

# ERUS26

presents



## RUBIC

Robotic **U**rology **B**reakthrough **I**nnovation **C**hallenge

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Robotic **U**rology **B**reakthrough **I**nnovation **C**hallenge

*Official Rules — Draft*

## OFFICIAL RULES

### Art. 1 Organizer

The RUBIC - Robotic Urology Breakthrough Innovation Challenge is organized by the Local Organizing Committee within the framework of the ERUS26 Congress, to be held in Padua, Italy, with the support of European academic, scientific, and industrial partners.

### Art. 2 Purpose and Objectives

The RUBIC aims at:

- › Fostering innovation in robotic urological surgery and its future evolution
- › Promoting deep-tech driven ideas with strong clinical, technological, and entrepreneurial potential
- › Actively involving young urologists aged under 30 in ERUS26
- › Stimulating the creation of multidisciplinary teams
- › Supporting pre-startup (early stage) initiatives in the MedTech field
- › Bridging clinical practice, robotics, basic research, and innovation expertise

### Art. 3 Theme of the Challenge

#### Robotic Surgery and Deep Tech Driven Cross-Applications

Eligible ideas should integrate robotic urological surgery with advanced technologies, including:

- › Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- › Mixed Reality (Augmented and/or Virtual Reality)
- › Human–Machine Interfaces
- › Digital Twins
- › Big Data and Predictive Analytics
- › Gaming, Simulation, and Serious Games
- › Telemedicine, Tele-mentoring, and Remote Support

#### Possible application domains include:

- › Surgical education and training
- › Intraoperative decision support
- › Tele-robotics and emergency care
- › Extreme environments (remote areas, hostile environments, space)
- › Clinical workflow optimization
- › Patient engagement and rehabilitation

*Ideas may be submitted at an early stage of development (low Technology Readiness Level – TRL).*

### Art. 4 Eligibility

The Challenge is open to teams meeting the following requirements:

#### 1. Team composition

- › Minimum of two (2) members (mandatory)
- › Maximum size of the team: 5–6 members
- › The project lead — who will present the project at the RUBIC Pitching Session — must be a urologist (resident or young specialist) and must be under 35 years of age at the time of submission.
- › The majority of team members must be under 35 years of age at the time of submission.

#### 2. Multidisciplinary

- › Teams including profiles/competences from engineering, computer science, data science, design, or business are strongly encouraged

#### 3. Congress attendance

**Physical attendance at the RUBIC session during ERUS26 is mandatory.**

### Art. 5 Submission Requirements

#### Participation is free of charge.

Each team must submit a Structured Abstract written in English. The submission must address:

- › Clinical or technological problem tackled
- › Proposed solution and innovative elements
- › Enabling technologies adopted
- › Potential clinical and/or market impact
- › Future development vision and exploitation approaches
- › Team composition and expertise

*Incomplete or non-compliant applications may be cause of exclusion.*

#### Online Submission

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the official online form available at:

**[rubic2026.org/submission](https://rubic2026.org/submission)**

- › Submission deadline: 31 July 2026
- › Upon successful submission, an automatic confirmation email will be sent to the lead contact person at the address provided in the form
- › If no confirmation email is received within 24 hours, please contact: [info@rubic2026.org](mailto:info@rubic2026.org)

## Art. 6 Intellectual Property

- › All intellectual property rights will remain with the teams
- › The Organizers may use non-sensitive materials from submitted proposals solely for communication and dissemination purposes (authors will always be acknowledged)

## Art. 7 Selection Process

The Selection Committee will be composed of Subject Matter Experts in: Robotic Urology, Biomedical Robotics, Innovation and Technology Transfer, and the MedTech Industry.

**Based on evaluation of eligible applications, the Committee will select five (5) finalist projects.**

The names of the finalist teams will be officially announced on the first day of ERUS26 in Padua. The decisions of the Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

## Art. 8 Finals Session at ERUS26

The five finalist teams will participate in the RUBIC Pitching Session at ERUS26. Each team will be asked to:

- › Deliver a 10-minute live pitch (7 min presentation + 3 min discussion) presenting the project vision, innovation potential, and future developments
- › Perform on stage in front of an international Jury composed of clinical, technological, and innovation experts
- › Take questions from the Jury

At the end of the session the Jury will evaluate the pitches and the winning project will be officially announced during the award ceremony.

