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# Rice Business Plan Competition

MAY 11 – 13, 2023

**Welcome and Orientation  
Webinar  
March 30, 2023**





ON THE  
**EDGE**  
OF THE FUTURE

**Welcome to the RBPC!**  
**We are very happy you are here**  
**... On the Edge of the Future!**

**#RBPC23**



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# Today's Agenda

1. Confirmation of participation
2. Calendar and Due Dates
3. Competition overview
4. What to Expect at the RBPC
5. The next 5 weeks
6. Communication – Stay in touch!
7. Questions

# Confirmation of participation

Everyone has confirmed they can attend--yay!

What this means:

- At least 2 members from your startup must attend and pitch, sharing pitching duties (and up to 4 members)
- Only current or very-recently graduated students may participate in the pitches
- At least one of those students must be a graduate-level student
- Teams needs to stay for the entire event: Thursday, May 11 at Noon through Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 pm (after the Awards Party)

If this is an issue, let me know ASAP.

Thank you for all your questions!





# Calendar and Due Dates

April 3	EFN Intro webinar at 11:00 AM CDT
April 4	EFN Intro webinar at 1:00 PM CDT
April 21	Parts 2 and 3 of application due --business plan --attending team members and their info --prize considerations --dietary restrictions and food allergies (I forgot to ask) Last day to book conference hotel at our rate
May 5	Business Plan feedback from judges sent to teams
May 10	Updated business plan due in application (optional) --the most recent version of your BP will be visible to judges during the competition
May 11-13	RBPC

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# Competition Overview

Thursday	Welcome and Orientation sessions Practice Pitches <b>Elevator Pitch Competition*</b> Company Showcase + Reception
Friday	<b>Round 1*</b> Feedback Sessions Semi-Finalist Announcement + Reception
Saturday	<b>Semi-Final Round/Wildcard Round*</b> <b>Final Round*</b> Awards Ceremony (Party)

\* = scored parts of the RBPC

All parts of the RBPC are required for competing startups and take place at Rice University.

The exception is the Awards Ceremony, which is at the Hilton Americas Hotel in downtown Houston (5 miles from campus).



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# What to Expect at the RBPC

Check the RBPC website under 2023 Competition -> **Competitor Resources** for most up-to-date info (general info, schedules, What to Expect, Scoring Criteria, hotel booking link, etc.)

250+ judges throughout the 3 days of competition

35+ prizes with total value of over \$1 million

All competing startups get a minimum of \$800 prize

Startups are judged on their investment potential—where an investor would put their money

All meals provided; transportation between the conference hotel and campus is provided (but getting to and from the awards party is not)

Bring your A-Game! Bring your energy (you will need it)!



# The next 5 weeks

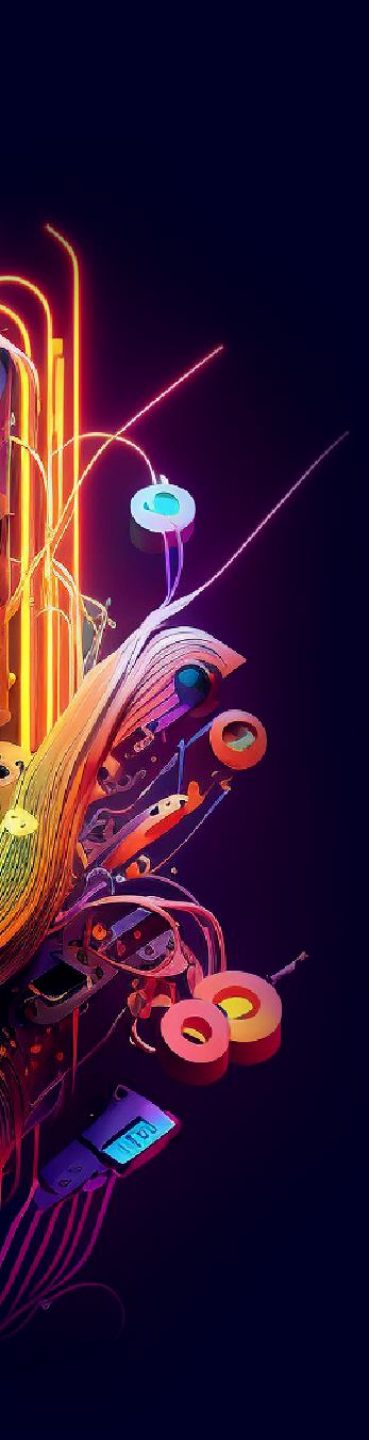
- Explore **EFN Mentoring program** – 5 weeks of free mentoring
- Practice your pitches – check the RBPC website for **past competition videos** from the EPC and Finals
- Prep your “**deliverables**”: business plan, 15-minute investor pitch, 60-second elevator pitch and showcase table items; full list is under Competitor Resources -> What to bring to the RBPC
- Read the Competition Rules and Format and **What to Expect** docs
- Check the **list of questions** judges frequently ask (WtE doc):
  - they love to ask about IP or unique selling prop
  - they want to know your raise (don't say you aren't raising funds)
- **Book hotel** by April 21 (you don't have to stay there, but a shuttle to and from campus will be available)
- **Let everyone know you are coming to the RBPC!!! #RBPC23**



# Communication – Stay in Touch!

- There are more updates and reminders to come, but . . .
- I aim to send only one weekly email on Thursday afternoons – please look for it
- Weekly email will come to your team members who are listed in the application
- I will communicate to you mostly by email, but by text if I need an answer quickly
- You can contact me anytime by email or phone
- You all have a LOT going on, but please make a little space for the RBPC





# Questions?

Contact at any time:

[rbpc@rice.edu](mailto:rbpc@rice.edu)

713-348-3190



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