

Push ing the Limits

**3D Pioneers
Challenge
Formalities
2025**

3D Pioneers Challenge 2025

Apply now for the tenth edition!
You were part of the last decade of the international competition for **Additive Manufacturing** and **Advanced Technologies**?

The annual announcement and presentation of the finalists is considered to be the innovation monitor of the industry. Unique in its structure, the competition has been addressing specialists who think outside the box since 2015 - **pushing boundaries!**

10 years!

10 years of the 3D Pioneers Challenge - who are the pioneers of the decade!

In 2025, the 3D Pioneers Challenge will celebrate its 10th anniversary! Innovations have been honored that pushed the boundaries of what is possible, inspired the sector and thus significantly advanced it. From students and start-ups to research institutes and industry giants - year after year, the submissions have become more international and numerous, the categories more diverse and the jury participation more cross-industry.

Over the years, the range of projects has reflected the great potential of new technologies and their applications. And this potential doesn't stop increasing.

Looking retrospectively and with foresight, the platform looks for the Pioneers of the decade, asking:

**“Where did the journey take the pioneers?
Where were the pioneers with their projects then, where are they now? What impact are they currently creating for the 3D printing sector or even the manufacturing industry with their latest projects? What are their impulses to push the future?”**

All finalists and winners from the last decade have the chance to face the high-class jury again. Who will succeed to sign-up in the “Who is who” at the special anniversary exhibition?

The 3DPC 10 years exhibition will take place as part of rapid.tech 3D from May 13 to 15, 2025, Messe Erfurt, Germany.

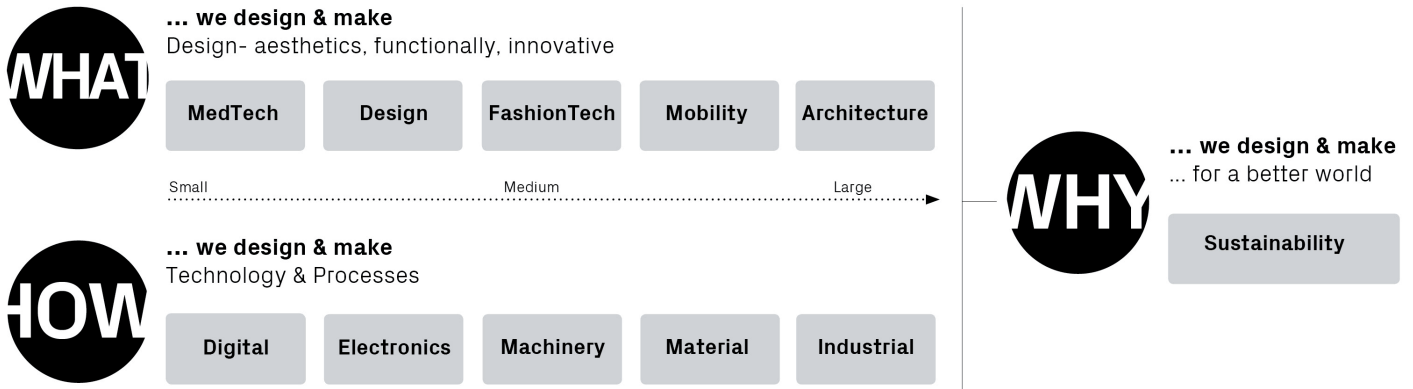
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Völcker & Völcker GbR
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70378 Stuttgart
info@3dpc.io
www.3dpc.io

Follow us **#3DPioneersChallenge**



Verticals

The disciplines announced for the award, are derived from the questions „WHAT, HOW WHY ... we design and make“.

