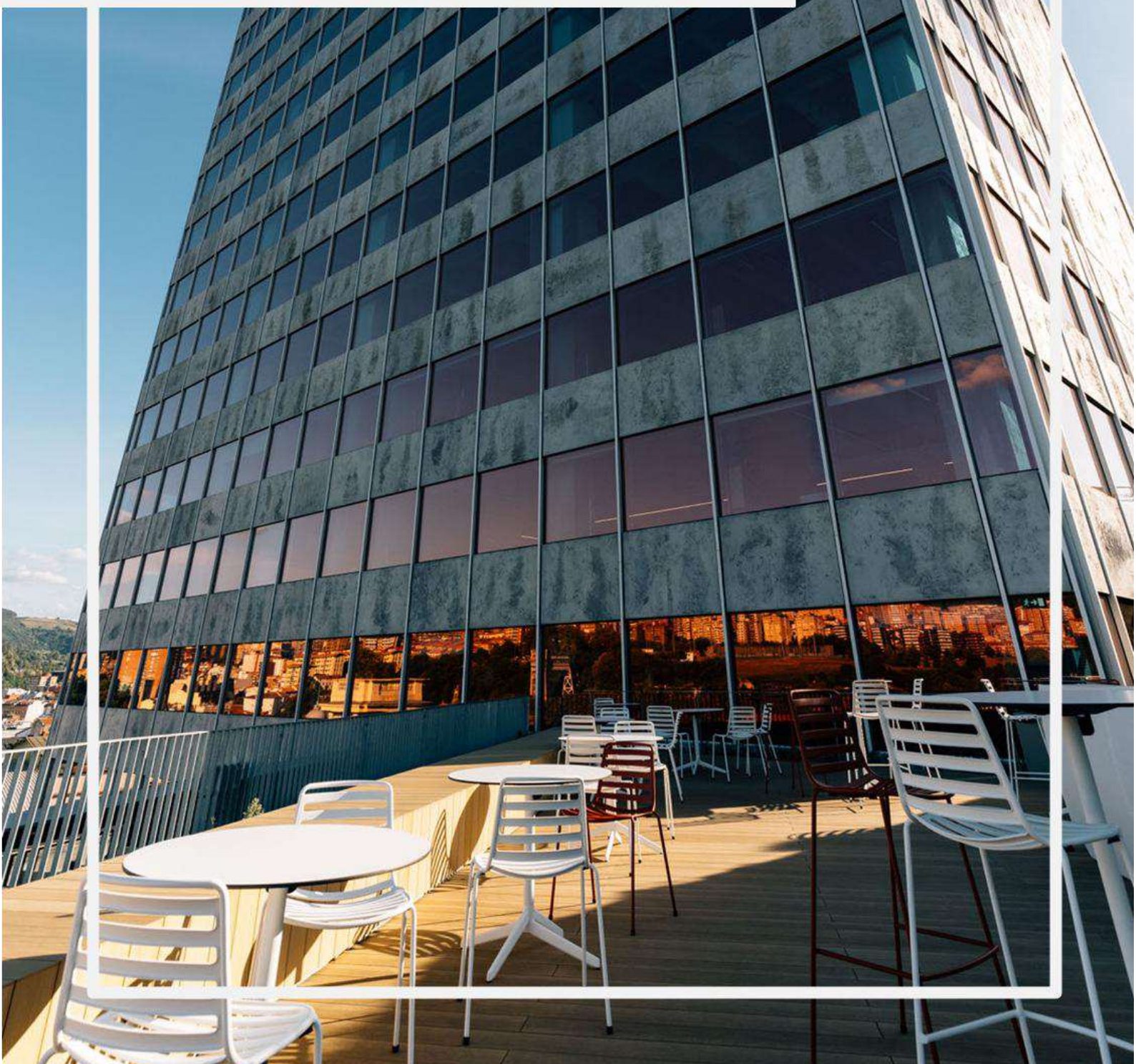




BAT

B Accelerator Tower



Arteche Open Innovation Challenge

SMART AUTOMATED DISTRIBUTION

1. Exposure

Arteche is an international industrial group specializing in solutions for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electrical energy. With more than 75 years of experience, the company has established itself as a global benchmark in the development of equipment and technologies that ensure the quality, efficiency, and reliability of electrical networks.

Its commitment to innovation and sustainability is a core part of its identity. Arteche embraces a responsible business model focused on continuous improvement and the creation of shared value for customers, partners, and society as a whole. In a context marked by the energy transition and the digitalization of the sector, the company drives projects that integrate advanced technologies, promote energy efficiency, and contribute to decarbonization.

