

Summary of the Q&A Session - Challenge 1:

Automated ESG-compliant sourcing and supplier evaluation

What is the main goal of the challenge?

The challenge is focused on developing an automated research tool to find new suppliers that meet specific requirements, including competitive pricing and environmental, social, and governance criteria.

How is supplier research currently conducted?

Currently, supplier research involves manually searching the internet, checking supplier websites, and verifying if they meet the necessary criteria. This process is time-consuming and resource intensive.

What systems are currently in place for supplier management and procurement?

For managing suppliers and procurement, the company uses SAP for storing supplier data and Microsoft SharePoint for additional information like financial and ESG criteria. For tendering and getting quotations, they use a procurement platform called ANKÖ. (<https://www.ankoe.at/>)

Is the challenge focused on a specific type of supplier?

The challenge encompasses finding suppliers for a wide range of needs, including both product suppliers and experts for consultations in specific fields.

What is the expected outcome of the challenge?

The expected outcome is to have an automated system that can efficiently identify potential new suppliers and experts, reducing the time and effort currently spent on manual internet research.

Are there specific criteria that suppliers need to meet?

Suppliers must meet technical, financial, and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria.

What is the scale of supplier review needed?

The company currently has about 2000 suppliers in their system, with project-specific supplier numbers ranging from 5 to 10.

How will the challenge help the procurement process?

The automated tool developed through this challenge is expected to streamline the supplier discovery process, making it easier to find new suppliers and experts, especially those outside the company's existing network.

What is the scope of the project? Is it a proof of concept or a fully operational solution?

Initially, the focus is on developing a proof of concept that demonstrates the tool's potential effectiveness. The goal is to later evolve this into a fully operational solution.

Is there an existing IT system for supplier discovery?

Currently, there is no specific IT system for supplier discovery; the process is manual, primarily involving web searches.

What are the main types of suppliers and experts the company is looking to find?

The company is looking for a variety of suppliers, including those capable of producing high-value products like transformers, and experts who can provide specialized consultations.

If not selected for the challenge, is there still a possibility of working with the company?

Yes, the company is open to exploring other forms of cooperation with participants who have viable solutions, even if they are not selected for the main challenge.