ASME Elevator Pitch Competition

(sponsored by the ASME Old Guard Committee)

AY26-27 Rules & Guidelines

What is an Elevator Pitch?

An elevator pitch is a hypothetical situation where you meet a decision-maker, such as an executive, manager, or supervisor, in a closed space like an elevator. You have up to 90 seconds to explain your idea and show why it is valuable. A successful elevator pitch shows your ideas and communication skills and encourages the decision-maker to continue the conversation in a future meeting.

1. **Competition Type**
   a. This is an "individual" (not a team) competition.

2. **Competitors**
   a. Must be enrolled as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student (including Community College students) in any engineering program of study. An individual who graduated with an engineering bachelor's or associate degree within six months of competition date is eligible to participate.
   b. IMECE registered participants may also walk up to join the ASME Elevator Pitch Competition on a first-come, first-served basis.

3. **Presentation of a competitor's Elevator Pitch will be given live during the ASME IMECE 2026.**

   The challenge statement will be available on the day of the scheduled ASME Elevator Pitch Competition, Sunday November 8, 2026, at 2:00 pm local time via an email sent to all registered competitors.

4. **Pitch Format and Length**
   a. Before beginning the pitch, competitors must state their Name, Year of Study (e.g., third-year Mechanical Engineering), and College/University.
   b. Competitors will deliver their presentations in English.
   c. A pitch that exceeds 90 seconds will incur a 20% deduction from the competitor's score. The use of PowerPoint slides, digital media, props, notes, or cell phones is not permitted.
   d. Questions and answers are not permitted.
   e. The goal is to clearly promote your proposal and to gain the decision maker's interest and support.
   f. Refrain from including every detail and focus on the main idea and why it matters.

5. **Judging Criteria**
    a. Approximately 3-5 judges, including a Lead Judge, will evaluate each Elevator Pitch competitor.
    b. Each competitor's Elevator Pitch will be evaluated equally in four subjective areas and a potential reduction in score for non-compliance with timing:
        i. Introduction & Pitch
        ii. Challenge Statement & Content
        iii. Grammar & Clarity
        iv. Presentation Style
        v. Timing
            — Pitches may not exceed 90 seconds. A timing device will indicate when 90 seconds is up, and the competitor will stop speaking. A competitor's score will incur a 20% deduction if the 90-second timer ends before the competitor has completed the pitch.
    c. Judges will determine award placements using the criteria specified in the ASME Elevator Pitch Competition scoresheet. Section 6 prescribes the number of awards available for presentation based on the total number of Elevator Pitch competitors at the competition.

6. **Awards to be Presented**
The number of award placements is prescribed by the total number of ASME Elevator Pitch competitors as noted in the chart below.

Number of Competitors at EFx event	Number of Awards to be Given
3 or fewer	First Place only
4 - 6	First and Second Place
7 or more	First, Second, and Third Place

7. **ASME Elevator Pitch Competition Awards/Prize & Digital Badges**
- 1st Place - $250.00
- 2nd Place - $150.00
- 3rd Place - $ 75.00

WINNERS will receive an ASME Digital Badge

8. **Winners Announcement**
Winner placements will be announced at the end of the Undergraduate Reception held in conjunction with the competition.

9. **Questions?**

If you have questions about the ASME Elevator Pitch rules, please email RuthAnn Bigley at bigleyr@asme.org