

A blue-tinted background image showing a person in profile wearing a hard hat. The person is holding a smartphone to their ear. Overlaid on the image are various digital icons and data visualizations, including a Wi-Fi symbol, a play button, a magnifying glass, and a grid of data points. The overall theme is geospatial technology and AI.

GENERATIVE AI FOR GEOSPATIAL CHALLENGE PROCESS AND PROPOSAL CRITERIA

Shaping the Future of Generative AI and Geospatial

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 11:59 p.m. ON DECEMBER 6, 2024

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TGI Generative AI for Geospatial Challenge Process

Submission period for proposals begins on October 29, 2024, and concludes November 29 at 11:59 p.m. CT

[Submit your Challenge proposal here.](#)

Purpose: The Challenge is a collaboration between AWS and the Taylor Geospatial Institute that seeks to explore and expand the art of the possible for geospatial problem-solving using generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI).

Eligibility: Any individual or organization authorized to do business in the United States may submit an idea proposal to the Challenge.

Period: The submission period for idea proposals begins on **October 29, 2024** and concludes at **11:59 p.m. CT on December 6, 2024.**

Proposals: Proposals should be for a project which applies generative AI techniques to geospatial data and/or concepts. Idea proposals shall be submitted [using this form](#) and must include the following information.

- [Lead proposer](#) (An individual or organization may be Lead Proposer on only one submission.)
- [Proposal team](#) (The names of individuals and/or organizations partnering in creation of the solution, with specific identification of researchers from TGI consortium institutions included in the team, if any.)
- [Team qualifications](#) (Brief biographies highlighting relevant experience and expertise of team members)
- [Project synopsis/abstract](#) in fewer than one hundred (100) words
- [Narrative description of the idea proposal](#)
- [Impact](#) (The potential impact of your proposal on industry, academia, and society)
- [Field of impact](#) (e.g., agriculture, urban planning, national security, etc.)
- [Data to be employed](#) (While not guaranteed, AWS and/or TGI may be able to connect awardee with data providers as a benefit of Challenge participation.)
- [Methodology](#) (Detailed description of the generative AI approach to be employed, with emphasis on any novel techniques or frameworks.)
- [Description of pathway to commercialization](#)



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Awards: Proposals scored and selected by a committee comprising representatives of AWS and TGI will receive a share of an available total of AWS credits whose value shall not exceed \$1 million in aggregate. The Selection Committee will make multiple awards. Awards of AWS credits will be announced in mid-December 2024 and awardees and their projects will be featured in AWS and TGI media properties. Please note that ideas proposed by researchers from a TGI consortium institution may also receive financial support for their project at the election of TGI.

Criteria: The Selection Committee shall make awards to proposed ideas which they deem to be remarkable in light of their...

- Novelty. Does the idea proposed represent a departure from existing approaches or present a unique means of solving a problem?
- Potential Impact. Will the idea proposed, if executed, result in an improvement to the human condition or the universe in which we live?
- Technical sophistication. Does the proposed idea demonstrate an understanding of the state-of-the-art, optimize the use of existing innovations, and suggest an elegant technological solution for using generative AI in a geospatial application?
- Commercial Implications. Does the idea proposed have a clearly identifiable market and pathway to commercialization?
- Scalability. Does the idea proposed have the potential for widespread adoption?
- Integration of geospatial data. How well does the idea proposed integrate data types or concepts that clearly demonstrate its status as a geospatial application, product, or solution?
- Team strength. Does the composition of the team provide confidence that the proposed idea will be executed successfully?

The Selection Committee will also consider team composition in making awards by providing bonus consideration to proposal teams that include one or more TGI Associates as a key collaborator in the project.

Timeline for awarded proposals: Challenge awardees will be announced in December 2024. Those whose proposals are selected for an award of AWS credits should plan to complete project development no later than April 18, 2025.



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Disclaimers:

- Proposals should not include sensitive or proprietary information in their submissions.
- Any intellectual property created through projects supported by the Challenge remains the property of its creators.
- Full proposals will be shared only with the AWS and TGI Challenge team and Selection Committee members.
- Awardees must consent to and participate in efforts by AWS and TGI to publicize awardees and their concepts via online content and future events, including through the submission of a written report and project demonstration.
- Redemption of AWS credits awarded through the Challenge will require an AWS account.
- All awards are made at the discretion of AWS and TGI and all submissions are made with the recognition that there is no promise, explicit or implicit, that submissions will receive AWS credits or other tangible benefits.

Questions about the Challenge process should be directed to jeffrey.mazur@taylorgeospatial.org.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is the Generative AI for Geospatial challenge?

A: An initiative sponsored by Taylor Geospatial Institute and AWS challenging researchers and innovators to develop solutions to big problems using generative AI in geospatial applications.

Q: What benefits may innovators receive through the challenge?

A: Innovators whose project ideas are selected through the challenge will receive access to credits for AWS cloud infrastructure and networking opportunities. Proposals led by researchers from the TGI consortium will receive cash funding to support their projects.

Q: Who is eligible to participate?

A: Anyone building a generative AI application that uses geospatial data to solve critical challenges or who has an idea for such a solution may participate. TGI researchers and their collaborators focused on geospatial technologies and applications are encouraged to participate. All participants are encouraged to partner on their proposals with cross-sector collaborators.



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Q: How will the Generative AI for Geospatial challenge work?

A: The challenge will launch with an event in St. Louis on October 29, 2024. Industry and government leaders will present on the state of the art in generative AI for geospatial and panels will lay out top challenges facing the field. The event will also include an explanation of the specifics of the challenge, such as the format of idea submissions, submission requirements, the timeline for submission, the criteria for assessment, and the Selection Committee. After the submission period concludes, ideas will be selected and awarded with AWS credits and featured in future events and public recognition opportunities. The challenge cycle will conclude with a process for demonstrating and publicizing the solutions generated by awardees.

Q: What is the timeline for the Challenge?

A: Submissions will be open from the Kickoff event through November 29, 2024. Awards will be announced in mid-December and the project development period for awardees will run until mid-April 2025.

Q: What kind of projects is the Challenge looking for? Is there a specific technical scope or problem you are asking people to solve?

A: Rather than identifying and soliciting solutions for a narrowly scoped problem, we are encouraging innovators to think openly about how generative AI and geospatial can be used to advance science and technology. This might mean proposing a solution for a well-known but relatively specific, nagging technical challenge or it could mean proposing an expansive and previously unimagined application of technology. We want to leave this up to the innovators to decide for themselves.

Q: What is a TGI Associate?

A: A TGI Associate is a faculty or researcher from one of TGI's eight consortium institutions who has proactively affiliated themselves with TGI. A [directory of TGI Associates may be found here](#).

