

ReONS 2026 – Innovation Competition Guidelines

1. Eligibility

- i. Participation is open to research officers and postgraduate researchers from all Malaysian universities and research institutions.

2. Non-Eligible Persons (Conflict of Interest)

- i. The following are not eligible to compete for awards:
 - a. Members of the Organising Committee and their immediate family members.
 - b. Members of the Judging Panel and their immediate family members.

(They may participate as exhibitors only if approved but are excluded from awards.)

3. Exclusions

- i. The organiser reserves the right to reject any entry that:
 - a. Unsafe for public display or poses risks to health, safety, or property.
 - b. Promotes illegal activities or violates public morals/ethics.
 - c. Contains prohibited or controlled materials without proper declaration/controls.
 - d. Infringes third-party intellectual property or uses copyrighted materials without permission.
 - e. Incomplete or fails to meet submission requirements by the deadline.

4. Exhibition Format & Booth Provision

- i. Physical exhibition only.
- ii. Each registered team will be provided with one standard booth:
 - a. Booth space: 2.1 m × 2.1 m
 - b. 1 soft board (poster display)
 - c. 1 banquet table (product display)
 - d. 2 chairs
- iii. Booth location/allocation is determined by the organiser.

5. Exhibitor Responsibilities

- i. Exhibitors must bring their own display materials (e.g., printed poster, prototype, brochures, laptop/TV, extension cords, adapters).
- ii. Exhibitors must ensure the booth is staffed during official exhibition hours.
- iii. Exhibitors are responsible for housekeeping and keeping the booth area tidy and safe.
- iv. Exhibitors are responsible for the security of their own exhibits at all times.

6. Display & Demonstration Rules

- i. Demonstrations are permitted provided they are safe, supervised, and contained within the booth area.
- ii. Any hazardous/controlled elements (e.g., heat source, sharp tools, chemicals, high voltage, lasers, biological samples) must be declared in advance and operated with appropriate safety controls.
- iii. The organiser reserves the right to stop any demonstration that is unsafe, disruptive, or non-compliant.

7. Submission Requirements & Deadline

- i. Each entry must be received by the organiser by 1st June 2026:
 - a. Short Abstract (80–120 words) – for programme book/website.
 - b. 1–3 images of the innovation/prototype – for promotion.
 - c. Full Abstract (250–300 words) – required for Judging.
 - d. Proof of payment (after entry accepted). Payment to be made before 30th July 2026.
- ii. Incomplete submissions may not be processed.

8. Judging & Awards

- i. Judging will be conducted by an appointed panel during the exhibition.
- ii. Exhibitors may be requested to provide a brief explanation and Q&A at the booth.
- iii. Awards will be given to winners as determined by the judging panel.
- iv. The organiser/judges reserve the right to withhold awards if entries do not meet the required standard.

9. Judging Criteria

- i. General judging criteria include:
 - a. Novelty and inventiveness
 - b. Usefulness and application
 - c. Presentation and demonstration
 - d. Commercial potential / scalability (*where applicable*)

10. Certificates

- i. Certificates of participation will be issued to registered exhibitors (subject to compliance and attendance).

11. Intellectual Property (IP) Notice

- i. Exhibitors are advised to take necessary steps to protect intellectual property prior to public disclosure.
- ii. The organiser assumes no responsibility for any IP-related consequences arising from participation.

12. Disclaimer & Liability

- i. Participation is at the exhibitor's own risk. Exhibitors are responsible for any loss/damage to their exhibits and for safe operation of displays/demonstrations.
- ii. The organiser is not liable for any loss, damage, injury, or claims arising from participation, except where required by law.
- iii. The decisions of the judging panel are final and binding.

13. Organiser's Rights

- i. The organiser reserves the right to amend guidelines, allocate booth spaces, and take any necessary action to ensure event safety and integrity.

14. Enquiries

- i. For enquiries, please contact: reons@usm.my