Development Bank of Jamaica Limited
Facilitating Economic Growth & Development

BIGEE
BOOSTING INNOVATION, GROWTH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEMS

OPEN INNOVATION CHALLENGE PROGRAMME

PRESENTED BY: CHRISTOPHER BROWN, BIGEE

European Union

IDB

OVERVIEW

1 WHAT IS INNOVATION AND “OPEN INNOVATION”?

2 HOW DOES THE OPEN INNOVATION CHALLENGE PROGRAMME WORK

3 PRIORITY AREAS & CHALLENGE OPPORTUNITIES

4 BENEFITS, FUNDING & GLOBAL SUCCESS STORIES

5 YOUR PATH TO PARTICIPATION

WHAT IS INNOVATION?

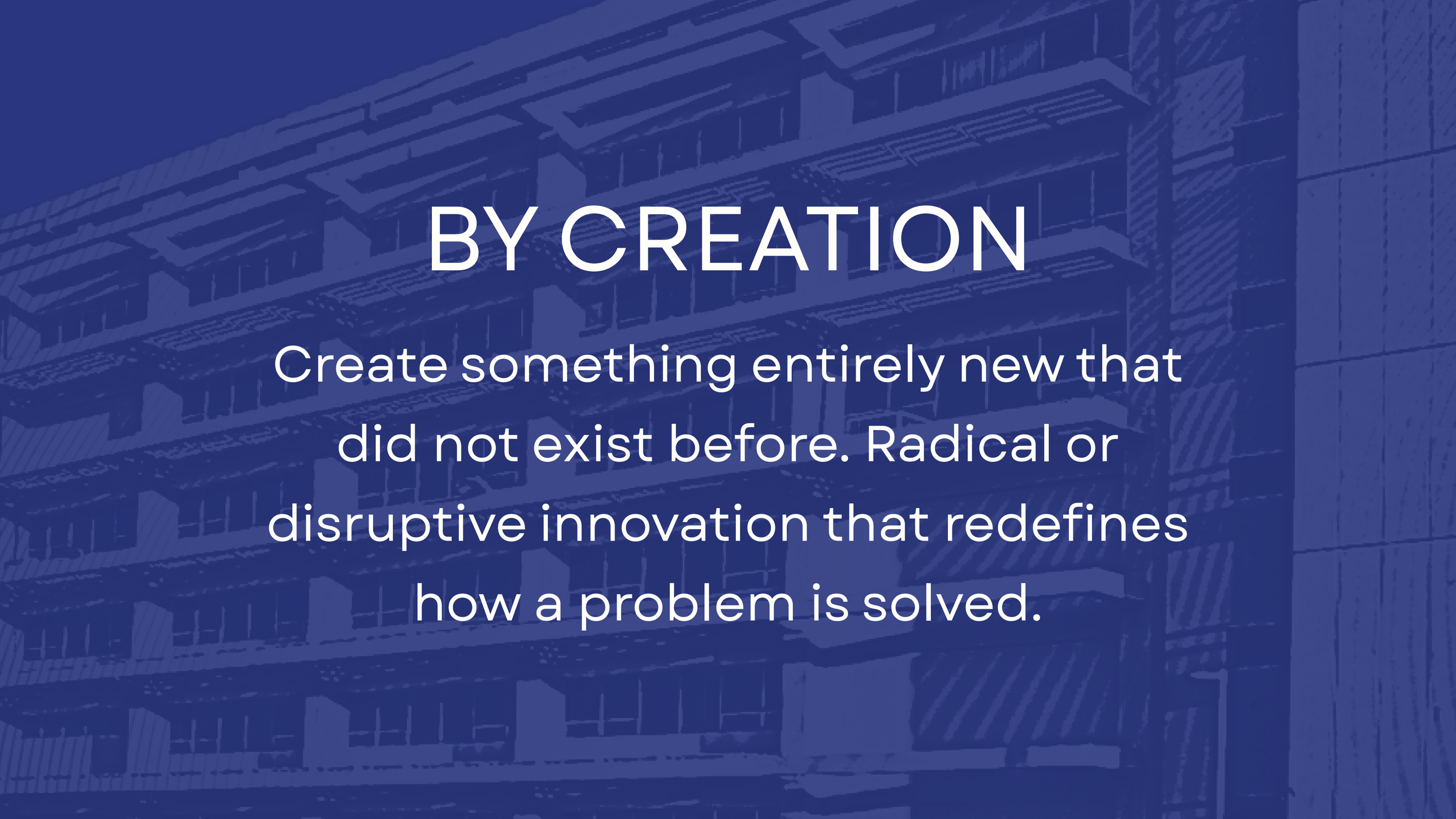
BY ADOPTION

Take a proven solution, technology, or process that already exists elsewhere and implement it in a new environment — without changing it.



BY ADAPTATION

Modify an existing idea or technology to fit your specific needs, context, or constraints.



BY CREATION

Create something entirely new that did not exist before. Radical or disruptive innovation that redefines how a problem is solved.

CLOSED INNOVATION

VS

OPEN INNOVATION

CLOSED INNOVATION

THE TRADITIONAL MODEL WHERE ALL R&D STAYS INTERNAL



INTERNAL R&D ONLY

ALL RESEARCH HAPPENS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WITHIN A SINGLE ORGANISATION.

HIGH COST, SLOW TIMELINES

BEARING THE FULL FINANCIAL BURDEN LEADS TO LONGER DEVELOPMENT CYCLES.

LIMITED PERSPECTIVES

RELYING SOLELY ON INTERNAL TEAMS RESTRICTS DIVERSITY OF IDEAS.

FULL IP CONTROL, HIGHER RISK

RETAINING ALL IP COMES AT THE COST OF SHOULDERING ALL RISK ALONE.

DISCONNECTED FROM USERS

WITHOUT EXTERNAL INPUT, SOLUTIONS MAY NOT FIT REAL-WORLD NEEDS.

OPEN INNOVATION

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS WITH CHALLENGES AND INNOVATORS WITH SOLUTIONS, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS BUSINESS NEEDS, AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCE



