



\$119M XPRIZE WATER SCARCITY COMPETITION

IMAGINE A WORLD where clean water is equitably and sustainably abundant, enabling people and the environment to prosper.

XPRIZE Water Scarcity is a \$119 million, 5-year global competition designed to drive widespread access to clean water by creating reliable, sustainable, and affordable seawater desalination systems. Competing teams will develop new desalination technologies to unlock access to Earth's ocean water, helping drive a world where clean water is equitably and sustainably abundant.

Even though 70% of our planet is covered with vast bodies of water, everyone on Earth experiences some level of water stress. By 2025, an alarming two-thirds of our population will grapple with severe water shortages. Existing desalination methods are expensive, inaccessible to many communities, and environmentally unsustainable. Without improvement, they will be inadequate to keep up with increasing global water demand, leading to increasingly serious water stress and scarcity issues worldwide.

XPRIZE Water Scarcity is a call to action, challenging teams from around the globe to harness the power of cutting-edge technology, reimagining systems, methods, and materials, to make clean water more accessible for all. Together, we will redefine the landscape of affordable and sustainable desalination on a global scale.

Solutions can come from anyone, anywhere.





THE WINNING TEAM in **Track A - Desalination: System-Level Innovation** will reliably and most sustainably generate one million liters of potable water per day (1,000 m³/day) from seawater at the lowest cost to ensure global accessibility, over the course of 1 year.

THE WINNING TEAM in **Track B - Desalination: Novel Materials and Methods** will demonstrate a novel material and/or method that can sustainably and cost-effectively treat seawater to potable water quality, using any salt-water separation technique, with an operational lifetime of 10 years or more.

\$119M PRIZE PURSE

\$108M

to be disbursed to successful teams throughout Track A – Desalination: System-Level Innovation

\$10.9M

to be disbursed to successful teams throughout Track B – Desalination: Novel Materials and Methods

\$100K

to be disbursed via the Ideas Competition – launching in 2027

KEY DATES

Qualified Teams Testing Deadlines

Desalination: System-Level Innovation: **Dec 19, 2025**
Desalination: Novel Materials & Methods: **March 20, 2026**

Finals Testing

Desalination: System-Level Innovation: **Q4 2027- Q3 2028**
Desalination: Novel Materials & Methods: **Q2 2027**

Semifinalist Team Announcement + Investment Summit

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: **May 19 - 20, 2026**

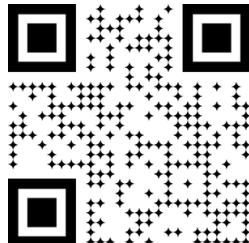
Award Ceremony & Winners Announced

Desalination: System-Level Innovation: **Q4 2028**
Desalination: Novel Materials & Methods: **Q3 2027**

Semifinals Testing

Desalination: System-Level Innovation: **Q4 2026**
Desalination: Novel Materials & Methods: **Q3 2026**

LEARN MORE



xprize.org/water



waterscarcity@xprize.org

XPRIZE is the recognized global leader in designing and executing large scale competitions to solve humanity's greatest challenges. For over 30 years, our unique model has democratized crowd-sourced innovation and scientifically scalable solutions that accelerate a more equitable and abundant future.