

Prize Pool £1000

# open chair

IDEAS COMPETITION

DEADLINE: 6th November 2026

 CREATHLON

In Partnership With  aibuild



# Brief



Throughout history, the **chair** has been more than an object of **utility** — it has stood as a **symbol** of design itself. From ancient carved **thrones** and **ritual** seats of power to the radical **modernist** experiments of the twentieth century and the mass-produced domestic icons of today, the chair has consistently served as a **proving ground** for **innovative ideas**. It is where **ergonomics**, **materials**, **culture**, and **craft** converge. To **design a chair** is to confront the **essence** of **design**: how we **sit**, how we **rest**, how we **inhabit space**.

Today, the conditions of **design** and **making** are changing once again. With **digital fabrication** and **desktop 3D printing**, the **act of making** has left the exclusive environment of the factory floor and entered the **home**, the **studio**, the **classroom**, and the **workshop**. Tools that were once reserved for industry are now accessible to anyone with a modest **printer** and a spool of filament. This shift is not just a **technical development** — it represents a profound **cultural opening**. It hints at a future where design is **distributed** rather than centralised, where making happens **locally** but ideas circulate **globally**, and where the objects of daily life are not bought but **built**.

**Open Chair** embraces this possibility. This competition asks you to **design a chair** that is not manufactured through traditional means, but **fabricated at home**. A chair **composed of parts** that can be printed on an ordinary **desktop 3D printer**, and then **assembled** with the simplest of tools. A chair that does not belong to a corporation or depend on a factory line, but is instead shared as an **open design** — free to **circulate**, free to be **reproduced**, free to be **reimagined**.

This is not only a **challenge of aesthetics**. It is a test of **systems thinking**: of how a design is **broken down** into **printable parts**, of how those parts **align and connect**, of how the overall structure holds together as a **stable, usable** object. It asks you to consider the **logic of fabrication** as carefully as the **formal expression**. The goal is not a digital sculpture, but a **real chair**, one that can be **downloaded**, **printed**, **assembled**, and used by **anyone**.

The chair you design might be **minimal** or **sculptural**, **playful** or **serious**, **ergonomic** or **raw**. It might take inspiration from **timeless archetypes** or imagine entirely **new geometries**. What matters is not style, but **clarity of intention**: that the design can be **built**, that it **functions as a seat**, and that it embodies the principles of **openness** and **accessibility**.

The best submissions will not only solve the **technical problem** of printability — they will **expand** the **cultural meaning** of what it means to **design together**. They will be **generous designs**: objects that **refuse exclusivity**, that invite **participation**, that demonstrate how **creativity** can **circulate** without being **owned**. They will **challenge** the assumption that design belongs to the few, showing instead how it can belong to the **many**.

This is an **opportunity** to **rethink** what a chair can be in the age of **distributed making**. It is also an **opportunity** to **rethink** what design itself can be: less a **finished product**, more a **shared process**; less a **commodity**, more a **contribution**.

**Design a chair. Print it. Build it. Share it.**





# Submission



For your entry, we are asking for a set of files that **clearly communicate** your design and allow others to **reproduce** it. We want **straightforward, well-presented** materials that demonstrate both the **idea** and the **making logic** behind your chair.

## Required Files:

### 1. 3D PRINT FILES (2 ITEMS, .STL) - USE THE TEMPLATE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE!

- **One file** showing the **fully assembled** chair.
- **One file** containing **all individual printable parts**, each **sized** to fit within a standard home FDM printer bed (max ~ W220 × L220 mm x H250mm ).
- Parts must be **numbered** and **organised**, coordinated with the assembly **instructions** shown on the A2 Board.

### 2. A2 BOARD (LANDSCAPE, JPG) - USE THE TEMPLATE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE!

A single presentation board including:

- Clear visualisations of the chair (renders, diagrams, exploded views, or sketches).
- A clear **assembly guide** showing how the parts connect, similar to furniture assembly guides.
- Project title only (no personal names or logos).
- Where relevant, information regarding **material selection**, **print settings**, **fabrication strategy**, **structural considerations**, or **computational optimisation** methods used to develop the design.

