

innoWAH! 2025-26

9th Oct 2025

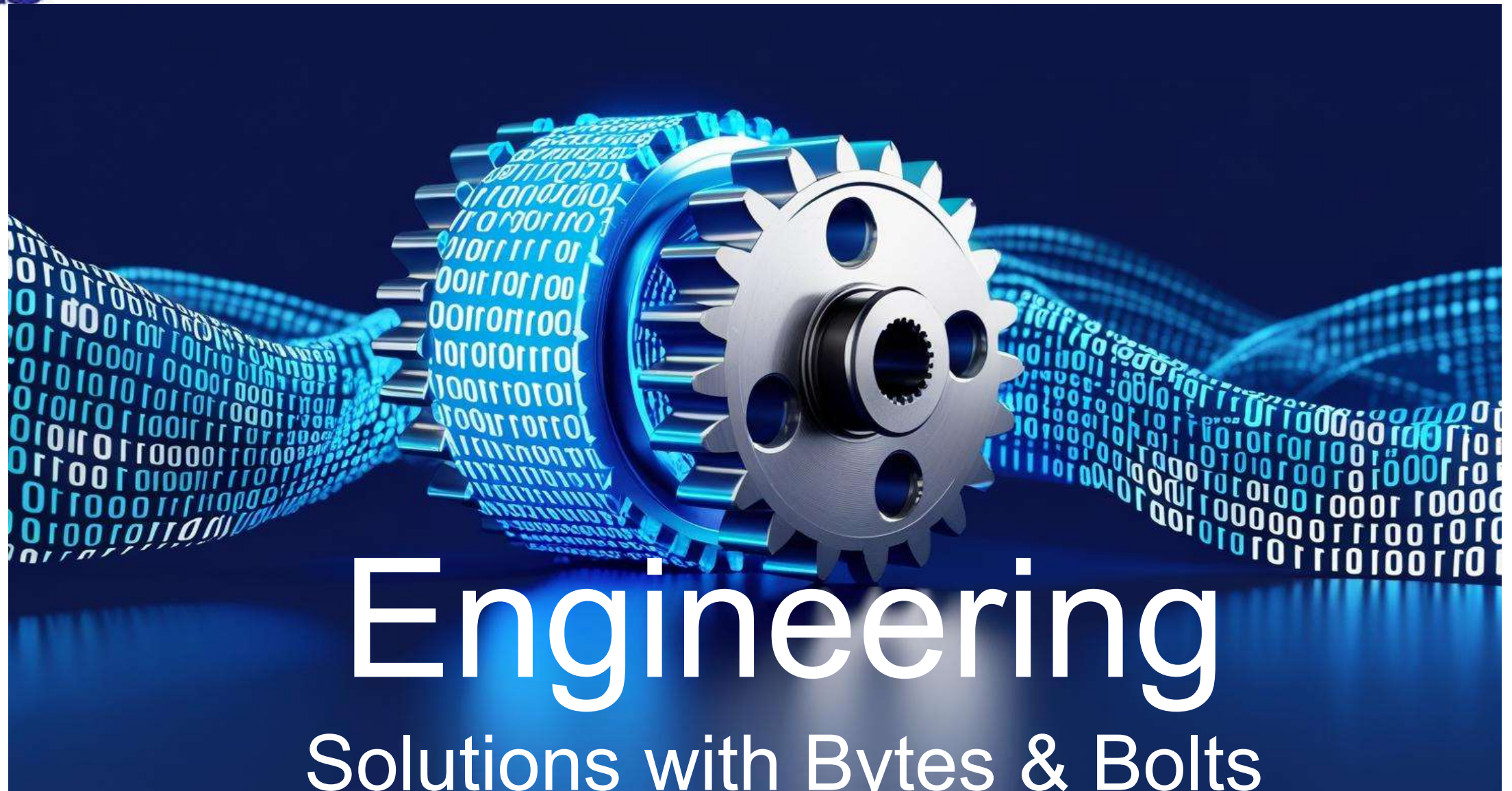
PALS innoWAH!
Innovation Competition





The focus for this year innoWAH! will be

- Multi-disciplinary engineering projects with strong emphasis on core engineering
- Business value addition through emerging IT technologies
- Address real-time problems impacting the lives common people and economy of the country
- Avoid mundane **Run of the Mill** ideas, particularly aggregator model APPs which are flooded in the market
- And aligned with the vision of our IITM director Prof Kamakoti



Launch

Launch the theme and explain the process to all the students

Date: 20th Aug 2025

02

Awareness

Aware webinars covering several topics like Customer discovery, Refining problem statement, Design thinking, Lean Canvas etc. Date: 26th Aug – end Oct 2025,

