

# #HACKATAXPH

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is HACKATAX?**

HACKATAX (*'hack-a-tax'*) is an innovation challenge which aims to bring talented and skilled IT professionals and students across the country to help develop innovative technology solutions for taxpayers. The participants can develop innovative solutions that will address taxpayer pain points when transacting with BIR—from registration, to filing and payment of taxes, and availing other frontline services.

HACKATAX is organized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and co-organized by Developers Connect Philippines (DEVCON).

### **What is the HACKATAX competition process?**

HACKATAX competition is divided into two (2) rounds. The first round is submission of proposals or entries from proponents across the country. Proponents can submit entries up to 12:00PM of November 20, 2019. Entries will be evaluated based on the elimination round criteria. Ten (10) finalists will be selected from all the entries and will be announced on November 22, 2019. All finalists will proceed to the second round to develop prototype or minimum viable product (MVP) of their proposed solutions. A series of learning and mentoring sessions will be conducted, including immersion with real taxpayers to understand their pain points and further validate assumptions made in the first round. A final bootcamp will be held on January 25, 2020 to help the finalists refine their presentation, and final pitching on January 26, 2020. The top three (3) winners will be announced during the HACKATAX Awards Night in January 2020. The winning solutions are expected to be launched to the public in February 2020.

### **Who can submit proposals or entries?**

Individual developers and students can submit proposals or entries. Individual developers employed by technology startups or established I.T. companies can participate as individuals and not as representative of their company. The competition is open to any participants across the country. It is open to all Filipinos and foreign nationals permanently residing in the Philippines. There is no age limit.

### **Who are disqualified from participating?**

Employees of the BIR, USAID Philippines, Chemonics International, Inc. (the implementing partner of USAID/E-PESO Project), DEVCON core team, partners, and sponsors, as well as relatives of employees of said institutions, up to the first degree of consanguinity, are disqualified from participating in HACKATAX. Also, employees of systems developers or system providers of the BIR cannot participate in the competition.

### **What is the proposal form and content?**

Proponents can submit a one-pager proposal brief containing the title, the pain point or problem being addressed, and the proposed solution. The proposed solution should describe the technology innovation that is being employed. The proposal template can be downloaded from [www.hackatax.ph](http://www.hackatax.ph). The proposal must be accompanied by a short video (elevator pitch) with the proponent explaining the relevance of the project, why it is important, and the impact to the target taxpayer segment. The video shall be labelled with the title of the project, in high or standard definition, in MP4 format (?), and shall not exceed two (2) minutes.

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## How to submit the proposal?

Proposal shall be submitted by email to [submit@hackatax.ph](mailto:submit@hackatax.ph). The email shall have a short cover letter and shall contain the following details:

Title of Proposal:  
Name of Proponent:  
Address of Proponent:  
E-mail Address:

The one-pager proposal and the short video shall be attached to the email. An email receipt confirmation will be sent to those who have successfully submitted their proposal. Incomplete submission will automatically disqualify the proposal.

## Can one submit multiple proposals?

Proponents can only submit one (1) proposal or entry. In case a proponent submits multiple proposals, he/she will be asked by the organizers to select which proposal to designate as official entry to the competition.

## What to propose?

Proponents can choose from any of the suggested challenges or themes (please refer to [www.hackatax.ph](http://www.hackatax.ph)). Taxpayer pain points ranges from registration to updating of registration details, filing and payment of taxes, to availing of frontline services like applying for tax clearance, certificate authorizing registration for real property transactions, and taxpayer support services. The challenge is to simplify the forms and tax returns, streamline the processes, and serve the needs of taxpayers. An ideal theme shall cover an end-to-end process. For example: new taxpayer registration which starts with filling-out of registration form and submission of required support documents to receiving the certificate of registration. Also, proponents should be able to identify the specific taxpayer segment they are trying to serve.

## What are the criteria for selecting the 10 finalists?

Proposals will be evaluated based on relevance to the challenge (30%), impact (30%), technical innovation (30%), and quality of proposal (10%). Relevance to the challenge pertains to the responsiveness of the proposed solution to the problem. Impact pertains to the potential influence or contribution of the proposed solution to the target taxpayer segment and to BIR's efforts to make taxpayer experience easy and convenient. Technical innovation pertains to the novelty of the solution and creativity of the proponent to address the problem. Quality of the proposal covers the clarity of the ideas or concepts being presented, the conciseness of the proposal document, and the soundness of the thought process in deriving the proposed solution.

While it is key for the proponents to hurdle the above-mentioned criteria to qualify for the second round, proposals must already consider the possible business model of the proposed solution.

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## **What happens when a proposal qualifies for the second round?**

The proponent will be notified via email. He/she will be asked to form a team and attend the November 22, 2019 event announcing the 10 finalists that will proceed to the second round.

Each team shall have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 7 team members. The proponent has to disclose the names of the team members before the announcement of the 10 finalists.

## **Who will shoulder participant airfare and accommodation for the November 22, 2019 and January 25-26, 2020 events for finalists from outside Metro Manila?**

The organizers will cover the airfare and hotel accommodation of up to two (2) team members for the November 22, 2019 announcement of finalists, and for all team members for the January 25-26, 2019 final bootcamp, pitching and awards night.

## **What will be the 10 finalists do?**

All 10 finalists will proceed to the second round to develop prototype or MVP of their proposed solution. During this round, teams will be required to join the pre-bootcamp immediately after the announcement of the 10 finalists, and a series of on-site and off-site learning and mentoring sessions to be scheduled by the organizers. All teams are required to participate in the final bootcamp and pitching on January 25-26 2020. Winning solutions will be announced on the Awards Night on January 26, 2020.

## **When is the expected launch of winning solutions?**

Winning solutions should be ready-for-service by February 2020.

## **What are the prizes?**

The top 3 winning teams will receive monetary and in-kind prizes. The champion will receive startup incubation support from tech incubator partners.

## **Who will own the solutions that will be developed?**

The teams will own their respective solutions that will be developed from the HACKATAX. Organizers and partners will have no intellectual property (IP) share or interest in any product or solution from the competition.

For other queries, please send an email to [info@hackatax.ph](mailto:info@hackatax.ph)