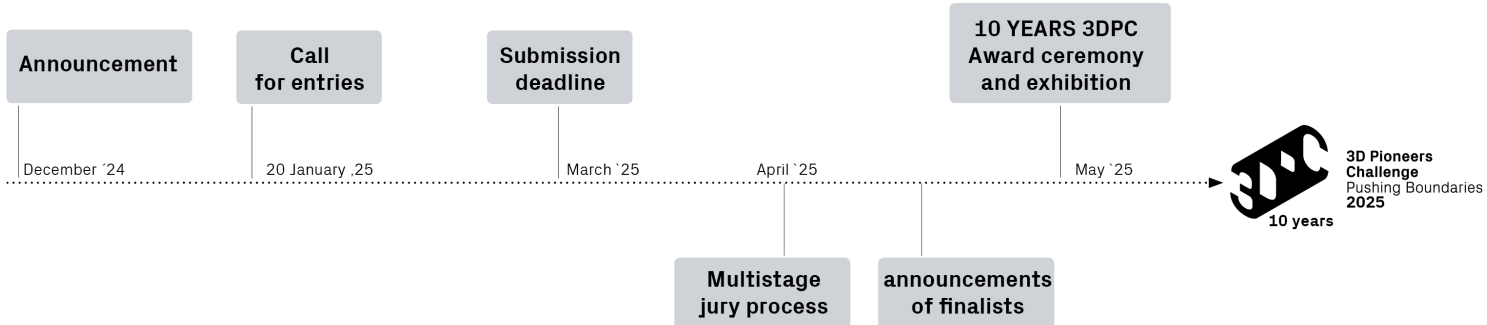


Timeline

20 January 2025
12 March 2025
13 - 15 May 2025

14 May
for one year

Call for entries
Submission deadline
rapid.tech 3D, Messe Erfurt
with 3DPC exhibition
3DPC award ceremony
Roadshow on international events



Entrants

Nominated to participate in 2025 are former finalists 3DPC 2015-2024

- **Students**
- **Young Professionals / Start-ups** and young companies less than three years experience)
- **Professionals** (companies that have been in the market for more than three years and private limited companies, independent of their date of foundation)

Awards

3DPC Trophy

The Book - pushing boundaries

Assessment criteria

Submission „Project 2025“

„Your story“

All submissions will be evaluated in a non-public, multi-stage jury process. Based on the submitted material

„Pioneer of the Decade“

The 3DPC2025 winner, the „Pioneer of the Decade“, will win the **3DPC Jubilee-Trophy**.

This limited edition design object, created especially for the 3DPC, was developed in cooperation with jury member **Ross Lovegrove** and **Hyperganic**, winner of „3DPC 2019 Digital“ as well as the partner **Materialise** within the network **3DPC & Friends**.

The **“Pioneer of the Decade” will have the opportunity to become part of the book**, which will be published in 2025 with a dedication as highlight of the 3D Pioneers Challenge.

Beside the industry leaders from the platform's network the **“Pioneer of the Decade”** will have his say with an exclusive impulse contribution.

The book summarizes the major movements and milestones of the decade and draws an outlook for the future - in the spirit of **pushing boundaries**.

To award the „Pioneer of the Decade“ the jury will focus both:

- New Submission(s) 2025
- The journey of „Your story“

The judging criterion will be how the project deals with current issues and medium- to long-term trends affecting the sector. 3DPC focuses furthermore on interdisciplinary works and the combination of several technologies.

Implementation

- Manufactured enabled through Advanced Technologies, with the focus on Additive Manufacturing processes
- Design appropriate for the material
- Ecological aspects
- Digital value-added systems

Conception, design

- Conceptual quality (content, novelty, degree of innovation, product definition)
- Design quality (originality, consistent and aesthetic design principle, ergonomics)

Relevance

- Relevance to society (social impact, purpose)
- Future viability of the idea/project
- How the project engages with state-of-the-art technology/knowledge
- Sustainability

For the „Pioneer of the Decade“, the jury considers the development of the former submission, of the company, the person(s) and the team behind it.

“Where did the journey take the pioneers?

Where were the pioneers with their projects then, where are they now? What impact are they currently creating for the 3D printing sector or even the manufacturing industry with their latest projects? What are their impulses to push the future?”

The jury takes into consideration whether the submissions come from Students, Young Professionals or Professionals.

The jury's decision cannot be appealed.

