

**IJCNN 2027**International Joint Conference on Neural Networks
14 – 18 June 2027 || CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

CALL FOR COMPETITION PROPOSALS

The IJCNN 2027 Competition Program invites proposals for challenging, accessible, reproducible, fair, and community-relevant competitions within the scope of neural networks, the foundations of AI and intelligent applications. Proposals should address timely scientific, engineering, or societal problems and create benchmarks with value beyond the conference.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Topics include, but are not limited to: trustworthy and interpretable AI; robustness and fairness; efficient, edge, and low-resource learning; continual and online learning; autonomous agents and embodied intelligence; multimodal and graph learning; time-series analysis; scientific AI; healthcare, climate, energy, communications, and critical infrastructure; privacy-preserving, federated, and distributed learning; and emerging nature-inspired or computational-intelligence paradigms.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must be submitted as a PDF of at most 4 pages, excluding references, and should include:

1. Competition title, task, motivation, and expected impact;
2. Justification for using a competition format;
3. Target community, accessibility, and expected participation;
4. Datasets, provenance, licenses, access, and train-test splits;
5. Evaluation metrics, ranking, tie-breaking, and hidden-test policy;
6. External-data and pretrained-model policies;
7. Baseline, starter kit, evaluation code, and platform plan;
8. Anti-cheating, leakage-prevention, and fairness safeguards;
9. Reproducibility and winner-verification requirements;
10. Ethics, privacy, consent, copyright, and misuse considerations;
11. Organizers, affiliations, contacts, and short biographies;
12. Funding, sponsorship, prizes, schedule, and post-competition plan.

ORGANIZER RESPONSIBILITIES

Accepted organizers must provide:

- » A public competition webpage and clear participation rules;
- » Timely access to training data and an appropriate test set;
- » Baseline code or a starter kit whenever feasible;
- » Transparent scoring, submission limits, and ranking procedures;
- » Participant support, FAQ, and regular communication;
- » Verification of top-ranked solutions;
- » A final challenge report and long-term resource archive.

Organizers, co-organizers, and their direct advisees may not compete in the competition they organize. Competitions should normally run for approximately 3-4 months. A dry-run or readiness review may be required before public launch.

EVALUATION AND REPRODUCIBILITY

Competitions must announce primary and secondary metrics, ranking procedures, submission limits, tie-breaking rules, and any efficiency, latency, robustness, or fairness criteria. A hidden final test set is strongly recommended.

Top-ranked teams may be required to provide system descriptions, external-data declarations, inference code, containers, resource statements, model cards, or other materials needed to verify results.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated according to:

- » Relevance to IJCNN and significance of the challenge;
- » Dataset quality, legality, accessibility, and documentation;
- » Rigor and transparency of the evaluation protocol;
- » Feasibility and readiness of the organizing team;
- » Accessibility and expected community participation;
- » Reproducibility, ethics, fairness, and responsible-AI safeguards;
- » Expected long-term benchmark and community value.

COMPETITION PAPERS

Subject to conference policy and peer review, up to three leading teams may be invited to submit papers for possible inclusion in the IJCNN 2027 proceedings on IEEE Xplore®. Organizers may also submit a competition report describing the dataset, task, baselines, evaluation, participation, and results. Accepted papers must be registered and presented at the conference.

TENTATIVE DATES

Competition proposal deadline: November 30, 2026

Proposal acceptance notification: December 15, 2026

Public competition launch: January 1, 2027

Competition submission deadline: February 28, 2027

Final ranking and winner verification: March 15, 2027

Competition paper submission deadline: April 1, 2027

Competition paper acceptance notification: April 15, 2027

SUBMISSION AND CONTACT

Submit proposals through: <https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/IJCNN2027/Submission/Manage>

Questions should be addressed to the IJCNN 2027 Competition Chairs: Samuel Yen-Chi Chen Zita A. Vale