

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Inaugural UHack weekend could unearth next big innovation

The next big innovation or creation could very well be unearthed at the UHack competition weekend on August 27-28.

For one weekend, teams of designers, innovators and entrepreneurs from across the state are being invited to pitch their ground-breaking ideas in a bid to claim the first-prize open division package, valued at over \$22,000.

“UHack is an opportunity for people in the broader community to test-drive their innovation or creation,” University of Tasmania Enterprise Business Services Associate Director Tim Pedersen said.

“Teams just need to have a ground-breaking idea that aligns with one of the University’s research theme areas, or be able to help bring that idea to fruition through skills they can offer.

“People are being encouraged to get together a team with skills including computer programming and business models to vie for prizes including a place in the new Tas-i Entrepreneurship and Incubation Hubs, along with funding and start-up mentoring support.”

The inaugural competition will see teams at the driving wheel of helping to solve a problem or identify an opportunity within theme areas including environment, resources and sustainability; creativity, culture and society; better health; marine, Antarctic and maritime; and data, knowledge and decisions.

UHack is open to teams of between four to six people.

The competition will be held simultaneously in Hobart and Launceston with teams developing a software application, business model and three-minute video pitch to be presented to a panel of judges.

“In the lead up to the weekend, we are hosting help seminars in areas including business model concepts and product development,” Mr Pedersen said.

UHack will officially launch this year's Research Week (27 Aug – 1 Sept) at the University of Tasmania which features seminars, forums and workshops showcasing innovative and practical research which is transforming Tasmania and beyond.

For more information and seminar registrations visit www.utas.edu.au/uhack

UHack is a collaboration between the University of Tasmania, TECH, Computing and Technology, business student societies, TASICT, Startup Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

It is supported by businesses including Microsoft, Dialog, Page Seager, CGI, Squiz, SDS Group, RXP, Dilignet, Google, Amazon, Dell, Optus, Alphawest, Commvault and HPE Aruba.

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