Application process

Nomination

You may only participate in 2025 if you or your organisation were already selected as finalist in the 3DPC 2015-2024

Sign Up

To participate in the competition you need a user account. Please open this account at **www.3dpc.io**:

1) **Use your existing** account or **create a new account**
-> **Log In** or -> **Sign up** -> **Create an account**

Submit

2) **Submit your projects** (max. 3)
The submission of the projects takes place within the registered account under
-> **Log In** -> **My projects**

Complete competition entry 2025:

In addition to your contact information, you will need to provide:

- Full details of your project 2025, such as
 - **1-5 Images** (.jpg / .png, RGB, 2480x1748, landscape format),
 - Describing **texts** (long and short, in English, possibly German)-
 - **1 project video** 2025

Short explanatory movie, backgroundmusic licence-free, if written subtitles/comments only English
60sec

- and **producibile data** (if available).

- Information as **finalist in former years** 2015-2024

Please fill in the provided field

„year of finalist, project name, corresponding exhibit available for exhibition 2025 Yes/No“

- **Your story - 1 pitch video**

Tell us your journey from being finalist in former years, and where you are now- see „Assessment criteria / Your Story“

English

60 sec

landscape, full HD 16:9

- 3) **Information about models** (exhibits):

An exhibit of the submission 2025 must be made available in time for a presentation of the finalists onsite rapid.tech 3D (May 13 - 15)

If no model is available, a prototype can be produced for the exhibition by 3DPC partners (free of charge for the participant).

If possible please provide an object of the project with which you were finalist/winner on the last decade as well.

- 4) **Submission deadline: 12 March 2025**

The submitted projects can be edited and updated in the user account until the submission deadline.

- 5) **Further:**

In all correspondence, the 2025 **project name and user name** must be stated.

Should you make it to the final round in 2025, the 3DPC will reach out to you for implementation and further communication and PR.

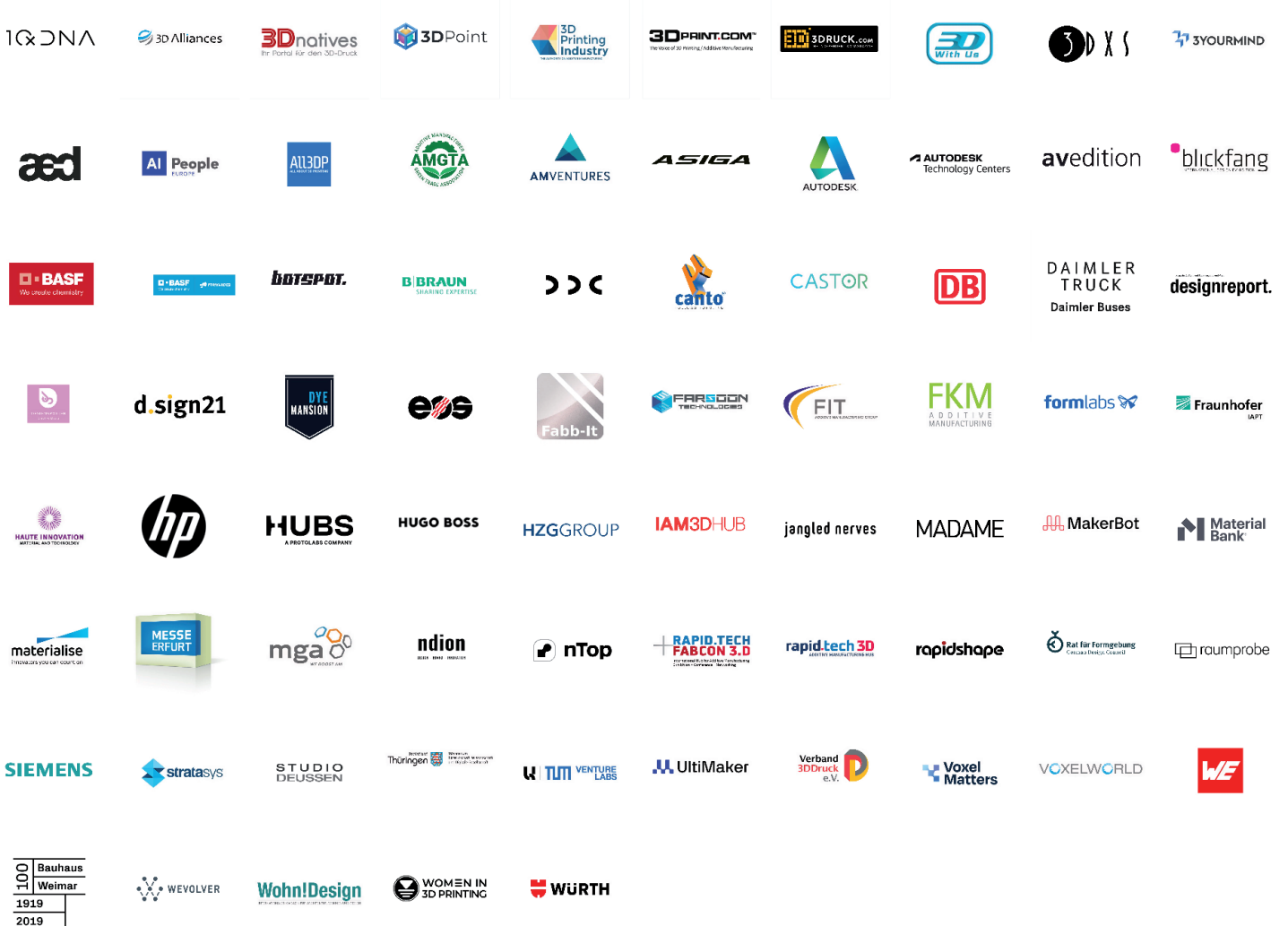
Only complete submissions can be considered in the jury procedure.

