

Terms of participation



Air Traffic Management technological challenges contest 2023

Call open until April 30, 2023



Índice

Índice	2
1. The Organization	3
2. The Contest	4
3. Challenges	4
CHALLENGE #1. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER DIGITAL ID	4
CHALLENGE #2. FORMULATION OF NP HARD (non-deterministic polynomial-time hardness) PROBLEMS USING QUANTUM COMPUTING	5
CHALLENGE #3. UNCERTAINTY MANAGEMENT IN THE ATM ENVIRONMENT	5
CHALLENGE #4. AUTOMATION TO ENSURE INFORMATION INTEGRITY	6
4. Conditions of participation	6
5. Documentation to be submitted	7
6. Evaluation criteria	7
6.1. Technical (maximum 60 points)	8
6.2. About the research group (maximum 30 points)	8
6.3. Final presentation (maximum 10 points)	8
7. Selection Committee and Jury Selection	9
8. Phases of the contest	9
8.1 Submission of proposed solutions	9
8.2 Evaluation of proposed solutions	9
8.3 Presentation of the finalist proposals	9
8.4 Selection, notification and acceptance of the challenge	10
8.5 Investigation phase of the winning solution and follow up	10
9. Award	11
10. Acceptance of the terms	11
11. Intellectual Property	12
12. Duty of information: data protection	12

1. The Organization

ENAIRe is the company of the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda that manages air navigation in Spain. It provides aerodrome control services at 21 airports, including those with the highest traffic, and en-route and approach control through five control centers: Barcelona, Madrid, Gran Canaria, Palma and Seville. In addition, 45 air traffic control towers receive communication, navigation and surveillance services from ENAIRe.

CRIDA (a Spanish acronym referring to the Research, Development and Innovation Reference Center ATM A.I.E.) has the mission of improving the efficiency and performance of the Spanish air traffic management system through the development of ideas and R&D&I projects that provide measurable solutions through system performance indicators, all considering the Spanish system as an integral part of a global system.

CRIDA is a fundamental support for ENAIRe's R&D&I activities and one of the activities it has delegated is to promote open innovation as a means of solving the future challenges posed by the evolution of the ATM (Air Traffic Management) system. CRIDA and ENAIRe are committed to open innovation as a fundamental lever to maintain its position as an international benchmark.

Being aware that the business of providing air navigation and air transport services is not known by the general public, it is necessary to manage different initiatives including this ideas contest.

For the execution of this ideas contest, CRIDA has the support of Peninsula Corporate Innovation, SL, a company specialized in carrying out entrepreneurship programs¹.

¹ Peninsula Corporate Innovation SL is the company awarded the "Open Innovation Support Technical and Administrative Specifications" published on the Public Sector Contracting Platform on March 6 2022 with File Number 2022-01.

2. The Contest

ENAIRe launches this year the 2nd edition of the **Air Traffic Management technological challenges contest**.

This contest, held annually, aims to find solutions to technological challenges in the field of air transport in the medium and long term. The contest is open to university research groups or any other type of group.

We accept technological solutions applicable to any sector of activity, as long as they are focused on the provision of air traffic/air transport services.

This contest will award a cash prize to the winning solution, which will be developed through a research agreement funded by ENAIRe/CRIDA.

3. Challenges

Technological challenges within the framework of open innovation in ATM are defined as those challenges that can be solved **with technologies coming from other fields** different from ATM. Therefore, the technological challenges defined in this competition have a **transversal nature** and seek to take advantage of the knowledge and experience acquired in other technological areas for their use in the air traffic management environment. The technological challenge seeks to attract **innovative solutions** that are not already being researched in this environment.

We are looking for total or partial solutions to any of the following 4 challenges.

CHALLENGE #1. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER DIGITAL ID

The air traffic controller faces a complex job on a daily basis to ensure a safe and efficient air traffic management service. The world is evolving towards the automation of tasks and processes and the world of air traffic control, inexorably also evolves in that direction, maintaining at all times the fluidity and safety of flights. This challenge seeks to research on digital assistants that help the controller to perform his task, taking into account traffic situations or his state (fatigue, or stress). Unlike other digital assistants, this challenge seeks an individualized solution for each controller to help him in his activity. The challenge seeks

to investigate the advantages of an individual assistant that accompanies the driver from the beginning of his training versus generic assistants that do not take into account the individual.