With a presence in more than 175 countries, Arteche combines extensive experience, technical expertise, and a global perspective to deliver solutions tailored to the current and future challenges of the electrical sector, promoting sustainable development and a safe, reliable energy supply.

BAT B Accelerator Tower, one of the best-connected entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems in the world, offers a unique collaborative, entrepreneurial, and innovation-driven space located in Bilbao, Bizkaia.

BAT B Accelerator Tower serves as the spearhead of a project aimed at positioning Bizkaia on the international entrepreneurship map and enhancing the competitiveness of its economy by fostering collaboration between major local corporations and leading technology companies (startups, scaleups, innovative SMEs), innovation hubs, and investors from around the globe.

2. Executive Summary of the Challenge

Arteche is driving the evolution of electrical networks toward a more efficient, reliable model aligned with the energy transition, integrating innovation and sustainability as key pillars. In light of the accelerated transformation that electrical distribution will undergo in the coming years, Arteche is launching this challenge to collaborate with startups and technology companies capable of delivering a qualitative leap in the products and services that enable grid operation—including voltage transformers and other field equipment. The objective: to move toward a smarter, more resilient, and self-recovering distribution network that better integrates distributed resources, anticipates failures, responds quickly, and operates over robust and secure communications.

If you work in advanced analytics, grid operation software, intelligence applied to field data, connectivity, or industrial cybersecurity, this challenge offers you a pathway to validate and scale your solution in a real, high-impact environment.

3. Challenge Description

Arteche is driving the evolution of automation in electrical distribution networks to strengthen its value proposition in products and services related to grid operation—including voltage transformers and other measurement, monitoring, and control equipment in the field. The distribution grid is undergoing a profound transformation, shifting from a traditional and largely unidirectional model (from substation to customer) toward a more bidirectional, distributed, and dynamic environment driven by the growth of distributed renewable generation, electrification (electric vehicles), energy storage, and increasing requirements for supply quality and continuity.

In this context, many networks still operate with limited visibility and rely heavily on manual procedures. This results in long times to detect, locate, and isolate incidents, as well as slower service recovery and greater exposure for field personnel. At the same time, digitalization and the proliferation of connected devices increase the cybersecurity attack surface, requiring stronger protection of the infrastructure.

The challenge seeks to identify solutions that enable progress toward a more autonomous, flexible, and secure distribution network—one capable of anticipating and responding more effectively to adverse events, optimizing operation under changing conditions, and facilitating greater integration of renewable energy sources.

Priority Solution Areas

- **Intelligent management of distributed resources and bidirectional flows:** ability to operate the grid more actively, integrating distributed generation and new loads without compromising stability or supply quality.
- **Local intelligence and advanced field automation:** incorporation of analytics and artificial intelligence algorithms near grid edge points to detect early failure signals, anticipate incidents, and support fast operational decision-making.
- **Self-recovery and assisted reconfiguration:** mechanisms that help *isolate* affected areas and *restore* service with minimal human intervention, reducing impact on both users and operators.
- **Reliable communications and reinforced cybersecurity:** secure coordination between devices and control systems, even in environments with complex connectivity, minimizing risks of unauthorized access and attacks.

These priority solution areas highlight several difficulties that the candidates must address:

- **Simultaneity:** multiple distributed resources operating simultaneously and altering network behavior.
- **Heterogeneity:** coexistence of different equipment, technologies, and generations within the infrastructure.

- **Connectivity:** need to maintain operational coordination even in remote locations or in areas with communication limitations.
- **Cybersecurity:** increased exposure to risks due to the digitalization and growing connectivity of the network.

4. Technical Requirements and Specific Objectives

Arteche is seeking practical, deployment-oriented solutions that enable the evolution of its automation and monitoring capabilities in distribution networks, strengthening reliability, operational efficiency, and sustainability.

Key Requirements for Proposed Solutions

- **Compatibility and integration with the current environment:** ability to coexist and integrate with existing systems and equipment (control centers, automation systems, and field devices), enabling a progressive adoption.
- **Cybersecurity by design:** a robust security approach to protect communications, access, and data, incorporating practical measures for threat prevention, detection, and response.
- **Near real-time operation and high availability:** capability to make decisions and react quickly to critical events, with a robust design that avoids single points of failure.
- **Scalability:** feasibility to grow from pilot projects to larger deployments without performance loss or excessive operational complexity.
- **Easy deployment and reasonable maintenance:** installation and field operation with minimal impact, prioritizing ease of commissioning, updates, and support.
- **Compliance with regulatory and operational frameworks:** adherence to electrical safety practices and grid operation standards, with adaptation to real operating conditions (industrial environments, outdoor settings, etc.).
- **Support and implementation:** availability of documentation, interfaces, and support in Spanish and English is valued to facilitate internal adoption and customer deployment.

