



Entrepreneur Innovation Awards Fact Sheet

The Skinny

- ◆ The Entrepreneur Innovation Awards, or EIAs, is a Shark Tank-style live pitch competition held three to four times a year at various locations around the state.
- ◆ The EIAs are run by CTNext, Connecticut's innovation ecosystem, which is managed by Connecticut Innovations.
- ◆ Pitches last five minutes, and are followed by a short Q&A session with the judges. The audience also gets to vote for its favorite startup!
- ◆ To date, CTNext has awarded more than \$300,000 to startups through the EIAs.

The Pot

- ◆ Startups compete for grants of up to \$10,000 by pitching their ideas to an experienced panel of judges.
- ◆ Applicants are eligible to win \$30,000 in grants over the lifetime of the company, which means you can submit for and be awarded \$10,000 up to three times.

The Rules

- ◆ To compete in the EIAs, you must first apply. Only those startups with the strongest projects, as judged by an independent panel, are invited to pitch.
- ◆ Any startup, as long as it is based in Connecticut, is a member of CTNext, and has a project that meets all grant criteria, is eligible to apply.
- ◆ Projects can include small-scale prototyping, preparatory work for R&D, performance testing, compliance testing, product or service development, innovation or technology audits, market research, customer development, engineering design, technology transfer, or licensing.
- ◆ Projects must have clear deliverable milestones.

The Particulars

- ◆ CTNext is free and easy to join. Visit <http://ctnext.com/join-now/>.
- ◆ EIA applications can be found at <http://ctnext.com/eia-application/>.
- ◆ Need advice? Help practicing your pitch? Preparing for the Q&A? Visit CTNext.com to meet with one of CTNext's Entrepreneurs In Residence, free of charge.
- ◆ The awards are paid directly to the company to complete clearly defined business or technology innovation projects aimed at moving the product or service closer to commercialization.
- ◆ The event is free to attend, and we serve complimentary food and drinks, so bring your friends and family!
- ◆ You can find a schedule of upcoming events at ctnext.com/events.

Questions? Visit ctnext.com for more information or call Tamyra Davis at 860.258.7858.