### 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (PDF, MAX 500 WORDS)

A written explanation covering:

- The design idea and intent
- How the parts are printed and assembled
- How the chair achieves stability and usability
- How it embodies the open design spirit

### 4. A2 POSTER (PORTRAIT, JPG)

- A **single** striking image with the project title
- **No** text, diagrams, or annotations

## File Rules

- All submission files combined **must not** exceed 10MB total.
- Use your **TEAMID** (unique registration code) in all filenames.
- **Do not** include names, logos, or any identifying marks in your materials, *as you risk disqualification*.

Follow the following naming for your files:

- **TEAMID\_Chair.stl**
- **TEAMID\_Assembly.stl**
- **TEAMID\_Board.jpg**
- **TEAMID\_Poster.jpg**
- **TEAMID\_Description.pdf**

Upload starts **27<sup>th</sup> July** via the **Submission Button** on the competition page at [creathlon.co.uk](https://creathlon.co.uk).



# Prizes & Entry Fees



## **1st Prize - £600**

Money Prize + Certificate

## **2nd Prize - £300**

Money Prize + Certificate

## **3rd Prize - £100**

Money Prize + Certificate

## **Honorable Mentions**

Certificate

A select number of outstanding entries may receive **Honourable Mentions**. While these **do not include** a cash prize, they may be **featured** in our official **competition showcase**, gaining global visibility across **Creathon's platforms and networks**.

## **Registration Fees:**

### **Early Bird – £5 Single / £10 Team**

(13 July – 7 August 2026)