03

Registration

All PIs to register their teams with all the necessary documents

Date: 20th Sep – 8th Oct 2025

04

Pitch Your Plan (PYP) – Offline submission

Each team will present their problem statement and proposed solution

Date: Oct 2025, Shortlisting of team: Early Nov 2025 – **Tentative**

05

Cluster Finals & Exhibition

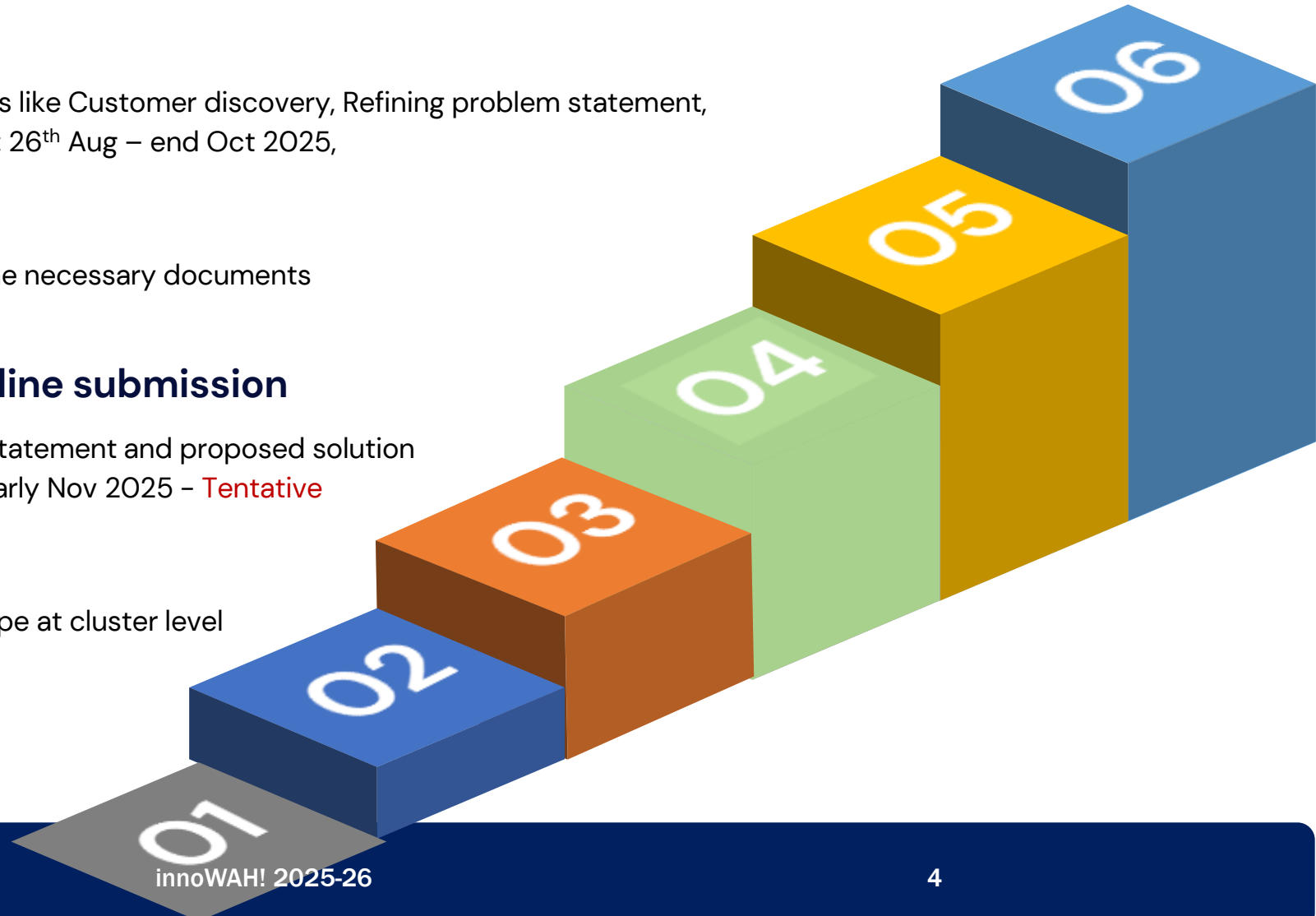
Shortlisted teams exhibit their prototype at cluster level

