



## RULES FOR PARTICIPATION 2025 – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS SPRING 50

### 1) Background

Every year Paris-Saclay SPRING highlights 50 start-ups, some of the brightest ideas of the ecosystem. These start-ups are showcased through an exhibition (innovation villages) and for some through an audience presentation (pitch contest).

For several years now, the Ile de France region, the communities of Paris-Saclay, Saint Quentin en Yvelines, Versailles Grand Parc, the Essonne and Versailles-Yvelines CCI, the Université Paris-Saclay, the Institut Polytechnique de Paris, and all the partners associated with the event, wish to honor companies and start-ups representative of the area and of the technological innovation and scientific excellence of the Paris-Saclay cluster.

The consolidation of the Paris-Saclay cluster (two official academic clusters, Université Paris-Saclay's ranking in the top 20 of the Shanghai ranking, 15 years of regional planning) and the establishment of La French Tech Paris-Saclay represent an opportunity to reassert Paris-Saclay's position as a territory that generates high value-added deeptech companies. Today, Paris-Saclay is the 1<sup>st</sup> deeptech innovation cluster in Europe.

To honor the winning start-ups of Paris-Saclay SPRING, the **SPRING 50** selection has been created. This will give them additional visibility with the media, industrial companies, and investors.

### 2) Purpose of the rules for participation

The EPA Paris-Saclay is organizing the Paris-Saclay SPRING event on May 20 and 21, 2025, including May 20 on the premises of the **Ecole polytechnique campus** in Palaiseau (91120).

These two days feature several key events:

Agenda	May 20 Polytechnique	May 21 Paris-Saclay
Conferences, keynotes, round tables...	X	
25 startup pitches	X	
Innovation villages	X	

Business meetings, pre-scheduled appointments (in person)	X	X
Business meetings, pre-scheduled appointments (remotely)		X
Award ceremony	X	
Innovation circuit (open house at public and private R&D centers)		X

The SPRING 50 call for applications is organized and operated by La French Tech Paris-Saclay, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Essonne, and the EPA Paris-Saclay.

### 3) Conditions and eligibility

SPRING 50 primarily targets startups in the early stage (seed – series A), from 300k € to 5M €

SPRING 50 is also open to a limited number of more mature startups or scale-ups that have achieved significant product development or commercial traction in the year of the Paris-Saclay SPRING event.

Applications are free of charge, but are reserved for startups created at or linked to the Paris-Saclay ecosystem:

- Located in the [geographical area](#) of Paris-Saclay
- Supported by Paris-Saclay [innovation centers](#)
- Working closely with one or several actors of the Paris-Saclay territory
- Student-entrepreneurs and/or doctoral students of a higher education institution or a research organization of the territory
- In the process of establishing in the area (holder of a lease or a property title)

Special consideration will be given to start-ups that have a project in the following areas:

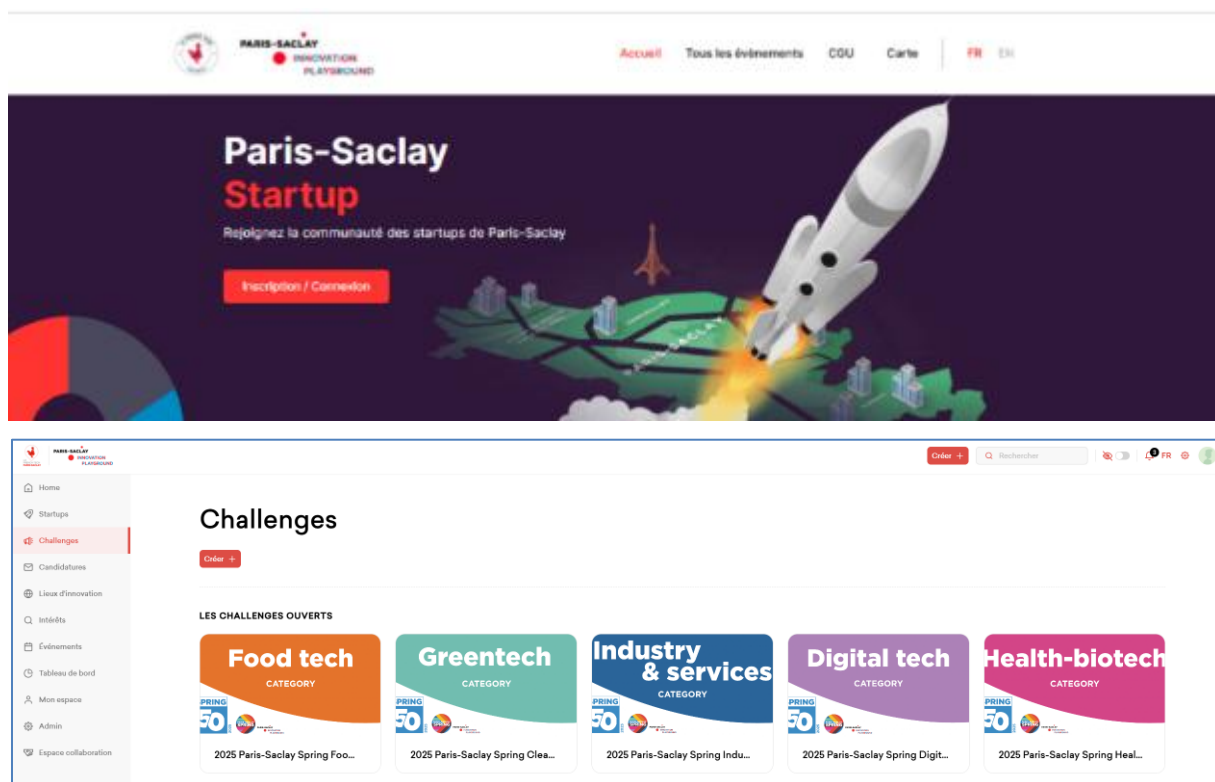
- **GreenTech** (sustainable development, environment, clean energy, recycling...)
- **FoodTech** (agtech, food products, nutrition, B2C, B2B services...)
- **Health-Biotech** (biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, chemistry, e-health, medtech, well-being, silver economy, etc.)
- **Digital technologies** (software, AI, quantum, cybersecurity, blockchain, 5G, AR/VR, etc.)
- **Industry & Services** (technologies, services to industry 4.0, manufacturing, robotics, etc.)