Please read and accept the conditions of participation/**general terms and conditions**.

Expert jury

Prof. Achim Menges | Alana Mongkhounsavath | Alejandro Delgado | Prof. Andreas Uebele | Andreas Velten | Andreas Vlahinos | Andrej Kupetz | Anouk Wipprecht | Arno Held | Barbara Friedrich | Bas de Jong | Brian Ingold | Carina Lebsack | Prof. Christiane Beyer | Christoph Völcker | Prof. Dr.-Ing. Claus Emmelmann | Dr. Cora Lüders-Theuerkauf | Cordelius Ilgmann | Davide Sher | Diana Drewes | Dieter Hofmann | Dr. Dirk Simon | Eyal Gever | Florian Horsch | Francis Bitonti | Dr.-Ing. Frank Beckmann | Gil Lavi | Prof. Gilles Retsin | Janine Wunder | Janne Kytтанen | Jasna Rokegem | Jessica Rosenkrantz | Joachim Stumpp | Jochen Zäh | Joris Peels | Julia Körner | Dr. Justus Bobke | Kai-Uwe Witte | Karsten Feller | Dr. Karsten Heuser | Kristin Mulherin | Lisa Lang | Lutz Dietzold | Magi Galino | Prof. Manuel Kretzer | Marco Kormann | Dr. Marco Nock | Marie-Lucie Linde | Mario Brandenburg | Martin Back | Marva Griffin | Matthew Spremulli | Michael Petch | Naomi Kaempfer | Naomi Nathan | Prof. Patrick Schumacher | Paul Schmidt | Peter Rogers | Peter Storey | Pia Harlass | Rachel Park | Ralf Anderhofstadt | Ross Lovegrove | Sarah Goehrke | Hon.-Prof. Dr Sascha Peters | Dr.-Ing. Sascha Schwarz | Sebastian Herkner | Dr. Shajay Bhooshan | Sherri Monroe | Prof. Shlomo Magdassi | Silvia Olp | Sonita Lontoh | Sonja Rasch | Stefan Galozy | Stefanie Brickwede | Stephan Eelmann | Sven Eberwein | Prof. Thomas Hundt | Tom Schönherr | Ulf Lindhe | Valentina Kerst | Vanessa Sigurdson | Prof. Virginia San Fratello | Wolfgang U. Wagner | Zoe Bezbalko

3DPC Partner 2015-2025



3DPC & rapid.tech 3D

3D Pioneers Challenge

www.3dpc.io

The international design competition for Additive Manufacturing processes and Advanced Technologies is the most prestigious award of its kind worldwide. The annual announcement and presentation of the finalists is considered to be the innovation monitor of the industry. Unique in its structure, the competition has been addressing specialists who think outside the box since 2015 - **pushing boundaries!**

3DPC Platform

The Challenge is a **platform** with a global network and is an interface for creative future-makers, pioneers of advanced technologies and innovators from research and established industry.