CHALLENGE #2. FORMULATION OF NP HARD (non-deterministic polynomial-time hardness) PROBLEMS USING QUANTUM COMPUTING

The ATM world faces problems that are difficult to solve both because of the complexity and number of its variables and because of the large amount of data being processed. One of these problems is the assignment of air traffic controllers to their jobs. The assignment must meet numerous requirements while respecting different boundary conditions: planned sector configurations, sector opening and closing times (configuration changes), shifts (morning, long morning, afternoon, long evening, evening, night), conditions for maintaining controller clearance (minimum control hours and control frequency in different sectors), executive controller and planner position, maximum control hours according to agreement, existing controller staff, unexpected incidents (controllers who fall ill, for example). Currently, this problem is not optimally solved in a short period of time and the solutions obtained are not the most appropriate.

The challenge aims to investigate the feasibility of using quantum computing to solve this problem or another problem of similar nature in the ATM environment, which allows obtaining the optimal solution in a short period of time.

CHALLENGE #3. UNCERTAINTY MANAGEMENT IN THE ATM ENVIRONMENT

To mitigate the uncertainty in the behavior of certain factors that impact the use of airspace, the ATM system is protected by including numerous margins (buffers) that reduce the capacity of the system. These uncertainties include uncertainty in the forecast of traffic demand over different time horizons (years, months, days, hours), meteorological situations that are difficult to predict, inaccuracy of the trajectories to be flown, flight departure times from the airport, passage through sectors, tactical activity that modifies the trajectory, performance of the human element... This is why safety thresholds are defined that must not be exceeded in order to protect both the physical resources and the human resources that support the daily operation of the system from overloads that are difficult to predict.

These thresholds lead to an underutilization of the system because there is no systematic treatment of uncertainty management. This challenge seeks solutions applied in other complex environments from which we can learn how they handle uncertainties and extrapolate them to the ATM system.

CHALLENGE #4. AUTOMATION TO ENSURE INFORMATION INTEGRITY

Currently, various ATM systems use information from many different sources. These sources are not always complete and send information with incorrect, corrupt or empty fields, generating inconsistencies in the results obtained from these sources. An example is the ENAIRe tool used for ATM system performance monitoring, which uses data from, among others, GIPV (Initial Flight Plan Management), Reference Configurations, Mode S, AIP (Aeronautical Information Publication), SACTA Adaptation (Automated Air Traffic Control System), Insignia (maps), GESTAR (fees and service units), ESTOP, SCENA (airport stands), Palestra (IFS, ISE, IPV), CRAMI, ICAO, Capabilities, NOAA (weather), Multilateration, NM (Network Manager), ADSB (Automatic Data Surveillance Broadcast), GESLOT (Airport Slot Management). ..

These sources monitor around 100 indicators and metrics that help managers to make decisions. Sometimes the indicators provide inconsistent results due to a failure in the quality of the data from the sources. The detection of the origin of the failure and its correction is costly, time-consuming and the solution is limited to the particular case detected.

The challenge is to find solutions that automate the identification of failures in source information or in source format changes that are not based on "case by case" solutions, but provide a global automation strategy (including a taxonomy).

4. Conditions of participation

Participation is open to university or any other type of research groups that meet the following requirements:

- Accept the commitment to participate in the 18-month research agreement, which represents the prize of this competition.
- Demonstrate proven ability in the field described in the challenge.

Terms of participation

Air Traffic Management technological challenges contest (2n edition)

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- Complete the information required in the registration form within the deadline established in these terms of participation.
- Submit an original project that does not infringe industrial or intellectual property rights of third parties and that does not transmit or disseminate illegal, defamatory or offensive content, or content that violates the values and dignity of people.
- Not being an employee of CRIDA or ENAIRe.

Each contestant is responsible for the veracity of the data provided and will be solely legally responsible for any dispute that may arise due to non-compliance of law regarding intellectual and/or industrial property rights.

The contestants grant the necessary rights to film, photograph the presentations, use the images of the contestants and the presentations for communication purposes. They also authorize the use of the material presented and obtained during the contest for the preparation and dissemination of newsletters, press releases, social networks, blogs, etc., for promotional and communication purposes.