The organizers will select 50 start-ups to showcase their activities during the event through the thematic innovation villages.

Among these 50 winners, 25 will be selected to pitch their startup on the Paris-Saclay SPRING stage on May 20, 2025. Format of the pitch: 3 min in English

### 4) How to apply?

The SPRING 50 call for applications is administered through the [Paris-Saclay Startup](#) portal, in order to create a continuum between the cluster's tools, extend the visibility of startups, offer them complementary services and enhance the value of our innovation centers.



**The application file (French or English) must contain:**

- Up-to-date startup data sheet on [www.paris-saclay-startup.com](http://www.paris-saclay-startup.com)
- Brief presentation of business plan / deck in power point format (10-15 pages maximum) \*.
- Link to a short video presentation of your innovative solution (1 to 2 minutes)

In this application, you explain your concept, your innovation, the contribution to the market, the business model, the target audience, the roadmap and everything that you consider relevant to show the potential of your company and your product / service.

The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 00:00** (Paris time)

**\*Non-exhaustive list of expected elements:**

- Problem to solve
- Innovation added value for customers
- Differentiator elements
- Target market segments
- Competitive environment
- Revenue model and commercial references
- Development stages (road map) and objectives
- Team, board, partners
- Financing plan and amount requested

Any relevant element to support your application.

**5) Selection of 2025 SPRING 50 awardees**

Once all the applications have been received, the organizers will convene a selection committee that will choose 50 innovative companies. These 50 winners will have a media communication and physical exhibition (thematic innovation village) to promote their projects.

The organizers will pay particular attention to the following:

- Clarity and precision of the presentation of the company and its business activity
- Development stage, availability of a demo, prototype, product or pre-series
- Level of innovation and development potential (product, service, market positioning and relevance)
- Legitimacy and ability to execute (team, partnerships, resources)
- Development strategy, roadmap, and consistency of figures
- How the proposed solution contributes to addressing the challenges of tomorrow (sustainable development, environment, social issues, etc.) and the start-up's own impact on its environment

From this selection, 25 companies will be chosen to pitch their activity in a 3-minutes presentation in English.

The organizers and the selected candidates will have a dialogue prior to the Paris-Saclay SPRING day, in order to prepare and plan their participation as effectively as possible.

All the selected candidates must absolutely be present on their stand and available for appointments throughout the Paris-Saclay SPRING event.

Unsuccessful candidates will also be able to participate in the event for free.

## **6) Award ceremony**

A press relations plan, managed by the EPA Paris-Saclay and relayed by all the partners, will announce the 50 winning start-ups that have been selected to be part of the 2025 SPRING 50.

The winning startups will also be offered an exclusive networking event with the Sponsor of the edition and the French Tech Paris-Saclay.

For the 25 candidates selected to pitch on the main stage, an online individual coaching session will be organized before the event (attendance is mandatory). An order of presentation for each pitch session will be established and communicated to the candidates.

At the end of the day (May 20, 2025), five start-ups will be distinguished.

### **Jury Topics:**

For each pitch session (foodtech, health-biotech, greentech, industry & services, digital technologies) a winner will be selected by an ad hoc jury formed of investors and industrial partners of the event. To award the prize, at the end of each pitch session, the jury will debate with the start-up managers during a 30-minute question-and-answer session, then deliberate and select a winner for each category.

## **7) Details of equipment at the Innovation Village**

All the winners will have a stand at Paris-Saclay SPRING, about 4 sqm in size, which will be placed in one of the available thematic villages. This stand will be furnished with a totem for the presentation of the company, an electric power supply, a cocktail table or a high table of your choice, 2 high stools. A Wi-Fi access will also be available.

Any additional request, technical, furniture or other will be charged and must be made to the organizers.