Dates: Jan – Feb 2026, Tentative

06

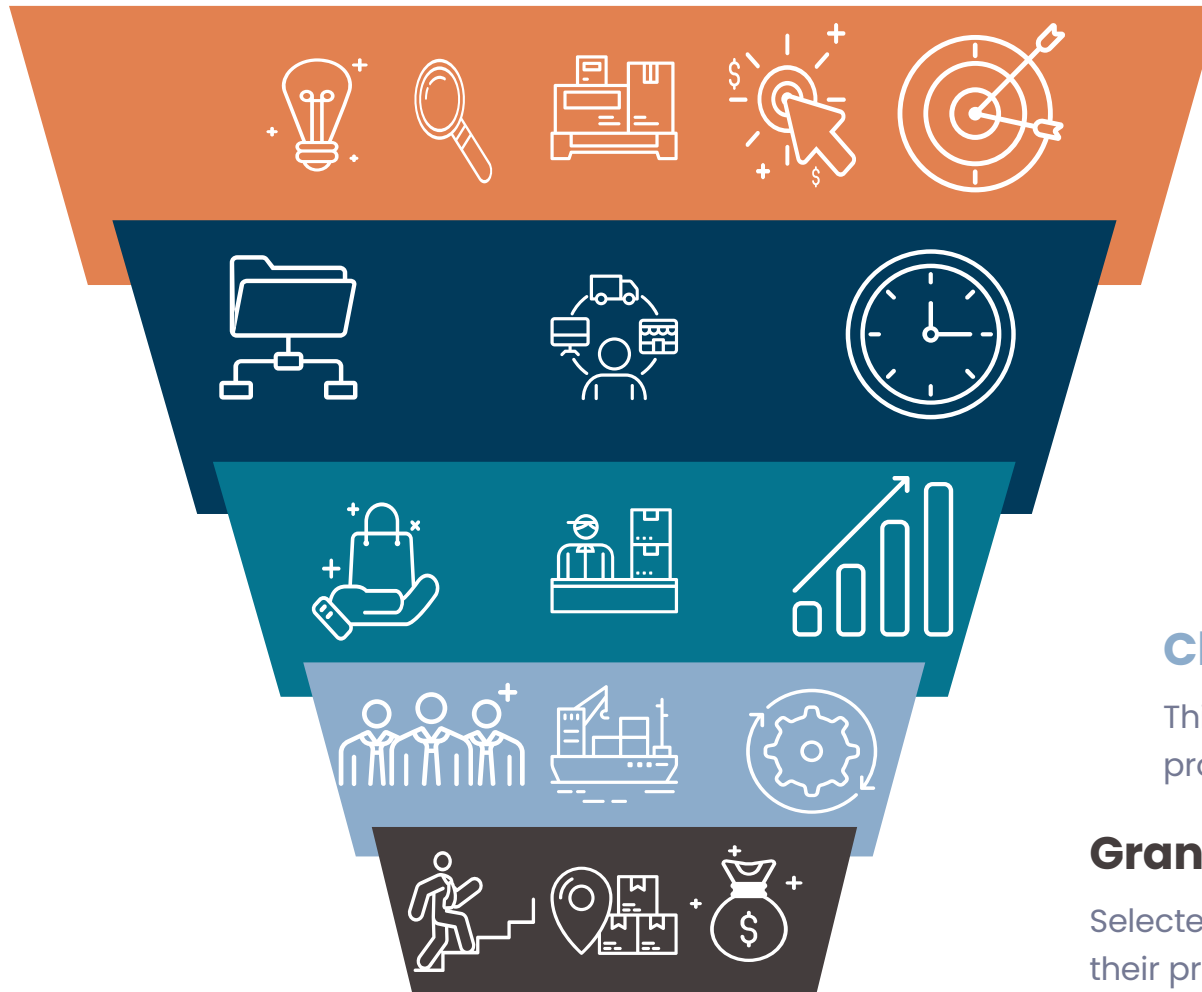
Grand Finale & Exhibition

Date: March 2026, **Tentative**



innoWAH! Timeline





Team nomination

Each PI will do an internal search and identify their top 5 teams for nomination

Basic evaluation of the documents

PALS team will do a basic evaluation of the ideas, validate the documents submitted and categorize the projects

Pitch Your Product – PYP

Each team will present their project idea and walk through their presentation. A panel of judges will evaluate and shortlist

Cluster Finals

This will be conducted in multiple locations. Students exhibit their prototype or POC and it will be evaluated by another panel of judges

Grand Finale

Selected candidates from the cluster finals across all regions will demo their product at IIT Campus. A new panel of judges will evaluate them. Winners will be chosen under different categories.