## Art. 9 Jury

The Jury will include representatives from:

- › Robotic urology and academic partners/institutions
- › Biomedical robotics research organizations
- › The Italian Institute of Technology
- › Innovation regional ecosystems
- › MedTech industry
- › Strategy and technology professionals

## Art. 10 Award and Opportunities for the Winner

*The RUBIC Award is conceived as a high-value growth pathway.*

The winning team will be awarded a prize of €5,000 and offered the following opportunities:

### 1. European Robotic Urology Fellowship Path

A tailored educational and observational experience across selected European robotic urology centers, including a visit to the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Genoa, aimed at refining the project through interaction with centers of excellence in robotic surgery and biomedical engineering.

### 2. Multidisciplinary Online Advisory Program

Access to structured advisory sessions (10 hours) involving experts in: Clinical Urology, Robotic Surgery, Biomedical Robotics, Innovation, Strategy, and Entrepreneurship. The goal is to strengthen, validate, and mature the idea, potentially scaling it toward a startup or translational project.

### 3. Access to the Startup Zone at MedTech Malta 2026 (November 2026)

The winning team will receive a complimentary Startup Pass for MedTech World Malta 2026, including a kiosk booth in the Startup Village, full access to the conference and VIP networking events, and the opportunity to apply for the MedTech World Startup Pitch Competition — where companies are shortlisted following a review by an independent panel of judges.

## Art. 11 Acceptance of the Rules

Submission to the RUBIC implies full acceptance of the present Rules.

## Art. 12 Amendments and Information

The Organizers shall publish FAQ and communicate any relevant information through the official ERUS channels (e.g., website, social media).

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*Submission Format*

*ERUS26 · Padua, Italy · Submission Guidelines · Draft*

## STRUCTURED PITCH

## HOW TO SUBMIT

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the official online form available at:

[rubic2026.org/submission](https://rubic2026.org/submission)

- › Submission deadline: 31 July 2026
- › Upon successful submission, an automatic confirmation email will be sent to the lead contact person at the address provided in the form
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### 1. Title — Project Title

*(Concise, clear, innovation-oriented)*

### 2. Team Composition

- › Team name
- › Team members detail (name, surname, affiliation, role, DoB)
- › Lead contact person (name, surname, email)
- › Urologist under 30 included:  Yes  No
- › Multidisciplinary team:  Clinical  Engineering  Data/AI  Design  Business

### 3. Background and Unmet Needs

*~150–250 words*

Describe: the clinical, educational, or technological problem tackled; the current limitations of existing solutions; why this problem is relevant in robotic urological surgery or its cross-applications.

### 4. Proposed Solution and Innovative Elements

*~200–300 words*

Describe: the core idea and concept; how the solution works; what makes it innovative; how robotic surgery is involved (directly or indirectly).

### 5. Enabling Technologies Adopted

*~100–200 words*

Specify the technologies involved (if applicable):

- › AI / Machine Learning
- › Robotic platforms
- › Mixed / Virtual Reality
- › Human–Machine Interfaces
- › Digital Twins
- › Big Data / Cloud
- › Other (specify)

### 6. Application Scenario(s)

*~150–250 words*

Describe: concrete use cases (education, intraoperative support, telemedicine, extreme environments, etc.); potential users (surgeons, trainees, hospitals, patients); expected benefits in real-world settings.

### 7. Clinical or Market Impact and Value

*~150–250 words*

Explain: clinical impact (safety, outcomes, efficiency); educational or organisational impact; potential market relevance or scalability.

### 8. Future Development Stage / Exploitation and Vision

*~150–200 words*

Indicate: current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) (concept, early prototype, simulation, etc.); next development steps; how participation in RUBIC could help mature the project.

### 9. Role of the RUBIC Award

*~100–150 words*

Describe how the team would benefit from: interaction with European robotic urology centers of excellence; advisory from professionals and mentors; participation in MedTech Malta Startup Zone.

**This section is highly relevant for final evaluation.**

### 10. Ethical, Regulatory, or Feasibility Considerations (optional)

*~100 words*

Briefly mention any foreseeable ethical issues, regulatory pathways, or implementation challenges.

