

# EDvance Summit 2026

## Exhibitor Innovation Award

### Call for Applications

Nairobi, Kenya • 7–9 October 2026 • Organised by Warnborough College in partnership with KSTVET

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Open to all confirmed EDvance Summit 2026 exhibitors, regardless of exhibitor tier (Silver, Gold, or Platinum)
- Innovations must relate to one or more of the three conference themes: digital equity and access, learning and teaching with technology, or skills and workforce development
- No geographic restriction — innovations from any country are welcome, provided they are relevant to the conference themes and to education or workforce development in Africa or comparable contexts
- Both deployed solutions and evidence-based prototypes are eligible, provided documented testing evidence (pilots, user trials, or field data) is included in the submission
- Each exhibiting organisation may submit one application only
- Committee members and conference organisers are not eligible

#### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications are submitted via the conference website at [edvance-summit.com](https://edvance-summit.com). There is no formal page limit, but concise, clearly structured submissions are strongly preferred. Submissions that are difficult to read or assess due to length or lack of structure will be penalised under the clarity criterion.

All applications must address the five sections below. Sections 1–4 are mandatory; Section 5 is optional but strongly recommended.

Section	What to include
<b>1. Innovation overview</b>	Name of your innovation or product, your organisation name, and a clear description (max. 300 words) of what it is and what problem it solves.
<b>2. Thematic fit</b>	Explain how your innovation relates to one or more of the conference themes: digital equity and access, learning and teaching with technology, or skills and workforce development. Be specific about the context you are addressing.
<b>3. Evidence of impact</b>	Provide documented evidence from pilots, field tests, or deployment. Include measurable outcomes where available — for example: number of users, learning gains, employment outcomes, or cost data. Prototypes are eligible provided testing evidence is included.
<b>4. Scalability and sustainability</b>	Describe the potential for scaling or replication in other contexts, and your model for sustaining the innovation. A credible direction is sufficient — a fully developed plan is not required.
<b>5. Demo or video link (optional)</b>	Strongly recommended: a link to a short demo video (max. 3 minutes), product walkthrough, or pilot documentation. Not required but will strengthen your application.

*File format: PDF preferred. Microsoft Word (.docx) also accepted. Video or demo links should be embedded in the submission document or provided as a clearly labelled URL. Language: English only.*

## SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

All applications are reviewed by an independent jury comprising representatives from industry, academia, and government. Jury members are selected by the EDvance Summit Scientific and Programme Committees and are not publicly named in advance of the selection to preserve the integrity of the process.

The jury applies the following criteria to all applications:

Criterion	What the committee looks for	Weight
<b>Relevance</b>	Directly addresses one or more conference themes and the African education or workforce development context	25%
<b>Evidence of impact</b>	Documented results from pilots, field testing, or deployment — including measurable outcomes, user feedback, or data	30%
<b>Innovation</b>	Offers a novel approach, methodology, or application — not simply a replication of existing solutions	20%
<b>Scalability and sustainability</b>	Credible potential to scale or be replicated, with a realistic sustainability model	15%
<b>Clarity of submission</b>	Concise, well-structured application that communicates the innovation's value clearly and without jargon	10%

*The committee's decision is final. Applicants will be notified of the outcome directly by mid-August 2026. Feedback will not be provided on unsuccessful applications.*

*Important: The award cannot be purchased, influenced by exhibitor tier, or assigned through sponsorship. Any submission found to have attempted to influence the committee will be disqualified.*

## FINALIST SHOWCASE — PITCH FORMAT AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

All 5 finalists will present at the Modern Classroom of the Future showcase on Day 2 of the conference (Wednesday, 8 October 2026, 14:15–15:15). The session is held in the main exhibition space during the lunch break — the highest foot-traffic moment of the conference day.

Each presentation is 10 minutes in total, structured as a pitch with live audience Q&A. The following format is recommended but not mandatory:

Time	Section	Guidance
0–2 min	<b>The problem</b>	What specific challenge does your innovation address? Who is affected, and where?
2–5 min	<b>The innovation</b>	What is your solution and how does it work? A live demonstration or visual walkthrough is strongly encouraged.
5–7 min	<b>Evidence and impact</b>	What results have you achieved? Share data, user feedback, or field evidence from pilots or deployment.
7–8 min	<b>Vision and scale</b>	Where is this going? How can it scale or be replicated in other contexts across Africa and beyond?

Time	Section	Guidance
8–10 min	Q&A	Open questions from the audience. The session moderator will facilitate.

- Finalists may use slides, live product demonstrations, video, or any combination of formats
- Technical setup: projector, screen, and internet connection will be provided. Finalists should confirm any additional A/V requirements with the organising team at least two weeks before the conference.
- Finalists must attend the conference in person. Remote presentations are not permitted for the showcase.
- After all five presentations, delegates cast their vote for the most impactful innovation. The top 3 are announced and presented with their trophy and certificate at the closing plenary on Day 3.

## IMPORTANT DATES

All deadlines are at 23:59 East Africa Time (EAT, UTC+3). Late submissions will not be considered.

Milestone	Date	Details
Applications open	Upon exhibitor registration	Application form available to all confirmed EDvance Summit 2026 exhibitors
Application deadline	31 August 2026	All submissions by 23:59 East Africa Time (EAT, UTC+3). Late submissions will not be considered.
Committee review	1–15 August 2026	Independent jury evaluates all applications against the award criteria
Finalists announced	Mid-August 2026	5 finalists notified directly and announced via EDvance Summit social media and conference channels
Finalist showcase	8 October 2026, 14:15–15:15	All 5 finalists present at the Modern Classroom of the Future showcase — Day 2 of the conference
Named in proceedings	September 2026	All 5 finalists listed in the printed conference proceedings and programme
Award ceremony	9 October 2026, Closing plenary	Top 3 receive the EDvance Summit Exhibitor Innovation Award trophy and certificate, presented on stage at the closing plenary in front of all conference delegates. All 5 finalists receive a finalist certificate.
Post-event coverage	October–November 2026	All 5 finalists featured in the post-event report, conference summary video, and social media. Top 3 highlighted prominently.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are managed through the EDvance Summit 2026 conference management system. You must be a confirmed exhibitor to apply.

1. Register or confirm your exhibitor package at [edvance-summit.com](https://edvance-summit.com)

2. Log in to the exhibitor portal and complete the Innovation Award application form, addressing all five required sections
3. Upload your application as a PDF or .docx document and include any demo or video link in the form
4. Submit before 23:59 EAT on 31 August 2026

For questions about the application process or eligibility, contact us at [info@edvance-summit.com](mailto:info@edvance-summit.com). Please include 'Innovation Award' in the subject line.

**[edvance-summit.com](https://edvance-summit.com)**

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*Organised by Warnborough College & KSTVET | Scientific Partner: University of Bremen*