Team nomination and composition

innoWAH team nomination

- a) After the Launch of the program the Partner Institutes (PIs) start their internal search for their top 5 teams. PALS has no role in this selection of top 5 teams.
- b) Each PI can register up to 5 teams for the competition. These teams, selected by the PIs internally will have a maximum of 5 bonafide students.

innoWAH team composition

- a) PALS encourages the PIs to form multidisciplinary teams from diverse engineering domains, relevant to the chosen project. Also, we recommend a gender inclusive policy, wherever possible
- b) A good mix of senior and junior students will help to continue the project beyond the innoWAH! Competition, if it's found worthy taking to the market



Expectations from the students

- a) All students are welcome to attend the AWE sessions, these AWE sessions are mandatory for all the team members participating in the competition
- b) Those students who missed any of this session should watch the recording
- c) Students may feel free to send any questions requiring clarifications to PALS routing such questions through their innoWAH co-ordinator. PALS will then publish all such questions and answers to all participating teams of all Pls

Obligations of the participating students

- a) Each registered team will be given access to upload the Declaration and Concept & Design document. The team will be given detailed instructions on what level of details will be necessary to be provided at the PYP stage.
- b) The Format of documents to be submitted, Rules and Guidelines, as well as the other relevant details, will be shared with the Pls soon after the launch
- c) Teams are absolutely free to choose any ideas, without any IP rights violation. However, in case of an existing idea/concept the team should clearly articulate what innovation or value addition has been done. If the team fails to establish the incremental value, their project will be rejected.



- a) There are 3 levels of evaluation in this competition
 - i. Pitch your product (PYP) –October
 - ii. Cluster Finals – Jan - Feb 2026
 - iii. Grand Finale – March 2026
- b) The minimum qualifying criteria will include, but not limited to
 - ✓ Submission of all the required documents
 - ✓ Originality of the idea or a justifiable value addition to any existing idea
 - ✓ Strict compliance to the rules of the competition
 - ✓ Mandatory attendance of the team members in the AWE webinars
- c) All these projects' documents will go through a series of reviews by a panel of experts for technical feasibility and commercial viability. Plagiarism checks will also be conducted, wherever necessary.
- d) The shortlisted project teams will be called for presenting an elevated pitch to the panellists. This first level of evaluation will be an online session, called as PYP.
- e) Only those project ideas that are found to be technically feasible and commercially viable will be selected for the second stage, which is the Cluster finals



- a) Cluster finals will be physical exhibition cum evaluation and this will be held in multiple locations, as found necessary.
- b) It's imperative that the teams should have a working model or prototype or a proof of concept of the proposed product
- c) The team will present their exhibit to a panel of judges and defend their product by providing evidence in the form data collected, photos, videos, charts etc
- d) The Panel of judges will shortlist a set of projects to join the Grand Finale
- e) The grand finale will be held in March 2026 at IIT Madras Campus or Research Park for selecting the best projects under several categories. The winners would be announced the same day and the prize distribution will be during the valediction or annual day event.



- a) Project Team - The Team should consist of students from the same Institution and the institution should be registered as a PALS 2025-26 Partner Institute
- b) Faculty Mentor – PI will assign a mentor for each of the project nominated. He/She will only guide the team and cannot participate in any project activity or evaluation
- c) InnoWAH Coordinator (IC) – Single point of contact for PALS throughout this competition.
- d) PALS Champions will be there to support the teams to help them understand the theme and competition rules
- e) PALS will not be providing any financing assistance to any PI or Team for the innoWAH! projects. PALS will share the details of the competition winners and finalists with relevant incubators, established companies, start-ups etc for potential support to take this forward to the Market
- f) PALS PMO will only be providing the support needed related to logistics during this competition
- g) If any of the judging panel member is offering to mentor a team, embrace that opportunity to the best possible extend

Rewards & Recognitions



- a) PALS will group the projects based on the Theme, Industry Domain, Technology etc
- b) Projects selected by the panel judges will be rewarded by PALS under different categories
- c) In addition to this, the industry partners may also be sponsoring prizes for the best project
- d) PALS will guide the winning teams to Nirmaan, the pre-incubation cell of IIT Madras
- e) PALS will also enable the winner to participate in Boot Camp programs like Pitch Fest at Anna University
- f) The PALS Entrepreneurship Forum will host a Mentor Clinic and it will be open to successful InnoWAH! projects
- g) If any of the Industry partner is offering to mentor a team, PALS will facilitate this



PYP – Pitch Your Project



Each team will record a video for maximum of 3 mins covering the following topics

Slide 1: Title slide (Short, snappy description of your business idea)

Slide 2: Initial situation (What's the problem?)

Slide 3: Solution (What you are offering!)

Slide 4: Your product / service (What exactly are you proposing?)

Slide 5: Unique Selling Proposition (USP) (Why is your solution better or different from than others?)

Slide 6: Business Hypothesis

Only the team members can be part of this video and any of them can talk about the project
English is the recommended language; however, we are flexible. Please talk to PMO

Business Hypothesis

Our product, Name or Category of your Product **assists our**
customer, customer type or the group **who wants to**
invest money or save energy etc **by** Explain the process or your solution
unlike Name the competition or the current state.

PYP Submissions



- a) Concept & Design Document**
- b) 3-mins Video of your presentation**
- c) Declaration form**

Engineering Solutions with Bytes & Bolts

Thank You

Visit our Website

 palspgm.org