The organization of the Air Traffic Management technological challenges contest reserves the right to exclude from the contest any application that do not comply with the requirements established in these rules, provide false or incomplete data, or without the corresponding authorization, in particular, discarding those ideas that have no potential application in the field of air traffic/air transport service provisions.

5. Documentation to be submitted

Each contestant must complete the form available on the contest website, where contestants will be asked questions about their solution to one of the technological challenges proposed in section 3 of these terms of participation.

6. Evaluation criteria

The solutions submitted will be evaluated according to the quality of the information provided in the application form based on the following evaluation criteria, which can be classified into three groups:

6.1. Technical (maximum 60 points)

ADAPTABILITY TO THE CHALLENGE (20 points): The degree of adaptation and effectiveness of the solution to solve any of the proposed challenges will be evaluated.

APPLICABILITY (5 points): The degree of applicability of the proposal will be evaluated.

FEASIBILITY (15 points): The technical, time and economic ease of deployment of the solution after the research phase will be evaluated.

DEGREE OF INNOVATION (10 points): The degree of disruption of the technology will be evaluated.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT (10 points): The benefits provided by the solution will be evaluated.

The organization may consider the disqualification of a contestant if it obtains a total score lower than 40 points in this block.

6.2. About the research group (maximum 30 points)

TEAM COMPOSITION (15 points): The profiles of each of the team members that will participate in the research phase, their areas of knowledge, as well as other available profiles that may add value will be valued.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE TEAM MEMBERS (15 points): Projects carried out by a member of the team related to the challenge and the solution will be valued.

The organization may consider the disqualification of a contestant if he/she obtains a total score lower than 15 points in this block.

6.3. Final presentation (maximum 10 points)

FINAL PRESENTATION (10 points): Criterion only applicable to the finalist solutions that have obtained the highest score in the criteria described in sections 6.1 and 6.2 of these terms of participation. The clarity of the explanation in the presentation of the solution, as well as in the answers provided to the doubts that the Selection Committee may have, will be evaluated. Additionally, it should be mentioned that, after the clarifications obtained in the presentation, the Jury may reevaluate some of the previous scores.

The organization may consider the disqualification of a contestant if he/she obtains a zero score in any of the blocks or a total score lower than 50 points.

The evaluation will be confidential and will not be shared with the contestants.

7. Selection Committee and Jury Selection

Selection Committee: is made up of a group of innovation consultants from the Peninsula Corporate Innovation SL team, who have extensive experience carrying out programs to promote entrepreneurship and who integrate profiles from the areas of strategy, business, innovation and technology.

Jury: It is made up of professionals from the fields of entrepreneurship and innovation in the air navigation sector, both from Peninsula Corporate Innovation SL and CRIDA/ENAIRe.

8. Phases of the contest

8.1 Submission of proposed solutions

Contestants must submit their applications through the form available on the contest website retos.enaireopeninnovation.com.

The deadline for completing the form is **April 30, 2023 at 23:59h CET (UTC+1)** (the organization reserves the right to extend the deadline).

8.2 Evaluation of proposed solutions

The Selection Committee will analyze all the applications received and will select at least 3 finalists according to the evaluation criteria described in section 6 of these terms of participation.

The evaluation of the proposals will end on **May 22, 2023**.

8.3 Presentation of the finalist proposals

Once the finalist solutions have been selected, a final event will be held within 7 calendar days (May 29, 2023) in which the finalist research groups will have the opportunity to present

the proposed solution and the Jury will evaluate them and may ask questions to clarify any point that needs further explanation.

The duration of the presentation and clarifications to the doubts presented by the Jury will be one hour per proposal on **May 29, 2023 from 10:00h CET (UTC+1)**.

8.4 Selection, notification and acceptance of the challenge

On **June 12, 2023**, the winning research group will be informed of the above-mentioned condition through the contact e-mail address provided in the registration form.

After the selection of the winning solution, the winning research group will have a period of five (5) working days to contact the organization through info@enaireopeninnovation.com and expressly state their willingness to accept the challenge.

8.5 Investigation phase of the winning solution and follow up

From the date of acceptance of the challenge, the winning research group will sign a research agreement to begin the work, which will last 18 months.