3DPC & Friends

Under the umbrella of **3DPC & Friends**, 3DPC brings together the creative minds and high-tech pioneers of the 3DPC platform in an interdisciplinary way, resulting in new, groundbreaking projects in which everyone can contribute and live out their expertise - design rethought! The 3DPC shows today what tomorrow will bring - **pushing boundaries.**

Messe Erfurt GmbH rapid.tech 3D

www.rapidtech-3d.de

Under the motto „Innovative & Profitable - The Future of Additive Manufacturing“, **rapid.tech 3D** will focus on practical applications, innovative technologies and forward-looking AM trends for three days from May 13 to 15, 2025. If you have always wanted to know how you can get 3D printing up and running profitably in your company, then rapid.tech 3D is the right place to go. Here you will receive know-how from doers for doers and benefit directly from the intensive professional exchange with our experts. Our triad of specialist congress, exhibition and networking opportunities offers the best conditions for increasing your knowledge.

Entry fees and payment conditions

Entry is free of charge for **Students**, for **Young Professionals / Start-Ups** who have completed their studies within the past three years, and for exhibitors at the current year's event Rapid.Tech 3D. Entry fee of **EUR 275** for **Professionals** (Companies and Start-Ups that have been in the market for more than three years / and private limited companies, independent of their date of foundation). This does not include VAT.

No other fees will be charged. This also applies to further presentations, documentations and publications or the Special Feature.

Marketing

The winners will be communicated within the 3DPC's global marketing strategy.

3DPC Roadshow

The exhibition of the finalists will be taken on a **roadshow** on international events for one year afterwards, optional onsite or virtually.

Reservations

The planning, conception and implementation of the competition can be adapted to the current regulations on pandemic or possible force majeure.

GDPR

The Data Protection Regulation according to GDPR of Völcker & Völcker GbR can be viewed at any time at www.3dpc.io/en/privacy

Further details find GTC.

General terms and conditions

Conditions of participation

Competition 3D Pioneers Challenge 2024

§1 General

§ 1.1

The general terms and conditions apply to competitions organised by d.sign21. (d.sign21 is the label of Völcker & Völcker GbR, represented by the Managing Director Dipl.-Ing. (FH), M.A. Simone Völcker, and Managing Director Dipl.-Ing. (FH), M.A. Christoph Völcker, Fronhof 1, 70378 Stuttgart, Germany. Email: info(at)3dpc.io Telephone: +49 711 658 44 99.) d.sign21 is hereinafter referred to as the "Organiser". Messe Erfurt GmbH, represented by the CEO Michael Kynast, is the exclusive licensee for the 3D Pioneers Challenge 2025 and hosts the competition at the event of Messe Erfurt, rapid.tech 3D. (Messe Erfurt GmbH, Gothaer Straße 34, 99094 Erfurt, Germany, Email info(at)messe-erfurt.de. Telephone: + 49 361 400-0) Messe Erfurt GmbH is hereinafter referred to as the "Promoter".

§1.2

Participation is subject to the present terms and conditions. By participating in the 3D Pioneers Challenge competition, participants recognize the conditions of participation as binding.

§1.3

With the registration at www.3dpc.io the participant accepts the General Business Terms and conditions of participation as well as the General Data Protection Regulation GDPR of Völcker & Völcker GbR.

§1.4

The registration of the participation takes place exclusively online on the internet. The formalities are available for download from the website www.3dpc.io.

§2 Competition

The 3D Pioneers Challenge, the competition for Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Technologies, seeks to uncover specialists from around the world who are thinking outside the box and pushing boundaries. The final decision is based in large part on a consideration of current issues as well as medium- and long-term trends that link to new technologies and provide practical applications, integrate them into existing processes, taking into account the complete value-added system or create forward-looking concepts.