SHARED R&D COSTS

MULTIPLE PARTNERS CONTRIBUTE RESOURCES, REDUCING INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL BURDEN.

FASTER TIME TO MARKET

LEVERAGING EXTERNAL EXPERTISE ACCELERATES DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT.

DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION BRINGS FRESH IDEAS AND UNCONVENTIONAL SOLUTIONS.

REDUCED RISK

SHARED INVESTMENT MEANS SHARED RISK ACROSS ALL PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS.

USER-CENTERED SOLUTIONS

DIRECT ENGAGEMENT WITH END-USERS ENSURES RELEVANCE AND ADOPTION.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

01

Challenge Identification
Training clinics help you articulate your problem. Submit using our structured template

02

Open Call for Solutions
Innovators submit proposals to address the challenge

03

Prototype Grant & Pilot
Non-refundable financing up to USD 50K. Milestone-based disbursements. You provide test environment

04

Adoption & Scale Pathway
Successful pilots are adopted and scaled by the partner

05

Programme Management and M&E
DBJ oversees delivery, monitoring, and evaluation throughout

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

TECHNICAL READINESS LEVEL (TRL)



PROGRAMME FOCUS

TRL 4-7

CONSIDERATIONS

WHY TRL 4-7

SOLUTIONS AT THIS STAGE HAVE PROVEN THEIR CONCEPT BUT NEED REAL-WORLD TESTING AND REFINEMENT BEFORE FULL DEPLOYMENT.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

ABILITY TO ACCESS NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO SOLVE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CHALLENGES

EXPECTED OUTCOME

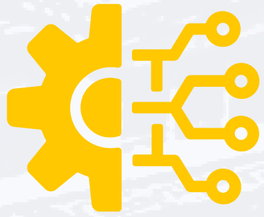
BY THE END OF THE PROGRAMME YOU WILL HAVE A WORKING PROTYPE THAT IS A PERFECT FIT FOR YOU COMPANY

NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS



ENVITONMENT & CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY

CLIMATE ADAPTATION
RENEWABLE ENERGY
WASTE MANAGEMENT
WATER CONSERVATION
CARBON REDUCTION



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, PRODUCTIVITY & AUTOMATION

PROCESS AUTOMATION
DIGITAL SERVICES
DATA ANALYTICS
CYBERSECURITY
SMART INFRASTRUCTURE



SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH & WELL-BEING

HEALTHCARE ACCESS
EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY
SOCIAL INCLUSION
PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FOOD SECURITY
SUPPLY CHAIN TECH
PRECISION FARMING
RURAL CONNECTIVITY
MARKET ACCESS

PRIVATE SECTOR

01

FASTER TIME TO SOLUTION

Access a global pool of innovators already working on your problem – no lengthy procurement cycles.

02

DE-RISKED INVESTMENT

Pay only for results that meet your criteria. No upfront R&D spend on unproven approaches.

03

ACCESS TO WIDER TALENT

Tap into startups, researchers, and technologists you'd never find through traditional channels.

04

COMPETITIVE EDGE

First-mover advantage on emerging solutions before competitors discover them.

05

STRUCTURED PROCESS

DBJ manages the entire programme – your team contributes a brief and evaluates finalists.

06

REAL-WORLD VALIDATION

Solutions are tested against your actual constraints before any commitment to scale.

PUBLIC SECTOR

01

MANDATE-ALIGNED

Supports transparency, inclusion, and value-for-money objectives built into public procurement.

02

CITIZEN-CENTRED SOLUTIONS

Challenges are framed around real citizen needs – not vendor capabilities.

03

BUDGET EFFICIENCY

Pay only for validated outcomes. No large upfront contracts for unproven technology.

04

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

Brings together startups, academia, and civil society around shared public goals.

05

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS

Pilot results give you data to justify scaling – reducing political and operational risk.

06

CAPACITY BUILDING

Internal teams learn innovation methods through participation, not just training.

USD 50,000

Maximum grant per Innovation Challenge

75% Funded by DBJ

The Development Bank of Jamaica covers up to 75% of the innovation challenge cost, significantly de-risking your investment.

25% Participant Contribution

Your organization contributes 25% – demonstrating commitment and ensuring skin in the game for successful outcomes.

IP can be shared or stays with the innovator

All intellectual property developed during the challenge remains with the solution providers unless negotiated otherwise.

Milestone-Based Disbursements

Funding is released in tranches tied to clear deliverables – ensuring accountability and progress at every stage.

GLOBAL EVIDENCE

REAL CHALLENGES, REAL RESULTS

Public and private sector innovation challenges delivering measurable impact worldwide

PUBLIC SECTOR

UNDP – Bosnia & Herzegovina

USD 20K

8 units immediately deployed and scaled to multiple countries.

PUBLIC SECTOR

US Administration for Community Living

USD 1M

A working interoperability hub now replicable by any state agency nationwide.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Unilever / H2Ok Innovations

USD 100K per pilot

20% improvement in cleaning efficiency and a 10% reduction in utility consumption, generating annual savings of approximately €100,000.

PRIVATE SECTOR

USAID / Nesta Challenge Works – Nepal

USD 300K per project

Accelerated 8 clean energy prototypes from TRL 4 to commercial deployment in 18 months

COMMON CONCERNS – ADDRESSED

01

"What about our IP and data security?"

IP terms are set upfront. You decide exactly what data to share – challenges are scoped to protect sensitive information.

02

"We already have an R&D team."

Open innovation augments, not replaces, your team. It gives them more options and faster answers from outside the building.

03

"We don't have time to manage this."

DBJ's Secretariat manages the process end-to-end. Your team's time commitment is a challenge brief and a test environment – that's it. However, an internal liaison with power to make decisions is important.

04

"The solutions won't fit our context."

Challenges are locally anchored. We actively recruit Jamaican innovators who understand our environment, regulations and constraints.

NEXT STEPS

1

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Submit a brief outlining your challenge area

2

CHALLENGE DESIGN

We co-create the challenge statement with you

3

OPEN CALL

Innovators worldwide submit solutions

4

EVALUATION & SELECTION

Review, shortlist, and pitch day with finalists

5

PILOT & SCALE

Winner implements with your team's support

LET'S GET STARTED