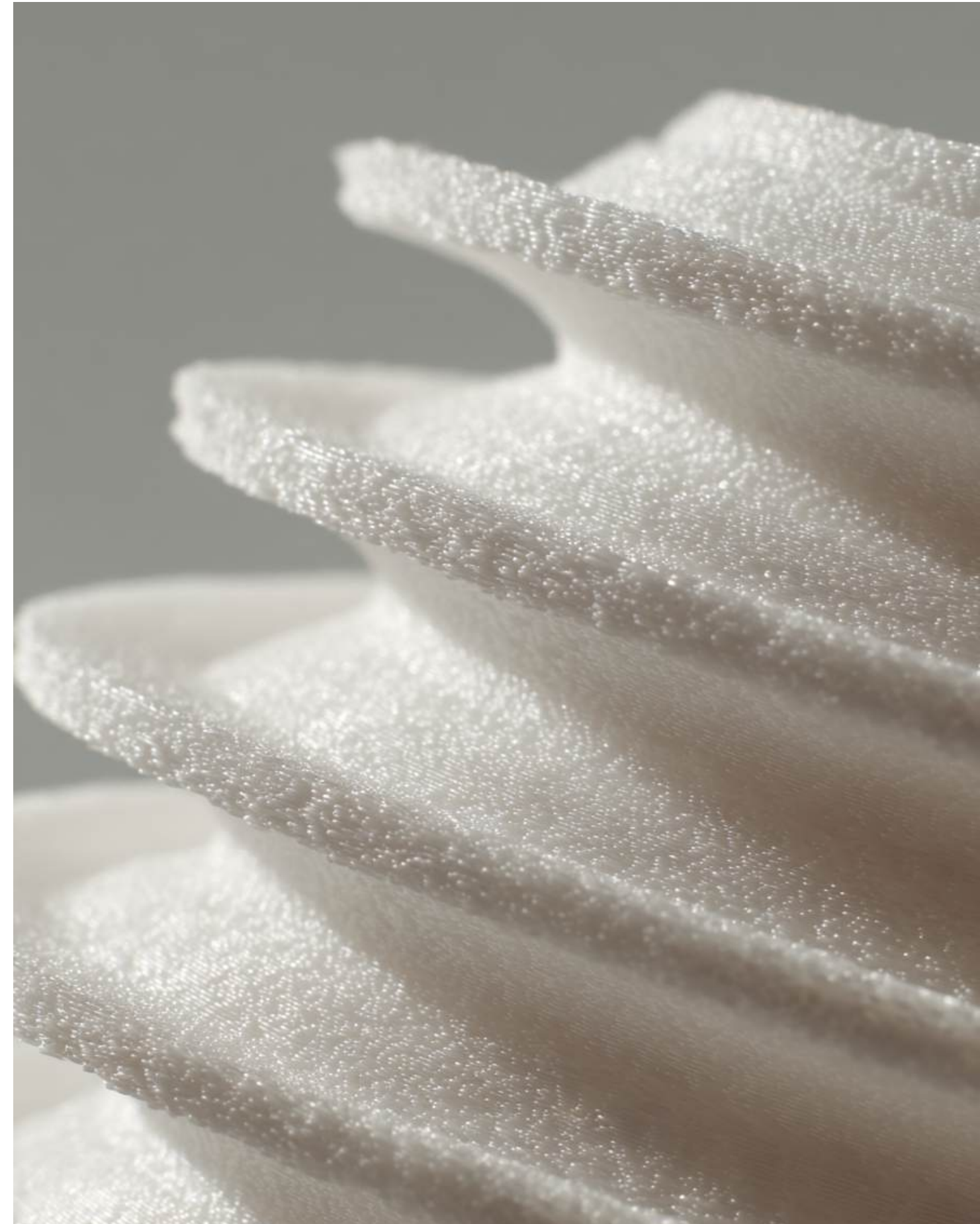
### **Regular – £15 Single / £25 Team**

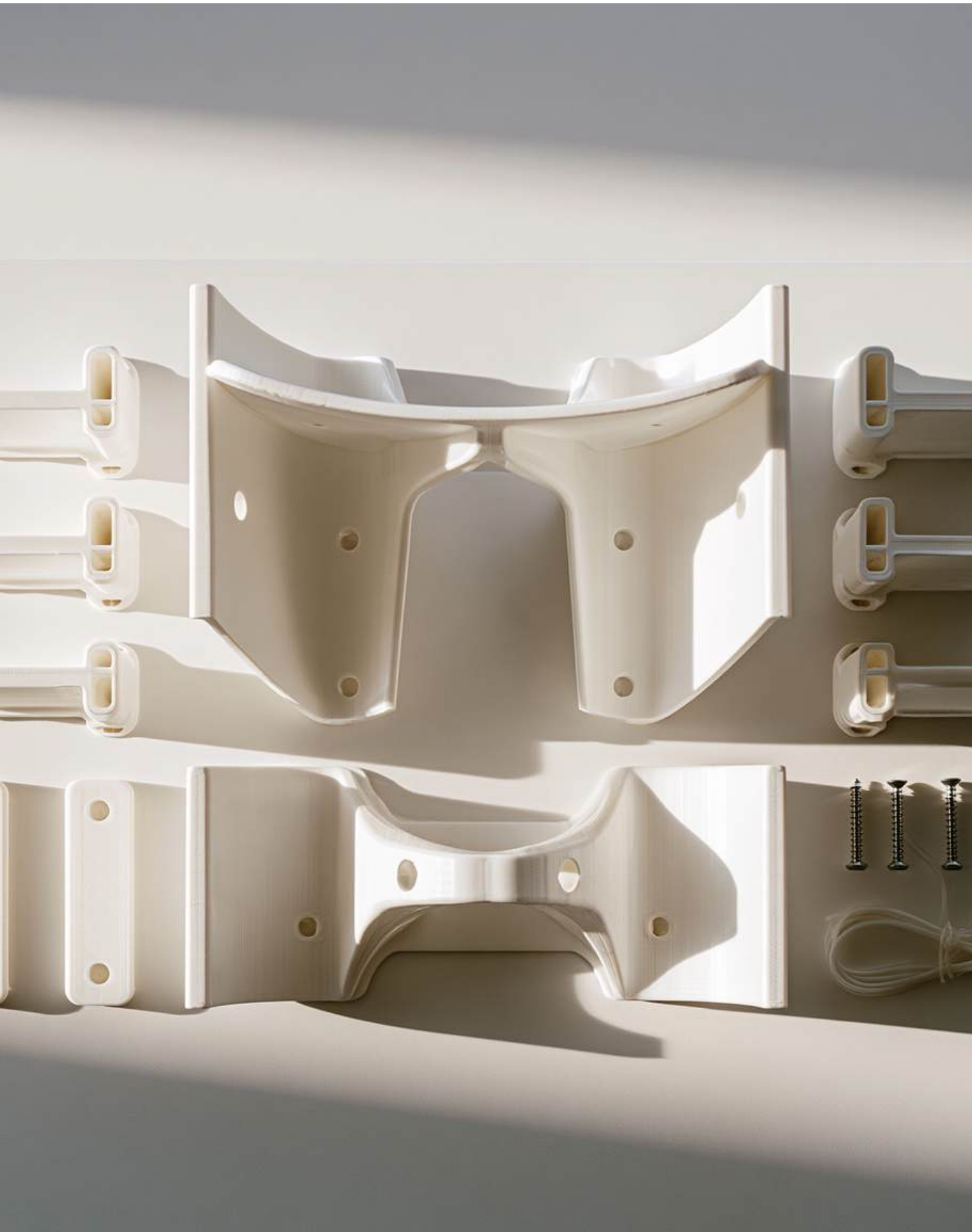
(8 August – 4 October 2026)

