



# THE IVMF VETSMALLBIZ GROWTH CHALLENGE

## Rules and Guidelines of the VetSmallBiz Growth Challenge

1. In order to enter, the participant must be a U.S. service member or Veteran entrepreneur with an honorable discharge. The participant must show proof of military service through ID.me. The business must be operating for at least one year by January 1, 2018. This challenge is limited to residents of the United States. Ideas submitted as part of the competition must represent the original work of the participant. All participants will sign the “Entrant Certification” form to this effect.
2. Only one submission of a business venture is permitted. For the VETSMALLBIZ Growth Challenge 2.0 competition plans may not exceed 25 pages in length based on a document that is double spaced, 12 point font with one inch margin (including cover and text). This will include a 2-page executive summary and 23-page business plan. The appendices may not exceed 10 pages in length (appendices are an additional 10 pages to the 25-page plan).
3. Ideas submitted as part of the competition must represent the original work of the participant. All participants will sign a certification to this effect as part of the initial entry process.
4. Submitted ideas are protected in the spirit of non-disclosure, where all entry materials will be treated as company confidential. The only persons with access to the entry materials will be judges and select members of the organizing committee. Materials will not be distributed to any other party, unless requested by entrant team. No other or special provisions are made to protect intellectual property.
5. All deadlines and guidelines for submissions must be adhered to. Materials must be submitted on the appropriate due date. No late submissions will be accepted, and any submissions that are greater in length than specified will not be considered.
6. Judging of entries will be performed by an outside panel of independent judges, consisting of professionals involved in entrepreneurship. Judges may be successful entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, angel investors, or professional service providers working with the venture community. Any entry is subject to minimum criteria in terms of market potential, viability, and other factors, as determined by the judging panel's experience. If no entries meet the minimum criteria, one or all prizes might not be awarded. Throughout any and all phases of the VetSmallBiz Growth Challenge Competition, all decisions of the judges are final.
7. IVMF reserves the right to disqualify, in its sole and absolute discretion, any participant from the competition at any time (before or after a judging round or the award of any prize) for any reason. Reasons for disqualification may include, but are not limited to, plagiarism and any other form of dishonesty, misappropriation or infringement of the intellectual property of others, and any failure to comply with these rules and regulations. Disqualified teams shall forfeit any and all prizes awarded to them.



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## 8. Business Plan Competition Prizes are as follows:

- First prize is \$25,000; second prize is \$15,000; third prize is \$10,000
- People's Choice is \$10,000
- Best Venture Impacting Veterans<sup>1</sup> is \$5,000
- Most Innovative Venture is \$5,000
- Best Technology Venture is \$5,000
- Best Social Venture is \$5000

9. If you have any questions about the Business Plan Competition, please contact the IVMF at [ivmfentrepreneurship@syr.edu](mailto:ivmfentrepreneurship@syr.edu)

## Submission Requirements

1. Entrant Certification Form
2. Executive Summary\*
3. Business Plan\*

\*Every competitor must submit a two-page executive summary and 23-page business plan NLT December 30, 2017 by 11:59 PM EST. Only one submission of a business venture is permitted. The executive summary and business plan combined must not exceed 25 pages in length based on a document that is double spaced, 12-point font with one-inch margins (including cover and text); the appendices may not exceed 10 pages in length (appendices are an additional 10 pages to the 25 pages of the business plan which makes is a total of 35 pages).

### Please name your files as follows:

**File name for the business plan:** last name, first initial\_businessplan

**File name for the executive summary:** last name, first initial\_executivesummary

**Please submit plans on the site here:** <https://syracuse2018.startupcompete.co/>

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<sup>1</sup> A Venture Impacting Veterans represents a for-profit or non-for-profit enterprise that improves the lives of veterans and military families