

The Ericsson Technology Challenge

An ATT initiative supported by Ericsson
In collaboration with ETTA, ISTA, Techno Teachers & Forfás
Hosted by Cork Institute of Technology

What is the Ericsson Technology Challenge?

A two-part curriculum intervention cum competition

The Content:

Part 1 – A thematically organized workbook doubling as the competition entry form

Part 2 – a one-day challenge for up to 6 schools entering teams of 4 students each.
Teams will solve a challenge within a 6 – 8 hour period using computers and the Internet as their resource and production medium.

Rationale:

Part 1 will provide an essential classroom workbook. It will be produced on paper to guarantee accessibility for all. Take-up should be high as the content will be familiar to students of technology subjects and will be desirable as a classroom activity and revision aid.

For the ETC 2002 the part 1 booklet will be thematically organized around the concept of an urban youth car. Students will be required to solve a range of car related problems. The most stimulating aspect of the booklet will be the design section where students will be asked to produce a car body design along with a name and logo.

Part 2 will be a virtual challenge conducted within a single day at Cork Institute of Technology at Easter 2002. A total of 6 school teams of 4 students each will gather to solve a thematic task using only virtual tools. The solutions will be published to paper, screen or web at the end of the day.

The purpose of the competition is to promote interest and awareness of technology amongst students, teachers and the wider public.

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The Challenge Day

Provisional Timetable

9.15	Brief distributed
9.15 – 9.45	brainstorm on the brief
9.45 – 10.30	initial delegated workup
10.30 – 10.45	teacher consultation
10.45 – 12.00	work time
12.00 – 12.30	group consultation (teacher may be present for first 10 minutes only)
12.30 – 2.00	group work
2.00 – 2.15	final consultation (assembly presentation)
2.15 – 3.30	group work
3.30 – 4.00	finalising the presentation
4.00 - 4.30	presentation of the solutions All work will finish at 16.00

Light refreshments will be available throughout the day

Lunch will be available between 12.00 – 12.30

Groups are free to take breaks as and when they want to.

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Welcome to the Ericsson Technology Challenge

- The final of this event will take place on Tuesday March 26th at Cork Institute of Technology (CIT)
- The final will take a full working day to complete, starting at 9.15 and finishing at 16.30.
- Students will need to be at CIT in time for 9.00 to ensure a punctual start. To this end it is desirable that teams should arrive the evening before. Provision is made for this in the form a grant of between €200 and €500 to cover the cost of travel and overnight subsistence. It will be the responsibility of the school to make their own arrangements.
- Supporters and family are welcome to attend on the day. It should be noted that the teams will be working in isolation from the public. Viewing opportunities may be limited for spectators.
- Teams will work as a unit. The four members will be expected to collaborate effectively on the day. It is up to the teams to prepare their own strategy for successfully completing the challenge.
- The team mentor (teacher) will be allowed limited access to the team in the course of the challenge day. Set times are identified in the timetable at which mentors and teams may consult. Mentors are not allowed to actually do any work on behalf of their teams. They may operate only in the role of consultants whose input is limited to discussion and advice. The marking scheme will specifically penalise teams whose mentors have been judged to have taken a direct part in the working on the solution to the challenge.
- Teams will work in isolation from each other. Each team will be expected to respect the privacy of their own work and that of the other teams at work through the day. The marking scheme will specifically penalise teams which have been judged to have interfered with, taken advantage of or spoiled the work of another team.
- Teams are advised to have a student substitute available in advance of the competition day as a precaution against being caught out by the absence of a student on the day. While the substitute may travel to Cork for the Challenge event, he / she may not take an active part in the event itself
- The adjudicators reserve the right to exercise their judgment in the best interest of the Ericsson Technology Challenge in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising.
- The decision of the adjudicators is final in all matters relating to the Ericsson Technology Challenge. The adjudicators will not enter into discussion or correspondence relating to decisions or judgments in the Ericsson Technology Challenge.
- Competition entries become the property of the organizers and may be displayed in part or in full to promote the event. The organizers reserve the right to take photographs of teams and activities in the course of the event. It is the intention of the organizers that some of these photographs would be published / broadcast in national and local media. Where possible teams will be consulted in advance of such publication / broadcast.

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How to get there

Cork Institute of Technology is located to the west of the city at Bishopstown on the Model Farm Road.

From the city center, go via Washington Street and Western Road to Bishopstown. Use the map if you are unsure of your way.

A map is enclosed to aid you in finding your way.

If traveling by public transport, CIT is served by a regular bus service from the city centre. Taxis are readily available.

Also enclosed is a list of B&B accommodation in the immediate vicinity of the college.

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Software Options

The following software packages are suggested for use in working on a solution of the Ericsson Technology Challenge.

This list has been drawn up on the basis of software which is likely to be available in most schools it is not a prescriptive list. Schools are welcome to work on other packages. In this case schools should contact the ETC coordinator to discuss the availability of their preferred software for the Challenge day on March 26th at CIT

Software

MS Word
MS Publisher
MS Powerpoint
Macromedia Dreamweaver
Crocodile Clips
AutoCad inventor

Internet access

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Producing your Solution to the Ericsson Technology Challenge

