



Schedule for RBPC 2026

Thursday, April 9 (Location: The Ion, 4201 Main St., Houston, TX 77002)

12:00 PM (Startup teams only) Check-in and Lunch; tech check available

1:30 – 2:00 PM (Startup teams only) Orientation with RBPC Director (Forum Stairs)

1:30 PM Check-in opens for Practice Pitch judges (Lobby)

2:05 – 2:20 PM (Startup teams only) Tech check and set-up in pitch rooms (Basement level)
Startup teams can begin to set up Company Showcase tables

2:15 PM Judges and Startup teams report to classrooms for practice pitches (Basement level)

Practice Round (10 minute pitch, 15 minutes feedback; 5 minute break between presentations)							
Room							
	Consumer Products	Digital Enterprise	Energy/Cleantech A	Energy/Cleantech B	Hard Tech	Life Science A	Life Science B
2:20 - 2:25 PM	<i>Judge Instructions</i>						
2:25 - 2:50 PM							
2:55 - 3:20 PM							
3:25 - 3:50 PM							
3:50 – 4:05 PM	<i>Break</i>						
4:05 - 4:30 PM							
4:35 - 5:00 PM							
5:05 - 5:30 PM							

5:00 PM Check-in opens for EPC judges (Lobby)

6:00 – 7:00 PM Elevator Pitch Competition, 42 startup teams each pitch for 60 sec each (Forum Stairs)

7:00 – 8:30 PM Startup Showcase and Networking Reception (First Floor)

Schedule for RBPC 2026

Friday, April 10 (Location: McNair Hall, Rice Business, Rice University)

8:00 - 8:50 AM Judge Check-in and Breakfast (Rotunda and Jamail Plaza)

8:00 AM Startup Teams tech check and set-up in pitch rooms

8:45 AM Judges and Startup Teams report to assigned classrooms

First Round (10 minutes pitch, 20 min Q&A; 10-minute break between presentations)							
Room							
	Consumer Products	Digital Enterprise	Energy/Cleantech A	Energy/Cleantech B	Hard Tech	Life Science A	Life Science B
9:00 – 9:15 AM	<i>Judge Instructions</i>	<i>Judge Instructions</i>	<i>Judge Instructions</i>	<i>Judge Instructions</i>	<i>Judge Instructions</i>	<i>Judge Instructions</i>	<i>Judge Instructions</i>
9:15 - 9:45 AM							
9:55 - 10:25 AM							
10:35 - 11:05							
11:15 – 11:45							
11:45 AM – 12:40 PM	Lunch (Jamail Plaza) Lunch for Academic Advisors (Dean’s Conference Room 200)						
12:45 – 1:15							
1:25 - 1:55 PM							

1:55 - 2:10 PM Break (Jamail Plaza)

2:10 PM Judges and Startup Teams report back to Presentation Rooms

Feedback Session (15 minutes of judge feedback and comments per startup team, no break between sessions)							
Room							
	Consumer Products	Digital Enterprise	Energy/Cleantech A	Energy/Cleantech B	Hard Tech	Life Science A	Life Science B
2:15 - 2:30 PM							
2:30 - 2:45 PM							
2:45 - 3:00 PM							
3:00 - 3:15 PM							
3:15 - 3:30 PM							
3:30 - 3:45 PM							

4:15 - 4:45 PM Announcement of Semi-Finalists (Shell Auditorium)

5:00 – 6:00 PM Startup Teams Dinner (Anderson Family Commons)

Schedule for RBPC 2026

Saturday, April 11 (Location: McNair Hall, Rice Business, Rice University)

8:00 - 8:50 AM Registration and Breakfast (Rotunda and Jamail Plaza)

8:00 AM Startup teams tech check in pitch rooms

8:45 AM Judges Report to classrooms

8:50 AM	<i>Judge Instructions</i>	<i>Judge Instructions</i>
9:00 - 9:20 AM	Semi-Final Round (in 3 Rooms) – 15 teams (10 minute pitch, 10 minute Q&A per startup team; 10 minute break between presentations) 3 flights of 5 startup teams each 3 Rooms	Wildcard Round (in 6 Rooms) – 27 teams (10 minute pitch, 10 minute Q&A per startup team; 10 minute break between presentations) 3 flights of 5 startup teams each & 3 flights of 4 startup teams each 6 Rooms
9:30 - 9:50 AM		
10:00 - 10:20 AM		
10:30 - 10:50 AM		
11:00 - 11:20 AM		

11:20 AM - 12:20 PM Lunch (Jamail Plaza)

12:20 PM Announcement of Finalists (Shell Auditorium)

12:25 PM	<i>Judge Instructions</i>
12:30 - 12:50 PM	Final Round (10 minutes of presentation, 10 minutes of Q&A per startup team; 5-minute break between presentations) 7 startup teams Shell Auditorium
12:55 - 1:15 PM	
1:20 - 1:40 PM	
1:45 - 2:05 PM	
2:05 - 2:35 PM - Break	
2:35 - 2:55 PM	
3:00 - 3:20 PM	
3:25 - 3:45 PM	

5:00 PM (Startup teams only) Company Showcase setup available (Hyatt Regency Hotel, downtown Houston)

6:00 - 9:30 PM Company Showcase and Awards Ceremony (Hyatt Regency Hotel, downtown Houston)