Frequently Asked Questions
2020 Conrad Challenge Virtual Innovation Summit
As of Friday, April 3, 2020

The 2020 Virtual Innovation Summit will take place **Wednesday, May 27 – Friday, May 29**. The Virtual Innovation Summit will feature a variety of segments available to all participants. These include Cosmic Chats with our sponsors, special sessions with the Alumni Leadership Council (ALC) and the award ceremony. In addition, the Summit will feature break-out sessions for each category to host 15-minute Q&A sessions with all of the Finalist teams and our expert panel of judges.

**Students, Coaches and Judges:** Please keep a close watch on your email as we will be sending continuous updates including next steps and additional details regarding your participation in the coming weeks.

**When will we know more information about the Virtual Innovation Summit?**

Virtual Innovation Summit planning will continue in the coming weeks. Updated information will be shared on our website and distributed via email to participants.

**Will an in-person event be rescheduled?**

Unfortunately, the Conrad Foundation will not be rescheduling an in-person Innovation Summit for the 2019-2020 Conrad Challenge. This decision was made due to the rapidly-evolving and global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we share in your disappointment, our team is committed to creating a Virtual Innovation Summit to recognize all of your hard work within the Conrad Challenge.

**What are the requirements for Round 3 of the Virtual Innovation Summit?**

The requirements include the Executive Summary, a video pitch, and proof of filing for a business patent. The only significant change from the in-person event to the virtual event is that teams must now submit a video pitch featuring all of their team members, which replaces the in-person pitch. This video can be up to 8 minutes. Teams will be able to upload a PowerPoint Presentation to the online portal, but this is optional and will not be scored.

Student teams will upload all of the Round 3 submission requirements to their Conrad Challenge online portal. Please reference the previously issued Finalist Guide for instructions on how to access the Finalist area within the portal. These instructions have not changed.

**What are the dates and deadlines for the Virtual Innovation Summit?**

All Finalist teams must upload their Round 3 materials (Executive Summary, video pitch, proof of patent filing) by **Monday, May 11 at 11:59 PM EST** through their Conrad Challenge online portal. This is the same account used in Rounds 1 & 2 of the Conrad Challenge. Please reference the previously issued Finalist Guide for instructions on how to access the Finalist area within the portal. These instructions have not changed.

All participants should mark their calendars for **Wednesday, May 27 – Friday, May 29, 2020** (3-day event) for the 2020 Virtual Innovation Summit. More information will be shared in the coming weeks regarding the detailed 3-day schedule of the Virtual Innovation Summit.
What if I already paid registration for the previously scheduled Innovation Summit at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex?

The Conrad Team has issued refunds to all participants who paid the original Summit registration fee. Individuals should have received the refund by Friday, March 20 from PayPal. If you paid and did not receive the refund, please email info@conradchallenge.org for further assistance.

Will there be a fee for the Virtual Innovation Summit?

The Conrad Team is working closely with vendors to determine the most cost-efficient options to create the Virtual Innovation Summit. As of now, we do not anticipate a fee for participation.

Do we have to confirm participation and/or register for the Virtual Innovation Summit?

All Finalist teams are asked to confirm their participation by Friday, March 27 with an email to info@conradchallenge.org. More information will be shared soon regarding additional registration requirements.

If I am an Alternate Finalist, when will I know if my team is invited to participate in the Virtual Innovation Summit?

The Conrad Challenge is upholding the rules of the standard Innovation Summit regarding participation of Alternate Finalist teams. If a Finalist team is unable to participate in the Virtual Innovation Summit, we will reach out to the Alternate team with an invitation and additional details. Finalist Teams are required to confirm participation by Friday, March 27, but the Conrad Team will reach out to Alternates as we confirm participation, up until the deadline.

Will our Power Pitch still be live?

As a result of feedback our Finalist teams and the continued social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, all student pitches will be submitted as video files through the Conrad Challenge online portal. Although the pitches won’t be live, the Virtual Innovation Summit will include live Q&A sessions with the judges. Each Finalist team will have time allotted to interact with our expert panel of judges. The Q&A session will be scored by the judges and incorporated into the final Round 3 team score.

What should we include in our video pitches?

Student teams should reference the Finalist Guide and Judge Rubric for additional information.

How does the power pitch video differ from the Round 2: Business Plan video?