The focus is on "verticals", that means on all major disciplines that use 3D printing and that are leading the way in Additive Manufacturing. Prize money and various prizes are awarded annually. For a more detailed description of the disciplines, criteria's and prizes, see the registration documents and formalities.

§3 Entrants

§3.1

Students ("students") as well as professional firms („Young Professionals / Start-Ups" und „Professionals") in the design, architecture, fashion, medical, automotive, research, construction, engineering, digital media and technology fields, are entitled to participate.

The group of participants must be selected within the application process.

Students and Young Professionals are participants that are less than 3 years away from their studies or education. Professionals are more than three years on the market or private limited companies independent of their date of foundation. (corresponding participation fees see §7)

Group entries are also permitted.

Anything can be submitted, from projects that have already been publicised to brand new ideas.

Only finalists from previous years may participate in the 3D Pioneers Challenge 2025. Their new submissions must not be older than 5 years.

§3.2

For cooperative and team submissions, a main contact person must be named as a primary contact within the application form for further correspondence.

§3.3

When naming the institution and member, there should be no duplication in order to avoid confusion.

Institution means: University, Office, Research institution, Company

Member name means: Contact person, participant.

§4 Jury

§4.1

The independent jury is assembled annually and consists of experts in the respective verticals.

In 2025, the jury will be made up from the jurors of the last decade.

The non-public, multi-stage selection process takes place after the submission deadline.

Any member of the jury directly involved with a submitted entry will not be allowed to vote for this submission.

§4.2

The evaluation is carried out according to criteria that can be found in the tender documents / formalities.

§4.3

The jury will decide how to weight the evaluation criteria in detail and how to distribute the awards.

The decision of the jury is final and there is no right of appeal.

§5 Award

§5.1

The finalists, means the best submissions, will be selected in the multi-stage jury procedure. They will be exhibited and awarded by 3D Pioneers Challenge and under the scope of the event of the promoter. (§9, §12.3)

§5.2

The best finalists will be selected as winners and awarded prize money and additional prizes. The amount and type of prizes will be published annually in the formalities and/or on the homepage and/or social media.

The organiser acts as a mediator. The respective cooperation partners are responsible for organising the handing over of the awards and prizes. There is no legal claim.

§ 5.3

The 3D Pioneers Challenge exhibition and award ceremony will take place whilst event of the promoter. This may be realized virtually, hybrid or onsite.

§5.4

All finalists are part of the 3DPC-PR-campaign with publications and possible exhibitions. (§ 9, §12.3)

§5.5

If it comes to an onsite-exhibition, existing models of the project shall be provided for the presentation by the participant.

By arrangement with the organizer, exhibits from the year of the previous participation in the final are also required for the 2025 exhibition.

Submissions that have not been already produced may be produced for the exhibition by the partners of the competition free of charge for the entrant. After that and after the roadshow the object may be returned to the participants against a shipping fee. Participants must state their interest in this option at the time of registration. The participant must contact the organisers in good time with the announcement of participation in the final in order to discuss the production possibilities and thus secure the exhibition of all exhibits.

§6 Registration, Submission and Conclusion of the Agreement

§6.1

Registration and thus contractual existence takes place together with the registration on www.3dpc.io and the submission of at least one project, at the latest by the submission deadline.

A more detailed description of the registration process can be found in the tender documents / formalities of the respective year.

§6.2

The submission must be complete.

§6.3

By submitting a project, the participant is legally obliged to pay any participation fees (see §7).

§6.4

Only finalists from previous years may participate in the 3D Pioneers Challenge 2025.

Their new submissions must not be older than 5 years at the time of the submission deadline.

3DPC entries that made it to the 3DPC final exhibition in former years may not be considered again.

§6.5

Each participant may enter a maximum of 3 submissions.

§6.6

Printable, producible data for the respective additive processes of an object that could be exhibited are expressly required for participation (this does not include Software or technologies, or similar entries). The data are necessary for a smooth realisation of the exhibition and ensuring exhibits. (see § 8.2, §9) If required, additional data for media presentations might be requested.

§6.7

The approved languages are German and English.

§6.8

The submission deadline is the final deadline. Late registrations will not be allowed.

There is no right of appeal.