### 11. Keywords

Up to 5 keywords

## LENGTH AND FORMAT

- › Structured Abstract: max 1,500 words
- › Short Paper: max 2,500 words
- › Language: English
- › Figures/tables: optional (max 2)
- › References: optional (max 5)

## SUBMISSION NOTES

- › One submission per team
- › Intellectual property remains with the authors
- › Finalists must attend ERUS26 RUBIC Session in person
- › Submit exclusively via the online form at: [rubic2026.org/submission](https://rubic2026.org/submission)
- › Deadline: 31 July 2026 — Contact: [info@rubic2026.org](mailto:info@rubic2026.org)

## EVALUATION FOCUS

- › Relevance to robotic urology and RUBIC theme
- › Innovation and originality
- › Feasibility and future potential
- › Clarity of vision
- › Strength and complementarity of the team

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*Reviewer Evaluation Checklist & Scoring System*

*ERUS26 · Padua, Italy · Reviewer Document · Draft*

# REVIEWER EVALUATION CHECKLIST & SCORING SYSTEM

## 1. REVIEWER INFORMATION

Reviewer Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Area of expertise:  Clinical  Robotics  AI/Data  Innovation/Business  Other

Conflict of interest declared:  Yes  No

### Section 1 Relevance & Alignment

Weight: 20%

#### 1.1 Alignment with RUBIC theme

(Robotic Urology + Deep Tech cross-applications)

Score	Description
0	Not aligned
1	Weak alignment
2	Partial alignment
3	Good alignment
4	Strong alignment
5	Excellent and central alignment

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

#### 1.2 Relevance for robotic urological surgery or its ecosystem

Score	Description
0	Not relevant
1	Marginal relevance
2	Limited relevance
3	Relevant
4	Highly relevant
5	Transformative relevance

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

Section subtotal (max 10): \_\_\_\_/10 → Weighted: \_\_\_\_/20

### Section 2 Innovation & Originality

Weight: 20%

#### 2.1 Degree of innovation

Score	Description
0	No innovation
1	Incremental
2	Limited novelty
3	Moderate innovation
4	High innovation
5	Breakthrough / disruptive

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

#### 2.2 Originality compared to existing solutions

Score	Description
0	Already existing

1	Very similar solutions
2	Minor differentiation
3	Clear differentiation
4	Strong originality
5	Unique concept

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

Section subtotal (max 10): \_\_\_\_/10 → Weighted: \_\_\_\_/20

### Section 3 Feasibility & Development Potential

Weight: 20%

#### 3.1 Technical feasibility (given current or near-future technology)

Score	Description
0	Not feasible
1	Highly unrealistic
2	Major barriers
3	Feasible with development
4	Highly feasible
5	Ready for rapid development

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

#### 3.2 Development roadmap clarity

Score	Description
0	No roadmap
1	Very unclear
2	Basic idea
3	Clear steps outlined
4	Well-structured roadmap
5	Excellent, realistic roadmap

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

Section subtotal (max 10): \_\_\_\_/10 → Weighted: \_\_\_\_/20

### Section 4 Impact & Value

Weight: 20%

#### 4.1 Potential clinical / educational impact

Score	Description
0	No impact
1	Minimal
2	Limited
3	Moderate
4	High
5	Game-changing

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

#### 4.2 Scalability and broader applicability

Score	Description
0	Not scalable
1	Very limited
2	Limited
3	Scalable with effort
4	Highly scalable
5	Strong global potential

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

**REVIEWER RECOMMENDATION**

Section subtotal (max 10): \_\_\_\_ /10 → Weighted: \_\_\_\_ /20

- Strongly recommend for final pitch (Top 5)
- Recommend if space allows
- Do not recommend

**Section 5 Team & Vision**

Weight: 20%

Optional comments for the Selection Committee:

**5.1 Team composition and complementarity**

Score	Description
0	Inadequate
1	Very weak
2	Limited skills
3	Adequate
4	Strong multidisciplinary team
5	Outstanding team synergy

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**SUGGESTED THRESHOLDS (INTERNAL USE)**

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

- › ≥80/100 → Excellent candidate (Top 5)
- › 70–79/100 → Strong candidate
- › 60–69/100 → Borderline
- › <60/100 → Not selected

**5.2 Use of RUBIC opportunity**

*(Understanding and leveraging fellowship, advisory, ecosystem)*

Score	Description
0	Not addressed
1	Poor understanding
2	Generic
3	Clear benefit
4	Strong strategic use
5	Excellent alignment with RUBIC pathway

Score:  0  1  2  3  4  5

Section subtotal (max 10): \_\_\_\_ /10 → Weighted: \_\_\_\_ /20

**FINAL SCORE SUMMARY**

Section	Weighted Score
Section 1 — Relevance	____ /20
Section 2 — Innovation	____ /20
Section 3 — Feasibility	____ /20
Section 4 — Impact	____ /20
Section 5 — Team & Vision	____ /20
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>____ /100</b>