisted businesses will be asked additional questions to help our judges determine who will make it on to the final shortlist. Businesses will have until **30 September** to submit their responses. Any submissions after this date may not be considered and could miss out on pitching at the live event.

If you are successful in making it on to the shortlist, you will be notified by **7 October**.

You must be available between **10 - 28 October** (exact date TBC in the run up to the event) for a pre-event pitch training and briefing session, where you will meet with your other finalists to prepare for the event and practice your pitch. This training will take place in-person and you will be sent further details should you make it to this stage.

We will publicly announce the shortlisted finalists on **1 November**.

The live pitch competition, Battle of the Pitches, will take place at #VFS22: Festival of Innovation on 17 November.

Good luck!