§6.9

If third parties show interest in getting in contact with the participant, the organiser will act as agent and will lead the contact of the interested third party to the entrant. Only for this purpose all contact data will be archived in a database unlimited and will not be handed to other third parties. For publications, presentations, archives or similar use, the organiser may use the provided pictures, movies and descriptions unlimited and free of charge by linking to the participant.

The participant confirms with the submission that all provided material is free of licences (Gema, third party rights...).

§6.10

The entrant gives its consent to receive newsletters with the registration at www.3dpc.io. This complies to the German Data protection laws. You may stop the newsletter by sending an email with : "End newsletter". see also GDPR.

§7 Participation Fees and Payment Conditions

§7.1

"Students" and "Young Professionals/ Start-Ups" whose studies or training ended less than 3 years ago, as well as exhibitors of the events of the promoter for the current year, pay no fees.

"Professionals" (companies more the 3 years on the market as well as private limited companies - independent of their date of foundation) pay the participation fees in accordance with the application documents plus the current statutory value-added tax. (§6.3)

The participation fees may vary for each year and will be published in the current registration documents / formalities.

§7.2

The entrant receives the invoice at the latest after the submission deadline. The participation fees are to be transferred to the account specified in the invoice within 10 days of receipt of the invoice, without deduction. This is a condition for participation in the competition. the fees are independent of whether the entry is selected for the final or not, so obligatory.

§7.3

Registration fees are refundable or don't appear only if the participant's cancellation is received in time within 14 days in written form. (see §13)

§7.4

The participant bears all costs that are associated with processing the submitted designs (modell) - sending and return. The organiser and the promoter disclaims liability. Proper and save packaging has to be provided by the participant. Please no foam packaging peanuts. 3DPC appreciates sustainable packaging.

§7.5

No further costs arise for the participants. This also applies to further presentations, documentations and publications.

§8 Public Relations

§8.1

The newsletter relates to application documents, results of the competition and possible roadshow stops as well as projects and topics concerning the 3DPC. Registered participants as well as subscribers of the newsletter accept the GDPR (see §1.3)

§8.2

The details and results of the competition are presented and published as part of the event of the promoter in the current year and by the organiser via press materials (digital and print).

Furthermore, the organiser may use and publish the information and results of the competition for other printed media and digital media, including films and images, in an unlimited manner and free of charge- also to forward it to press/media partners.

Not affected are personal contact details and the provided 3D print data if applicable. These are only used as part of the ongoing competition for its organization when necessary for cooperating partners, but will not be disclosed to third parties.

Press materials will be made available. Copyright is held by the organiser, and reproduction is permitted only by arrangement.

§9 Exhibitions

§9.1

The organiser plans exhibitions and presentations such as roadshow stops throughout the following year after the competition's finale and award ceremony.

The organiser informs about the planned roadshow details and/or announces them on Newsletter / website / social media if applicable. (§12.3)

§9.2

At roadstops the exhibits of the finalists will be presented on international events. The exhibit or an adequate alternative may be in charge of the organiser for around one year.

§9.3

Generally, the finalists may ask for their exhibit any time for own purposes in agreement whilst that period of one year. Please inform 3DPC in time regarding organisation and transportation time as well as to avoid overlapping of exhibitions.. It will be decided when the exhibit needs to be back at 3DPC individually. Transportation costs are taken by the participant.

§9.4

The exhibits are selected in cooperation with the respective host of the event. Exhibition insurance is the responsibility of the host.

The aim is to make it equal for all finalists as far as possible over the period of all events. There is no right neither that the projects will be presented nor that you may attend the events in person.

§10 Liability / Insurance

The participant bears all costs that are associated with processing the submitted objects - sending and return. The package needs to be securely packed for the transportation by the participant. 3DPC appreciates sustainable packaging.

Pictorial documentation for repacking is helpful and it is requested in the interest of the participant to enclose such pictures. Any special tools required for setting up, packing and securing the exhibit must be included.

The organiser and the promoter disclaim liability.

§11 General Legal Conditions

§11.1

Participants are responsible for ensuring the rights to their designs are protected and ensuring that the rights of third parties are not breached by their participation in the competition and the publication of the results of the competition in printed documents, online media, exhibitions and press releases. They will provide all required documentation free of charge.