Specific Objectives

- **Improve supply continuity and quality:** reduce the duration and impact of interruptions through faster detection, isolation, and recovery.
- **Increase operational efficiency and reduce associated costs:** fewer manual interventions, better asset management, and reduced operational inefficiencies.
- **Facilitate the integration of renewable energy and sustainability:** operate the grid more flexibly to accommodate distributed generation, new loads, and evolving scenarios.
- **Enhance resilience and security:** strengthen the ability to respond to incidents and reduce exposure to operational and cybersecurity risks.

To narrow the scope of the challenge and ensure a clear focus on real impact on the distribution network, the following proposals are excluded:

- **Proposals focused exclusively on generation or transmission:** the focus is on distribution (medium and low voltage) and its operation/automation.
- **Solutions aimed at end consumers with no operational impact:** apps or approaches that do not directly improve grid operation.
- **Proposals equivalent to existing solutions without clear differential value:** applicable innovation and tangible improvement are prioritized over conventional approaches.
- **Low-feasibility or insufficient-maturity ideas:** concepts that are too theoretical or difficult to implement within a reasonable timeframe.
- **Closed approaches that are difficult to integrate or lack sufficient security:** the solution must be able to integrate into the operational ecosystem without increasing risk.

5. Type of candidates

The primary objective is to identify innovative solutions within the previously described scope and to promote collaborative projects between startups/technology companies and Arteche.

This challenge is mainly aimed at:

- Legally established companies (with no restrictions regarding the number of years since incorporation).
- Innovative companies offering solutions based on technological developments.
- Companies with products already on the market or with technological developments at an equivalent maturity level of TRL 4 or higher.
- Companies with the capabilities and solvency required to collaborate with large corporations.

Applicant companies may or may not belong to the BAT B Accelerator Tower business community.

6. Main Phases and Key Milestones

PHASE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Application period	From 25/03/2026 to 03/05/2026	Candidates' acceptance period
Evaluation of candidates	From 04/05/2026 to 12/05/2026	Internal evaluation of candidates
Selected startups Announcement	13/05/2026	Notification by e-mail
B2B Meetings with Arteche	25 & 26 /06/2026	Face-to-Face Meeting with Arteche during the B Acceleration Week

Each selected startup/technology company must participate in the B Acceleration Week, which will take place on 25 and 26 June 2026, engaging in all event activities in addition to holding its business meeting with the challenge-promoting company.

The B Acceleration Week is the flagship annual event organized by BAT B Accelerator Tower and serves as a benchmark within Bizkaia's innovation and technology-entrepreneurship ecosystem. It positions itself as a premier platform for knowledge exchange and innovation promotion within the BAT community. Each participating startup/technology company will receive visibility before more than 50 corporations, including dedicated booth space and a presentation slot in the auditorium.

To facilitate participation in the event, a financial support grant may be provided to the selected startup/technology company, subject to the conditions described in Section 8 of this document.

7. Application Process

- The application submission period will remain open from 25/03/2026 to 03/05/2026.
- Applications must be submitted through the BAT B Accelerator Tower website, under the section "Open Opportunities."
- Applications may be completed in Spanish or English.
- Only one application per company will be evaluated. If multiple applications are submitted, the most recent one received will be considered.
- Applications must include a mandatory One-Pager (in English) and a Company Deck (in English or Spanish).
- Once the application has been successfully submitted, an automatic confirmation email will be sent to the applicant.

8. Selection Process

The selection process will be led by the challenge-promoting company and will follow the criteria outlined below:

- Level of alignment with the proposed challenge.
- Maturity level of the proposed technological solution.
- Competitive advantage of the proposed technological solution.
- Market traction and business model of the candidate company.
- Promoter team and experience of the candidate company.

Compliance with the above requirements must be demonstrated at the time of submitting the application through the designated form. Additional supporting documentation may be attached as annexes to verify compliance with all required criteria.

Once the challenge-promoting company has selected the startups/technology companies, they must attend an in-person business meeting during the week of 25–26 June, coinciding with the B Acceleration Week at BAT B Accelerator Tower.

