



# PATRIOT

## PITCH COMPETITION

### Celebrating Innovators for the Next 250

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is hosting a nation-wide, \$1 million prize pool pitch competition to celebrate the innovation and ambition on Main Street that has fueled American ingenuity for 250 years. The competition is open to small businesses from all sectors who have utilized certain SBA capital products, and who are shaping the future of their industry with innovation and sound business practices and fundamentals.

### Recognition and Benefits

- A chance to compete in a \$1 million cash prize pool.
- A chance to be a major part of the Freedom 250 initiatives and celebrations in Washington, D.C.

### Judging Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated by four stages of judging panels looking at how each business performs in the following categories:

- Strengthening American competitiveness
- Small business “punching above its weight”
- Economic impact and quality jobs
- Business fundamentals and execution readiness

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. SBA’s participation in this event is not an endorsement of any product, service, or entity.

### Key Dates

**Submission Deadline:**

June 10, 2026

**Finalist Notifications:**

July 2026

**Pitch Competition Finals Event:**

One day event between  
September 8–18, 2026  
(date to be finalized at a later time)

### How to Submit

Eligible businesses must submit by June 10, 2026 at 11:59pm. Detailed eligibility requirements and submission instructions are available at [sba.gov/freedom250](https://sba.gov/freedom250).



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

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