The organiser, promoter, cooperation partners and jurors of the competition are exempted by the participant from all claims, demands and rights of third parties in the case of an alleged infringement. Any damages that arise will be borne by the participant. (see § 15.2)

§11.2

The entrant owns the copy right of its submissions.

The participant grants the organiser unlimited usage, disposition, patent rights and archiving (see § 6.9, §8.2), within the framework of the competition and its public relations, for the data, texts, films and images provided in the submission.

§11.3

In addition, cooperation partners and participants can inform the organiser of their mutual interest to enter into further partnerships with the 3DPC-involved of the corresponding year. The organiser is the coordinator and mediator. Consent regarding implementation is the responsibility of the participant. By registering, participants agree to this, according to GDPR. By agreeing to cooperate on the 3D Pioneers Challenge, cooperation partners have given their consent.

§11.4

The winners may use the award indefinitely for their own communication purposes. The organiser can also show the prize-winning designs at further exhibitions to the extent that this fits conceptually with the respective exhibitions/events/virtual presentations.

§12 Reservations

§12.1

Provided that the promoter and organiser together have not secured the economic viability or other good reasons such as force majeure, e.g. pandemics, occur, the organiser reserves the right to cancel the competition.

§12.2

This agreement remains valid if the actual competition is postponed. If the actual competition is cancelled, the contractual partners are freed from all obligations without any right to assert claims for reimbursement of costs or damages. §7 remains unaffected for submissions already made.

§12.3

The planning, conception and implementation of the competition can be adapted by the organiser according to current regulations on pandemics, due to force majeure or economic aspects.

§13 Withdrawal

The participant may withdraw from his/her registration within 14 days before application deadline. The withdrawal must be declared in writing. Should payment already have been made by the participant to the organiser within the 14 days, it will be refunded to the participant in the event of a timely withdrawal. After 14 days as well as with the deadline, withdrawal of the participant and a refund of the associated fees are excluded. A request to delete the personal contact data according to GDPR must also be made in writing.

§14 Confidentiality

Participants, cooperation partners, jurors as well as the promoter and organiser agree to maintain confidentiality about the submissions during the processing and evaluation period. This applies to all exhibited, winning and featured submissions until the day of publication or award ceremony in the current year.

§15 Place of Performance and Place of Jurisdiction

§15.1

The exclusive place of performance and place of jurisdiction for the agreement is the business headquarters of the organiser; this also applies if the participant resides abroad.

§15.2

As soon as the promoter or organiser is made aware by legal judgement or court decision that third-party rights were violated by the submission, the participant may be excluded or the awards and prizes revoked.

§15.3

Any claims must be made in writing.

§16 Severability Clause

Should any individual provisions of this agreement be or become ineffective, the effectiveness of the contract as a whole shall not be affected thereby. In such a case, a provision which comes as close as possible to the content of the original provision shall take the place of the non-included or ineffective provision.

§17 Miscellaneous

By participating in the competition, participants confirm their acceptance of the general legal conditions described above and the information regarding liability and insurance. With the registration for the competition, the participants make a legally binding declaration to adhere to the terms of the competition. The jury's decision is final. There is no right of appeal. Subject to change.

January 2025

Private Policy

Declaration of agreement General Data Protection Regulation GDPR

On 25 May 2018 General Data Protection Regulation GDPR started. This will significantly strengthen the data protection of persons affected in the European Union with the result that the relationship between us as the award organizer and you will also have to be restructured.

In accordance with Art. 6 Para. 1 a GDPR, the participant agrees that Völcker & Völcker GbR may process data provided by the participant for 3DPC for the purpose of press information, invitations and correspondence conducting the competition. The Data Protection Regulation according to GDPR of Völcker & Völcker GbR can be viewed at any time at www.3dpc.io/en/privacy.

Any consent given can be revoked at any time in writing. Please note that the revocation will only take effect for future campaigns. Processing that took place before the revocation is not affected by this.

For any questions please don't hesitate to contact
Völcker & Völcker GbR, Christoph Völcker, data protection officer