## **8) Additional terms and conditions**

At the event, a photographic and video coverage of the event will be made to produce a film and a photo album that may be used for promotional purposes (production of a film, use of photos in the creation of communication documents, publication of websites, etc.) on the French national territory for a period of 3 years after the event.

Therefore, by registering to the event, the participants of Paris-Saclay SPRING authorize the Organizers to use their image in the strict framework of the promotion of Paris-Saclay SPRING.

Upon acceptance of the registration, the Organizers authorize any participant to use the following mention on its commercial and advertising documents: "Participant in Paris-Saclay SPRING 2025". At the same time, any participant authorizes the Organizers to publicize its participation in the present event.

The Organizers reserve the right for any reason whatsoever to modify, replace, extend, shorten, suspend or cancel the event without prior notice and without incurring any liability as a result. In such cases, the Organizers shall inform the participants as soon as possible. No compensation can be requested by the candidates.

Each participant commits to the maintenance of the stand during the whole period of use and to be present on the stand throughout the interview.

All participants must demonstrate, upon request, that they have insurance covering their civil liability as well as all damages for which they may be held liable, in particular: theft, fire, damage, destruction of any material or facility. Participants and their insurers waive their right to any and all claims against EPA Paris-Saclay and its insurers. On the day of the event and at any time during the setting up and dismantling of the event, the Organizers cannot be held responsible for any damage, loss, theft, etc. suffered by the equipment exhibited by the participants.

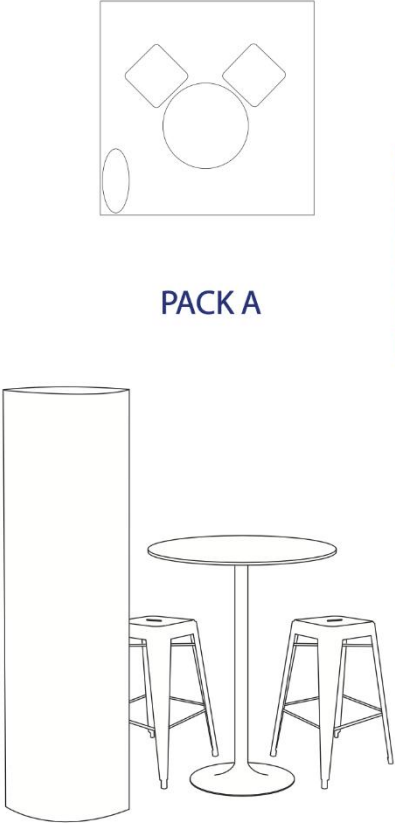
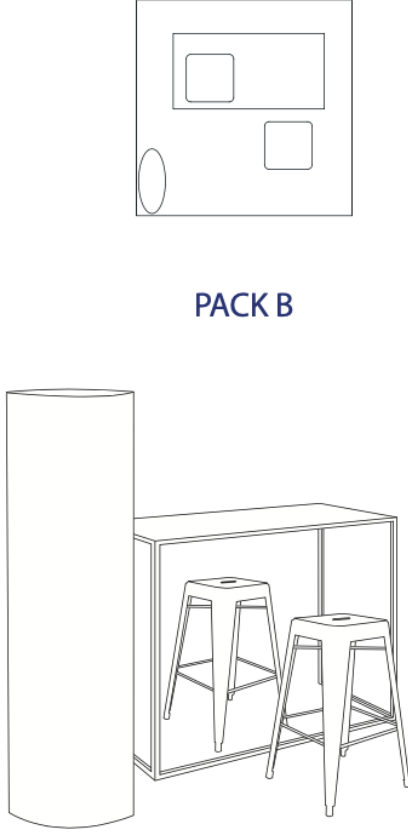
In the event of a dispute that arises during the execution of these terms, the Organizers and the participants will attempt to settle it amicably.

In accordance with the French law on information technology and civil liberties, you may exercise your right to access your personal data and have them corrected or deleted. You also have a right to the portability of your personal data and, if you have consented to your data being used for marketing and communication purposes, a right of opposition or withdrawal that you can exercise by contacting the IT and freedom correspondent at the following address: [dpo@oin-paris-saclay.fr](mailto:dpo@oin-paris-saclay.fr)

As a last resort, you can file a complaint with the CNIL.

## **9) Appendix**

The following illustrations are given as an indicative only.  
 Installation principle for 4 sqm stands.

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PACK A</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PACK B</b></p>
<p><b>YOU HAVE SELECTED PACKAGE A # your stand includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A floor carpet print 2x2m in the color of your village</li> <li>A personalized totem height of about 1,90m</li> <li>A cocktail table diam. 0,60m height about 1,10m</li> <li>2 high stools in the color of your village</li> <li>A power supply unit with 3 power sockets / 400w in total</li> </ul>	<p><b>YOU HAVE SELECTED PACKAGE B # your stand includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A floor carpet print 2x2m in the color of your village</li> <li>A personalized totem height of about 1,90m</li> <li>A high table 1,40x0,70m height about 1,10m</li> <li>2 high stools in the color of your village</li> <li>A power supply unit with 3 power sockets / 400w in total</li> </ul>