At the beginning, the winning research group must generate a report detailing the specific scope of the activities, the planning of the activity and the resources initially involved. All reports must be expressly accepted by the parties and signed.

Regular follow-up meetings will be held (at least quarterly) and, additionally, when agreed between both parties. The winning research group will keep a record of the action items agreed in all these meetings, as well as their status.

These meetings will address both management and technical follow-up aspects of the activities being carried out to ensure that the action plans are proceeding as planned.

Close collaboration activities are foreseen to ensure proper monitoring of the project. Any proposal to carry out these activities will be positively valued (elaboration of reports of technical results achieved -periodically or not-, face-to-face or telematic meetings, e-mails...).

At the end of the research phase, the winning research group will present the final result of the research, which, according to its proposed solution, should consist of a feasibility study of the possible solution and/or presentation of a prototype.

9. Award

The winning research group will sign a research agreement for a period of 18 months and will have at its disposal an amount of 60,000 € (VAT not included), of which 40,000 € will be delivered in 2023 as an early installment and 20,000 € in 2024 after the end of the activities. The objective is to develop the proposed solution to demonstrate its suitability and technical and economic feasibility.

All payments will be liquidated by Peninsula Corporate Innovation SL in the bank account indicated by the winner and will be subject to the legally established withholding (if applicable), against the presentation of an initial report of the activities and expected results as an advance payment (2023) and a closing report detailing the results achieved (2024). Once the reports are accepted by the organization, the corresponding payments will be made.

In addition, periodic reports prepared by the winning research group detailing the expected scope and results achieved in each task are expected to be available.

If the winner rejects its prize, the prize may be offered to the contestant that has been ranked directly below it in the evaluation phase.

The prize may be void if the Jury so decides.

10. Acceptance of the terms

The contestants, by their mere participation, declare that they are aware of and fully accept these terms. All contestants expressly waive any right of challenging any of the decisions of the Selection Committee and the Jury.

The submission of applications is free and voluntary. Participation in this call for proposals implies full acceptance of these terms of participation and the explicit waiver of any subsequent claim, for which contestants are obliged to strictly comply with them at all times.

Failure by any contestant to comply with these Rules will result in the automatic cancellation of such participation.

CRIDA/ENAIRe reserves the right to modify these rules. Likewise, it reserves the right to modify the mechanics of participation, as well as the reward to the winning research group.

These modifications will be made with criteria of total impartiality and CRIDA/ENAIRe will communicate them sufficiently in advance to the contestants by means of notification through their contact e-mail. In the event that the contestant does not indicate his/her wish to withdraw from the competition, it will be understood that he/she accepts the new rules.

11. Intellectual Property

Contestants will be responsible for their solution and will maintain the intellectual or industrial property of their submitted solutions at all times.

12. Duty of information: data protection

In accordance with the RGPD and the LOPDGDD, Peninsula Corporate Innovation SL will process the data provided in order to be able to manage the registration and participation in the Contest. Your data will only be used by Peninsula Corporate Innovation SL and will not be passed on to third parties, except for the fulfillment of legally established obligations. However, the identification of the finalists and also the winners will be published on the website of the Competition, Peninsula and CRIDA and its subsidiaries or partners, and on their respective social networks in accordance with transparency legislation. Your image and voice may also be published with your consent. Your data will be retained for the duration of the competition and for as long as any legal liabilities may arise from it.

The consent of the concerned person may be withdrawn at any time. In any case, the interested parties may exercise their rights of access, rectification, deletion and others recognized by law, by sending their request in writing to the email address info@peninsula.co, or by post to the address Pier01, Tech Barcelona – Office SA1 Plaça de Pau Vila, 1 – 08003 Barcelona.

In case of requests for rights, the data controller will carry out the appropriate and necessary inquiries to verify and ensure your identity.

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated regarding the use of your personal data, you can file a complaint with the competent Data Protection Control Authority (Spanish Data Protection Agency), through its website: www.aepd.es. You can request more information

Terms of participation

Air Traffic Management technological
challenges contest (2n edition)

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about the procedures of your personal data, to the email info@peninsula.co. For more information, access the privacy policy available on the Contest website.