The Virtual Innovation Summit power pitch video will be a more in-depth look at your team’s product or service; solidifying your target audience, communicating driving key points and presenting special features of your innovation. Remember, this video pitch should be targeted to potential investors.

Are we designing the video to be like a pitch or can we make one with animations and graphics?

You can do both! The requirement is that at least 40% of your video is styled like a product pitch, where you are talking to the “audience” and judges. The remaining part of your video can include animations and graphics of your product and service, utilizing PowerPoint slides, animations, infographics, charts, and graphs.

Will the structure of judging and awards remain the same?

Student teams should reference the Judge Rubric for all scoring information and criteria.
**Who will serve as judges for the Virtual Innovation Summit?**

The Conrad Team is working closely with our subject matter experts to confirm their participation in the Virtual Innovation Summit. In close partnership with our sponsors, we will ensure all category judges are qualified to participate in the Virtual Innovation Summit.

**When/where we will receive our Judge feedback?**

Judge feedback will primarily come from the live Q&A sessions with the Judges. A chat feature will also be available to use throughout the Virtual Innovation Summit, where you can receive additional feedback from the Judges and other Summit participants.

**How will we present our physical prototype to the judges?**

The product pitch video will be the best place to display your prototype to the judges. If your team has a physical prototype, feel free to share it during the live Q&A sessions with the judges as well!

**Does our team need to be together in one location to participate?**

Based on the current social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, student teams are not required to be in one location to participate in the Virtual Innovation Summit. The Conrad Challenge recognizes and will adhere to all health guidelines enacted by the Finalist team’s local health officials and government. **Teams will not be penalized in any way for not being able to gather in-person for their video pitch presentations, Q&A sessions or Virtual Innovation Summit sessions.**

**Do all members of the team need to participate?**

With the extended timeline and format, all team members must participate in the video pitch component of the Virtual Innovation Summit. The Conrad Foundation encourages all Finalists to creatively utilize technology to virtually collaborate in the Round 3 submissions and participate in the Virtual Innovation Summit.

At least two members of the team must participate in the live Q&A session, but it is strongly encouraged that all members participate.

**Do our coaches need to participate in the Virtual Innovation Summit?**

It is highly encouraged that your coach participates in the Virtual Innovation Summit sessions May 27-29, but it is not required.

**With the additional time, may we add new members to our team?**

No, changes to members of the Finalist Teams will not be accepted at this point in the Challenge.

**Will the Virtual Innovation Summit be live streamed allowing others to view?**

The Conrad Team is still determining the best platform for this virtual experience with our sponsors and partners. It is our ultimate goal to share this experience with as many viewers as possible, including your friends and family.

**Are the prizes still the same?**

Yes, all prizes and incentives for Conrad Innovators, Finalists and Pete Conrad Scholars will remain the same as we proceed with the Virtual Innovation Summit. [Click here to read more about this year’s prizes.](#) The Conrad Foundation is also working with partners to create special awards as well this year.

All prizes that include travel are being reviewed and updated in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. More information will be shared soon via email and on our website as we confirm the updates with our sponsors.
Will the Summit schedule still apply to the Virtual Innovation Summit?

The Virtual Innovation Summit will not include all aspects of the originally planned Innovation Summit at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. The Conrad Team is diligently working to plan the virtual itinerary and will share more information as soon as possible.

Will there still be an Expo?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold the Expo as originally planned, but will be incorporating a judge Q&A session to the virtual pitches. The Conrad Team is diligently working to plan the virtual itinerary and will share more information as soon as possible.

If our team is in the Transforming Education through Technology category, are we still required to do the presentation using a SMART Board?

No, Finalist teams in the Transforming Education through Technology category will not be required to utilize the SMART Boards within their video pitch. The Conrad Team is working closely with the SMART team and will share updates as soon as possible regarding this category.

Will we be able to still network/collaborate with others?

It is our goal to create a Virtual Innovation Summit that encourages collaboration among our participants. The Conrad Team is still working to determine the best platform for this virtual experience and will share more information as soon as possible.

What are the patent requirements?

Teams must upload “proof of patent application” which can be a screenshot of their submission or the completed form. Teams are not expected to complete the financial requirements to fulfill the Round 3 requirement.

If you have any questions regarding Round 3, please visit our Slack channel here, and be sure to explore every part of our Finalist Documents page here. We are updating our documents daily so keep an eye on your email for new and important updates!