### **Late – £25 Single / £35 Team**

(5 October – 30 October 2026)

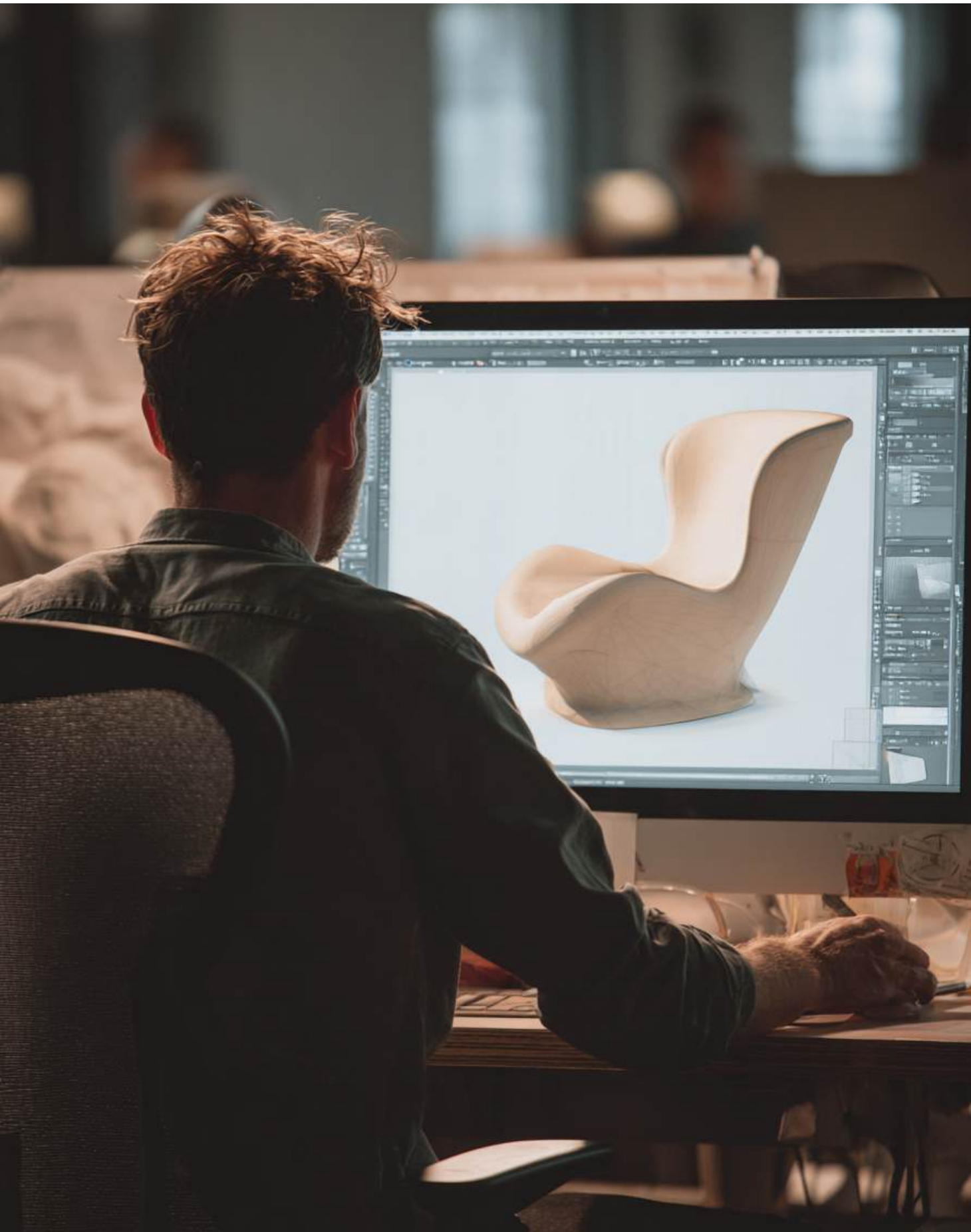
Each submission requires its own registration and **TEAMID**. Multiple entries are welcome.





