

BUILD[ON]

aca innovation challenge

Regulation Terms & Conditions

ACA

Value
Construction

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. BUILD[ON] – ACA Innovation Challenge is the open innovation programme promoted by Alberto Couto Alves, SGPS, S.A., hereinafter referred to as “ACA”, which aims to identify, test, and develop innovative technological solutions with potential applications in the areas of Construction, Environment, and Forestry.

1.2. The programme seeks to foster collaboration between ACA and start-ups, spin-offs, micro and small enterprises through the development of pilot projects in real-world settings, enabling the validation of technological solutions with operational and strategic impact.

2. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The programme’s main objectives are to:

- _ Identify innovative solutions aligned with ACA’s operational challenges;
- _ Promote the experimentation and validation of technologies in real-world settings;
- _ Foster collaboration between ACA and the innovation ecosystem;
- _ Support the development and scalability of solutions with potential applications within the Construction and Environment & Forestry sectors.

3. THEMATIC AREAS

In this edition, the programme is structured around **4 strategic verticals**, reflected in **6 specific challenges** defined on the basis of ACA’s operational needs:

Predictive Construction Management

Focused on the use of data and artificial intelligence to improve predictability and efficiency in construction management.

Challenges:

AI applied to cost estimation for public and private tenders

Use of historical data and machine learning models to improve estimation accuracy and reduce deviations during the tendering phase.

Predictive AI for construction planning and control

Development of predictive models capable of anticipating schedule and cost deviations, supporting more proactive project management.

Smart Construction Sites with Computer Vision

Focused on the digitalisation and automated monitoring of construction sites through computer vision technologies.

Challenges:

Intelligent construction site monitoring (Computer Vision)

Application of computer vision technologies to track construction progress, detection of non-compliance, and real-time monitoring of safety conditions.

Automation and Robotics in Construction

Focused on the introduction of robotic and automated solutions to increase productivity and reduce manual tasks.

Challenges:

Robotic automation of steel preparation and moulding

Development of automated solutions for reinforcement cutting, bending, and assembly processes.

Intelligent infrastructure inspection solutions

Use of robots, drones, or autonomous systems for asset inspection, including automated data collection and analysis.

Digital Command Centre for Forestry Operations

Focused on the centralisation and integrated management of forestry operations based on real-time data.

Challenges:

Integrated operational management and monitoring platform

Development of digital solutions capable of consolidating operational information, monitoring field execution, and supporting decision-making processes, including the integration of geospatial data.

4. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

The following entities may apply to the programme:

- _ Startups
- _ Technology spin-offs
- _ Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises
- _ Companies offering innovative or technological solutions

National and international entities possessing **technological solutions with a sufficient level of maturity for the development of pilot projects in real-world settings** shall be eligible.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

5.1. Applications must be submitted through the form made available on the official BUILD[ON] webpage.

5.2. Each application must include information regarding:

- _ the proposed solution;
- _ the problem it seeks to address;
- _ the technological maturity level;
- _ the pilot proposal;
- _ the team responsible.

5.3. Applications may be accompanied by additional materials, including presentations, videos, or technical documents.

5.4. ACA reserves the right to amend, suspend, or cancel the BUILD[ON] programme, in whole or in part, for operational or strategic reasons, without this giving rise to any right to compensation on the part of participants.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

6.1. Applications shall be assessed by an **ACA Innovation Committee** in accordance with the criteria set out in this Regulation. Decisions taken within the scope of the selection process shall be final and not subject to appeal. Assessment shall be based on the following criteria:

- _ Alignment with the programme's verticals and challenges;
- _ Maturity of the technological solution;
- _ Feasibility of pilot implementation;
- _ Potential strategic value for ACA;
- _ Quality and commitment of the team.

6.2. Selected entities shall be invited to participate in the **pilot development** phase.

7. PROGRAMME PHASES

The programme is structured into three main phases:

Phase 1 – Scouting

Identification and selection of technological solutions with potential application in the defined areas.

Phase 2 – Pilot Development

Selected teams shall work collaboratively with ACA to develop pilot **projects in real-world settings**, with an estimated duration of up to **6 months**.

During this phase, teams shall have access to:

- _ Technical support;
- _ Interaction with internal specialists;
- _ Access to ACA resources, where relevant to the pilot project;
- _ Operational data and context required for solution validation.

Phase 3 – Evaluation and Scale-Up

At the end of the pilot phase, a joint assessment of the results achieved shall be conducted.

Depending on the performance of the pilot project, different forms of continuation may be considered, including:

- _ Incubation of the solution;
- _ Joint development;
- _ Contracting of the solution;
- _ Equity participation;
- _ Support for the scalability of the solution.

8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

8.1. Intellectual property rights relating to the ideas, solutions, prototypes, or projects submitted by participants within the scope of the programme shall remain the property of the respective participants.

8.2. Participation in the programme shall not imply any automatic transfer of intellectual property rights to the Promoting Entity.

8.3. Any future joint development or commercial implementation of the submitted solutions shall be subject to a separate agreement between the parties.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY

9.1. Within the scope of participation in the BUILD[ON] programme, participants may be requested to enter into a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with the Promoting Entity, applicable to information exchanged during the evaluation and solution development phases.

9.2. The agreement shall govern the confidentiality obligations between the parties.

10. FINAL PROVISIONS

10.1. ACA reserves the right to:

- _ Amend the programme schedule;
- _ Request additional information from applicant entities;
- _ Refrain from selecting any application should none meet the defined criteria.

10.2. Participation in the programme implies full acceptance of this Regulation, as well as the execution of a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) in order to safeguard collaboration between the parties.

10.3. The processing of personal data carried out within the scope of the programme shall comply with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and all other applicable legislation.



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Rethinking how
we build the
world!