To this end, and to facilitate the participation of the selected startups/technology companies in the B Acceleration Week, BAT B Accelerator Tower will offer financial support to cover travel and accommodation expenses during those days.

In the event of selection, the following financial coverage and conditions will apply:

- Available funding of up to €400 for companies based in Spain, €1,000 for companies from the rest of the European Union, and €2,000 for companies from outside the EU (amounts excluding taxes).
- Funding covers only flight and hotel costs (5-star hotels and business-class flights are excluded).
- Only one trip to Bizkaia is covered; additional trips will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis, meaning BAT will reimburse the €400/€1,000/€2,000 after the trip, once the company submits invoices and full banking information within 30 days of completing the trip.

9. Relationship Between the Challenge-Promoting Company and the Candidate Companies

Throughout the entire Open Innovation Challenge, the candidate startup/technology company undertakes to allocate the necessary human and material resources to carry out the required activities, including personnel with the authority to make decisions regarding technological and business development, as well as to respond to official communications.

The appointed representative must be over 18 years old, hold a C-Level position within the company, and be able to communicate fluently in English or Spanish at all levels, acting as the official representative of the company.

This individual must also meet the legal conditions required to reside and remain in the Basque Country. Likewise, the company must be fully up to date with all tax, fiscal, and social-security obligations.

All notifications related to the challenge will be sent via email directly to the designated representative. Candidate companies must also provide a telephone number to facilitate communications when required.

10. Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

The following Terms and Conditions are intended to establish the rules governing participation in the Open Innovation Challenge. Participation in this call implies full and unconditional acceptance of these Terms and Conditions without exception.

11. Confidentiality and Data Protection Policy

Participation in this call is voluntary. The content of the applications submitted through the online form, as well as all documentation and information of any kind provided, shall be considered confidential and private, and will be treated as such by the company promoting the challenge. Candidate companies accept, as a general rule, the use by the challenge-promoting company of the basic project data during the evaluation and selection processes described in these Terms and Conditions.

Participation in the challenge does not grant any rights over the intellectual property of the submitted applications by virtue of participation alone. Candidate companies must ensure that all work and content voluntarily submitted through the form linked to the challenge (including summaries or presentations) does not infringe third-party rights and that they hold all necessary authorizations to participate in this call.

Likewise, such content must not be offensive or derogatory, incite violence or racism, or violate fundamental rights or public freedoms recognized under applicable regulations, including child and youth protection laws. Content must also not constitute or imply intrusions into the personal or family privacy of individuals, violate the right to honour or the confidentiality of communications, or contravene any applicable regulation. Furthermore, submitted projects must guarantee non-sexist use of language and imagery.

Finally, each participating startup/technology company authorizes the challenge-promoting company to use its name and image in promotional materials related to the challenge, including those published online, without receiving any compensation in return.

12. Intellectual Property Rights

The candidate company guarantees that it holds the appropriate exploitation rights over the products, services, patents, utility models, and any other content included in its application. Participating companies shall hold the challenge-promoting company harmless from any claims relating to the infringement of third-party rights, including infringements of intellectual and industrial property rights.

The participating candidate will not be required to grant any intellectual or industrial property rights to the challenge-promoting company, except in the specific cases indicated in these Terms and Conditions. Should the candidate company and the challenge-promoting company agree to undertake collaborative work to jointly design or co-create solutions, both parties shall establish, in a separate private agreement, the terms governing the intellectual and industrial property rights and the commercialization of the resulting solution.

13. Applicant Declaration

By submitting their application, candidate companies declare and warrant to the challenge-promoting company that:

- The applications submitted are original works created by their authors and/or that they freely possess all rights to any ideas, images, or other elements included in their submission.
- They have obtained the consent of all third parties whose personal data may have been included in their application.
- The information provided does not contain confidential information belonging to themselves or third parties, nor industrial secrets, or, where applicable, that they have the necessary authorizations and licenses permitting its disclosure within the framework of this call.
- They possess full legal capacity and authority to participate in the call, and such participation does not infringe any regulation of any kind.
- They will assume any taxes arising from participation in this call, as well as from the potential receipt of any of the financial contributions provided for in the challenge.
- The challenge-promoting company shall not be held responsible for any damages, losses, costs, and/or claims that candidates may suffer or incur as a result of submitting their applications.

14. Contact and Inquiry Resolution

For any questions or clarifications, you may contact the BAT B Accelerator Tower management team at the following email address: info@bacceleratortower.com

Official Website: [[BAT B Accelerator Tower website](#)].