# Timeline





# Evaluation Criteria



Submissions for **Open Chair** will be evaluated on the quality of the design proposal and the intelligence of its fabrication strategy. Equal importance will be given to product design thinking, as well as to the practicality, logic, and reproducibility of the proposed system. All entries will be assessed equally, regardless of style or aesthetic approach.

## Printability & Fabrication Strategy

- Does the design respond realistically to the constraints of home 3D printing?
- Are fabrication parameters, part dimensions, print orientation, and material considerations thoughtfully addressed?
- Does the proposal demonstrate an intelligent and well-resolved strategy for fabrication and production?

## Assembly & Construction Logic

- Is the chair broken down into components in a logical and efficient manner?
- Does the design demonstrate a clear, elegant, or innovative assembly strategy?
- Are joints, connections, tolerances, and construction methods thoughtfully considered?
- Is the assembly process communicated effectively through the submission materials?

## Functionality & Structural Intent

- Does the chair demonstrate a believable structural strategy?
- Can the assembled object realistically stand independently and maintain its intended form?
- Does the proposal successfully balance practical constraints with design ambition?

## Design Quality & Expression

- Is there a strong and well-resolved design concept?
- Does the chair demonstrate thoughtful consideration of form, proportion, materiality, and user experience?
- Does the proposal present a compelling object that people would genuinely want to build and use?

