



Off-the-Grid Internet Challenge

How can we leverage wireless technology to keep people connected to each other and to vital information sources in the aftermath of a disaster where Internet access is unavailable or compromised?

The Off-the-Grid Internet Challenge seeks ideas that can provide connectivity in one of the most challenging situations: the immediate aftermath of a major disaster. With a total of \$1M in prize money, the Off-the-Grid Internet Challenge seeks solutions that help individuals wirelessly access each other and information services like maps and messaging following a disaster.

What might the world look like if we're successful in sourcing this solution?

Using low-cost kits based on an open design, local communities will have the ability to restore communications and access to resources quickly after a major disaster.

Possible example solutions

- A backpack containing a hard drive, WiFi router, computer and battery, which can provide disaster survivors in the immediate vicinity access to resources like maps and local messaging
- A drone-based network that can connect community members and responders even if roads are impassable due to earthquakes or flooding

How to get involved

When major disasters strike, communications networks are often among the first and most critical pieces of infrastructure to fail. Do you have a big idea that can keep victims connected in the aftermath of a disaster?

Solutions submitted to this challenge should be portable and should provide the means--via a wireless network--for common mobile devices (e.g., smartphones, tablets and laptops) to access applications that would be useful in a disaster situation. Entrants will be required to design and build both the network (hardware) as well as the applications which will run on that network (software and apps). Access to an existing internet connection (e.g. a commercial wireless or fiber connection) should not be presumed or factored into the design; users should be able to access information and services only via the Off-the-Grid wireless network.

Judging Criteria

Designs and prototypes will be judged by a panel of experts from academic, nonprofit, and for-profit organizations working in the fields of research, technology, and community engagement based on the judging criteria outlined below.



Technical Feasibility: How feasible are the ideas presented? What are the technical capabilities of the idea or prototype?



Differentiation: How does the proposed solution differ from or improve upon existing solutions? What is innovative or novel about the proposed concept or technology?



Affordability: How affordably could the idea/prototype be implemented in a real community?



Social Impact: How well tailored is the idea or prototype to the needs of the community and users for which it is designed? How will the design of the idea/prototype help engage community members in order to maximize utilization?



Scalability: How will the idea or prototype be adaptable to broader communities or areas? How scalable is the project? How will the idea or prototype provide tools and documentation to anyone who might wish to build upon it or launch a similar effort?

Challenge Timeline

Submissions will open in June 2017. Entrants will have until November to submit a Design Concept for consideration. In January 2018, we'll announce which entrants will move on to the next stage, as well as which entrants have been awarded prizes for outstanding Design Concepts. Entrants that have been approved to move on to the Working Prototype stage will have until June to work on and submit documentation of their prototype. Winners of the final Challenge awards will be awarded in August of 2018.

Where To Submit

Submissions will open on June, 15th 2017 at wirelesschallenge.mozilla.org. Sign up for our email list at https://mzl.la/WINS_EMAIL and we'll send you an alert when submissions are open.

