MICROSOFT QUANTUM CHALLENGE CONTEST

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: Microsoft is committed to complying with government gift and ethics rules and therefore government employees are not eligible.

This Contest is hosted in the United States, and entry information is collected on computers in the United States. This Contest will be governed by the laws of the State of Washington, and you consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts of the State of Washington for any disputes arising out of this Contest. If you do not agree with this provision and these Official Rules, please do not enter this Contest.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION:

This is a skill-based Contest. The objective of this to increase usage of the Quantum Computing Simulator, LIQUi|>, among students. We are seeking exceptional students who are eager to expand their knowledge of quantum computing, and who can translate thoughts into programs. Students from many scientific disciplines where quantum computing is relevant, chemistry, astronomy, biology, computing and mathematics, are welcome.

You create your own project, solve it using LIQUi|> and write up a report. For the purposes of this Contest, the report you create and submit to the Contest will be called an "entry." All eligible entries received will be judged using the criteria described below to determine the winners of the prizes described below.

WHAT ARE THE START AND END DATES?

This Contest starts at 12:01 am, Pacific Time, on February 1, 2016 and ends at 11:59 pm, PT, on April 29, 2016 ("Entry Period"). Entries must be received within the Entry Period to be eligible.

CAN I ENTER?

You are eligible to enter if you meet the following requirements at time entry:

- **You are** actively enrolled as a student at a participating accredited educational institution that grants college/university (or equivalent) degrees at any time during the Entry Period and are 16 years of age or older; and
    - If you are 16 of age or older, but are considered a minor in your place of residence, you should ask your parent's or legal guardian's permission prior to submitting an entry into this Contest; **and**

- **You are NOT** a resident of any of the following countries: Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria.
    - PLEASE NOTE: U.S. export regulations prohibit the export of goods and services to Cuba, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. Therefore, residents of these countries / regions are not eligible to participate.

- **You are NOT** an employee of Microsoft Corporation, or an employee of a Microsoft subsidiary; **and**

- **You are NOT** an immediate family (parent, sibling, spouse/domestic partner, child) or household member of a Microsoft employee, an employee of a Microsoft subsidiary, any person involved in any part of the administration and execution of this promotion.

This contest is void where prohibited by law.

HOW DO I ENTER?

To enter, visit http://www.research.microsoft.com/liquid and register online. Then follow the online submission instructions to upload your entry to EasyChair. You may update your entry until the ending time of the contest. At the end of the Entry Period, your most recently uploaded entry will be used as your final entry the judges will review.

We will only accept one (1) entry per person.

We are not responsible for entries that we do not receive for any reason, or for entries that we receive but are not decipherable for any reason. We will automatically disqualify any incomplete or illegible entry.

TEAMS

Teams of up to three people are allowed. The team leader registers alone. The names of the team members are entered on EasyChair during submission and on the submitted report. If the submission wins, all team members will be acknowledged in any publicity and all team members will receive certificates. The cash prize will be divided equally among the team members.

WHAT CONSTITUTES AN ELIGIBLE ENTRY?

To be eligible for judging an entry must meet the following content / technical requirements:

- Your entry must make use of the LIQUi|> simulator in an imaginative way to solve a real scientific problem. LIQUi|> can be downloaded from GitHub and full instructions are available from the Contest link http://research.microsoft.com/liquid
- Your entry must consist of a write up a description of the project to include goals, methods, challenges, and any result obtained using LIQUi|>.
- Your entry must contain sample input and output for LIQUi|> to prove that LIQUi|> was used in the project; however circuits and software are unnecessary.
- Your entry must be your own original work
- Your entry must be presented in six pages or less, in PDF format.

We reserve the right to reject any entry, in our sole and absolute discretion, that we determine does not meet the above criteria.

HOW WILL MY ENTRY BE POTENTIALLY USED?

Other than what is set forth below, we are not claiming any ownership rights to your entry. However, by submitting your entry, you:

- grant us an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide right and license to: (i) use, review, assess, test and otherwise analyze your entry and all its content in connection with this Contest; and (ii) feature your entry and all content in connection with the marketing, sale, or promotion of this Contest or Microsoft Small Business resources (including but not limited to internal and external sales meetings, social media properties, conference presentations, tradeshows, and informational websites in all media (now known or later developed);

- agree to sign any necessary documentation that may be required for us and our designees to make use of the rights you granted above;

- understand and acknowledge that the Sponsor(s) may have developed or commissioned materials similar or identical to your submission and you waive any claims you may have resulting from any similarities to your entry;

- understand that we cannot control the incoming information you will disclose to our representatives in the course of entering, or what our representatives will remember about your entry. You also understand that we will not restrict work assignments of representatives who have had access to your entry. By entering this Contest, you agree that use of information in our representatives' unaided memories in the development or deployment of our products or services does not create liability for us under this agreement or copyright or trade secret law;

- understand that you will not receive any compensation or credit for use of your entry, other than what is described in these Official Rules

If you do not want to grant us these rights to your entry, please do not enter this Contest.