## Accessibility & Reproducibility

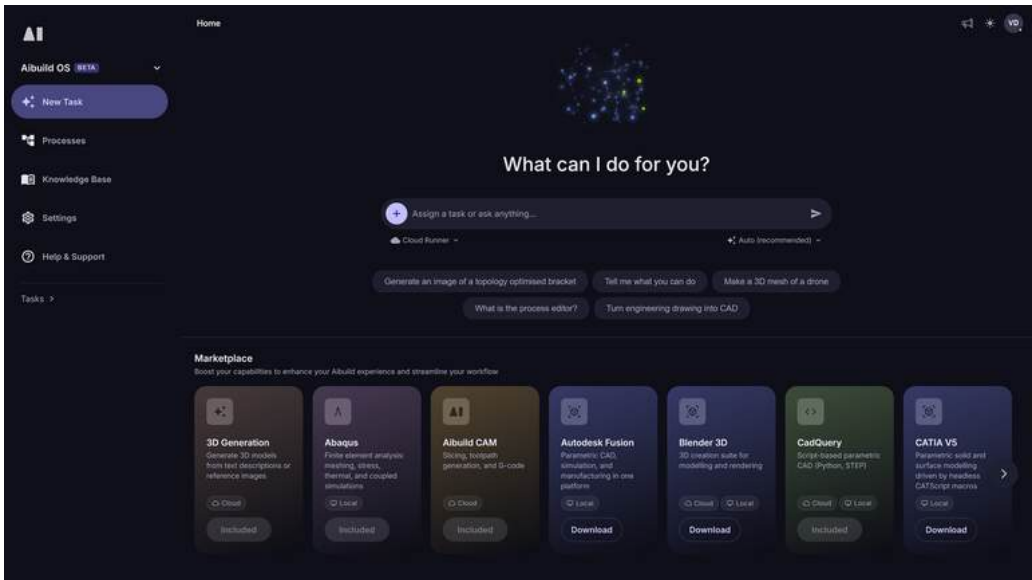
- Can the design be reasonably reproduced using widely accessible tools and fabrication methods?
- Does the proposal embrace the principles of open and shareable design?
- Could someone reasonably download, understand, fabricate, and assemble the chair as intended?



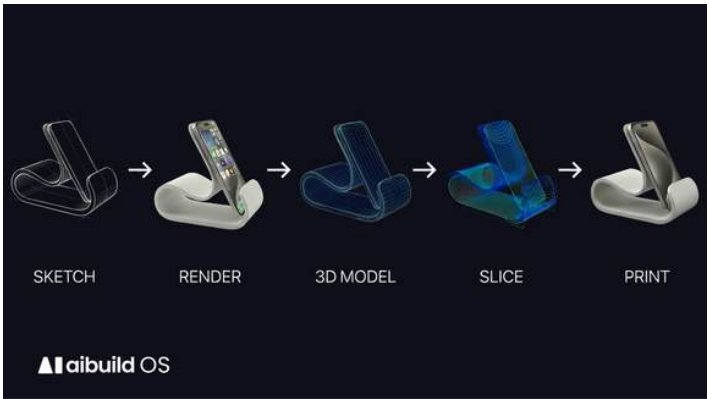


Our Competition Partner **Aibuild** has made available the following resources to test as part of the competition. Check them out at the links below! *(Click the titles)*

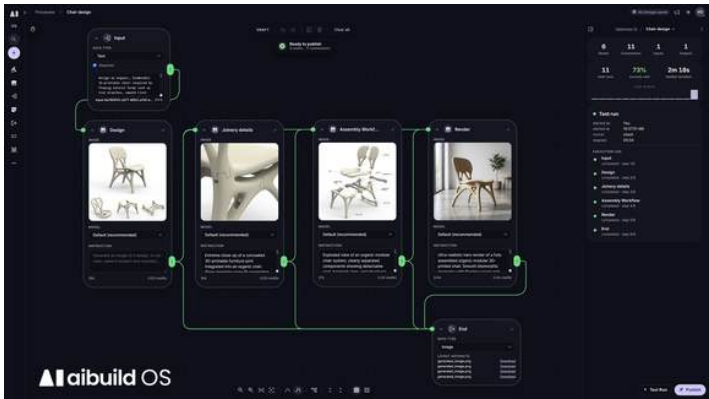
Aibuild OS With Free Credits



Sketch To 3D Print Using Aibuild OS Tasks



Sketch To 3D Using Aibuild OS Processes



*Disclaimer: These tools are **not a requirement** for submissions. You are free to use whatever tool you need to complete the submission for the competition.*



