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Contact:

American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Attn: GIST Tech-I Team, Research Competitiveness Program  
1200 New York Avenue  
Washington, DC 20005  
E-mail: [tech-i@aaas.org](mailto:tech-i@aaas.org)

**GIST TECH-I COMPETITION LAUNCH DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the U.S. Department of State are pleased to announce the launch of the 2016 GIST (Global Innovation through Science and Technology) Technology Idea (Tech-I) Competition. Tech-I is part of the GIST Initiative and an annual global pitch competition which seeks to identify and select, train, and encourage exciting young scientists, engineers, and great minds to build businesses around the world. This year citizens from [135 countries and emerging economies](#) spanning Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America are eligible to apply with an innovative science and technology idea or startup in any sector.

Applicants are required to submit a short summary of their product, research, service, or concept, followed by a larger 750-word executive summary describing the proposed work and the science and technology behind it. Applicants will also provide a 90-second promotional pitch video to showcase their innovation. The application deadline date is January 15, 2016.

Up to 100 applicants will be selected as semi-finalists who will then have their pitch videos featured online and voted on by the public. These votes will help to select up to thirty finalists who will pitch their ventures to a global audience at the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Silicon Valley, California. During this internationally prestigious event, these amazing up-and-coming innovators will receive intensive skills training, mentorship, and networking access to global leaders in their fields. Winners of GIST Tech-I will receive seed capital prizes. All finalists will receive up to three months of mentoring following the finals. Further information can be found at [www.gistnetwork.org/tech-i](http://www.gistnetwork.org/tech-i).

**About the GIST Initiative:**

The GIST Initiative empowers young innovators through networking, skills building, mentoring, and access to financing to develop startup solutions that address economic and development challenges. GIST programs, in addition to Tech-I, include:

- Interactive webchats called [TechConnects](#) and the Guru Series
- On the ground startup boot camps with training and mentorship
- GIST Network, an online social network for entrepreneurs and mentors.



The GIST initiative is led by the U.S Department of State, and the GIST Tech-I Competition is implemented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