WINNER DETERMINATION AND PRIZES

On or around the close of the Entry Period, a panel of judges will review all eligible entries received and select Three (3) winners based on the following criteria:

30% - Originality of the idea
40% - Depth of use of the LIQUi|> simulator
30% - Readability of the report

In the event of a tie between any eligible entries, an additional judge will break the tie based on the judging criteria described above. The decisions of the judges are final and binding. If we do not receive a sufficient number of entries meeting the entry requirements, we may, at our discretion, select fewer winners than the number of Contest Prizes described below.

Contest Prizes

One (1) First Prize. A check for $5,000, divided equally among the team members.

Four (4) Second Prizes. A check for $2,500, divided equally among the team members.

Limit one (1) prize per person.

If you are a potential winner, we will notify you by sending a message to the e-mail address, the phone number, or mailing address (if any) provided at time of entry within seven (7) days following completion of judging. If the notification that we send is returned as undeliverable, or you are otherwise unreachable for any reason, we may award to a runner-up.

If there is a dispute as to who is the potential winner, we will consider the potential winner to be the authorized account holder of the e-mail address used to enter the Contest. If you are a potential winner, we may require you to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability/Publicity Release and a W-9 tax form or W-8 BEN tax form within 10 days of notification. If you complete a tax form, you will be issued an IRS Form 1099 the following January, for the actual value of the prize. You are advised to seek independent counsel regarding the tax implications of accepting a prize. If you are a potential winner and you are 18 or older, but are considered a minor in your place of legal residence, we may require your parent or legal guardian to sign all required forms on your behalf. If you do not complete the required forms as instructed and/or do not return the required forms within the time period listed on the winner notification message, we may disqualify you and select a runner-up.

If you are confirmed as a winner of this Contest:

- You may not designate someone else as the winner. If you are unable or unwilling to accept your prize, we may award it to a runner up; **and**

- If you accept a prize, you will be solely responsible for all applicable federal, state, and local taxes related to accepting the prize; **and**

- If you are otherwise eligible for this Contest, but are considered a minor in your place of residence, we may award the prize to your parent/legal guardian on your behalf; **and**

- Unless otherwise noted, all prizes are subject to their manufacturer's warranty and / or terms and conditions.

WHAT OTHER CONDITIONS AM I AGREEING TO BY ENTERING?

By entering this Contest you agree:

- To abide by these Official Rules; **and**

- To release and hold harmless Microsoft and its respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees and agents from any and all liability or any injury, loss or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with this Contest, or any prize won; **and**

- That Microsoft's decisions will be final and binding on all matters related to this Contest; **and**

- That, by accepting a prize, Microsoft may use of your proper name and state of residence online and in print, or in any other media, in connection with this Contest, without payment or compensation to you, except where prohibited by law.

WHAT LAWS GOVERN THE WAY THIS CONTEST IS EXECUTED AND ADMINISTRATED?

This Contest will be governed by the laws of the State of Washington, and you consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts of the State of Washington for any disputes arising out of this Contest.

WHAT IF SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS AND THE CONTEST CAN'T RUN AS PLANNED?

If someone cheats, or a virus, bug, bot, catastrophic event, or any other unforeseen or unexpected event that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled, (also referred to as force majeure) affects the fairness and / or integrity of this Contest, we reserve the right to cancel, change or suspend this Contest. This right is reserved whether the event is due to human or technical error. If a solution cannot be found to restore the integrity of the Contest, we reserve the right to select winners from among all eligible entries received before we had to cancel, change or suspend the Contest.

If you attempt or we have strong reason to believe that you have compromised the integrity or the legitimate operation of this Contest by cheating, hacking, creating a bot or other automated program, or by committing fraud in ANY way, we may seek damages from you to the fullest extent permitted by law. Further, we may disqualify you, and ban you from participating in any of our future Contests, so please play fairly.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHO WON?

We will post the names of winners online at http://research.microsoft.com/liquid. This list will remain posted one month after winner selection.

WHO IS SPONSORING THIS CONTEST?

Microsoft Corporation
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