# Terms & Conditions Summary



## 1. Eligibility:

- Participants must be 18 years of age or older at the time of registration.
- Entries may be submitted individually or as part of a team. Teams must nominate a Team Leader responsible for communication, submission, validation, and prize administration.
- Entries must be submitted by eligible individual participant(s). Companies, organisations, institutions, and other legal entities cannot enter the competition directly.
- Employees, jury members, sponsors, partners, affiliates of the Organiser (Creathlon), and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate.
- As the Organiser is a company registered in the United Kingdom, individuals residing in or operating from countries or territories subject to UK Government sanctions or trade restrictions are not eligible to participate.
- The Organiser reserves the right to verify participant eligibility at any stage of the competition.

## 2. Registration:

- Participants must register through the official competition platform before the published registration deadline.
- Registration is confirmed only once the applicable registration fee has been successfully received.
- Each competition entry requires a separate registration and will be assigned a unique TEAMID. Multiple entries are permitted, provided each entry is registered independently.

## 3. Registration Fees & Payments:

- Registration fees are payable at the time of registration and are generally non-refundable, except where required by applicable law or where the competition is cancelled by the Organiser.
- The Organiser reserves the right to modify registration fees, promotional offers, or registration periods where reasonably necessary. Any such changes will be communicated through the official competition platform.

## 4. Submissions:

- All submissions must be the original work of the participant(s).
- AI-assisted tools may be used during the design process; however, participants remain fully responsible for the originality, legality, and authorship of all submitted content.
- Submissions must comply with the Competition Brief, technical requirements, file formats, naming conventions, anonymity requirements, and submission deadlines.
- Late, incomplete, corrupted, or technically non-compliant submissions may be rejected.
- Participants must own or have the legal right to distribute all submitted content. Selected entries may be published in accordance with the licensing provisions described in the Full Terms & Conditions.

## 5. Validation, Evaluation & Results:

- The Organiser reserves the right to carry out preliminary technical and administrative validation of all submissions before they are presented to the jury.
- The Organiser reserves the right to request additional information, clarification, supporting documentation, or other validation measures where reasonably necessary to assess eligibility, compliance, or authenticity.
- The jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
- The Organiser may contact shortlisted participants or winners to request additional information or validation before confirming the final results.

## 6. Intellectual Property & Usage Rights:

- Participants retain full intellectual property and authorship of their submissions.
- By entering the competition, participants grant the Organiser a non-exclusive licence to publish, reproduce, exhibit, archive, and promote submitted work for competition-related, educational, and promotional purposes, with appropriate author attribution wherever reasonably possible.
- As Open Chair is a competition centred on openly shared design, selected entries may be published under a Creative Commons Attribution–NonCommercial–ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA) licence (or equivalent), allowing the public to download, fabricate, adapt, and redistribute the work for non-commercial purposes in accordance with the applicable licence terms.
- The Organiser is not responsible for monitoring or enforcing third-party compliance with the applicable licence once submissions have been publicly released.
- For complete details regarding intellectual property, licensing, and publication rights, please refer to the Full Terms & Conditions.

## 7. Prizes:

- Prizes will be awarded as described in the Competition Brief and the Full Terms & Conditions.
- For team entries, prizes will be awarded to the designated Team Leader, who is responsible for distributing them amongst team members.
- Prize recipients are responsible for any applicable taxes, transfer fees, currency conversion costs, or bank charges.
- The Organiser reserves the right to withhold or reallocate prizes where submissions do not meet an appropriate standard or where winner validation requirements are not fulfilled.

## 8. Participant Conduct:

- Participants are expected to act professionally and respectfully throughout the competition.
- Fraudulent submissions, plagiarism, attempts to influence the jury, infringement of third-party rights, or other conduct that compromises the integrity of the competition may result in immediate disqualification.

## 9. Amendments & Cancellation:

- The Organiser reserves the right to modify, clarify, extend, suspend, or cancel the competition where reasonably necessary.
- Any significant changes will be communicated through the official competition platform.

## 10. Data Protection:

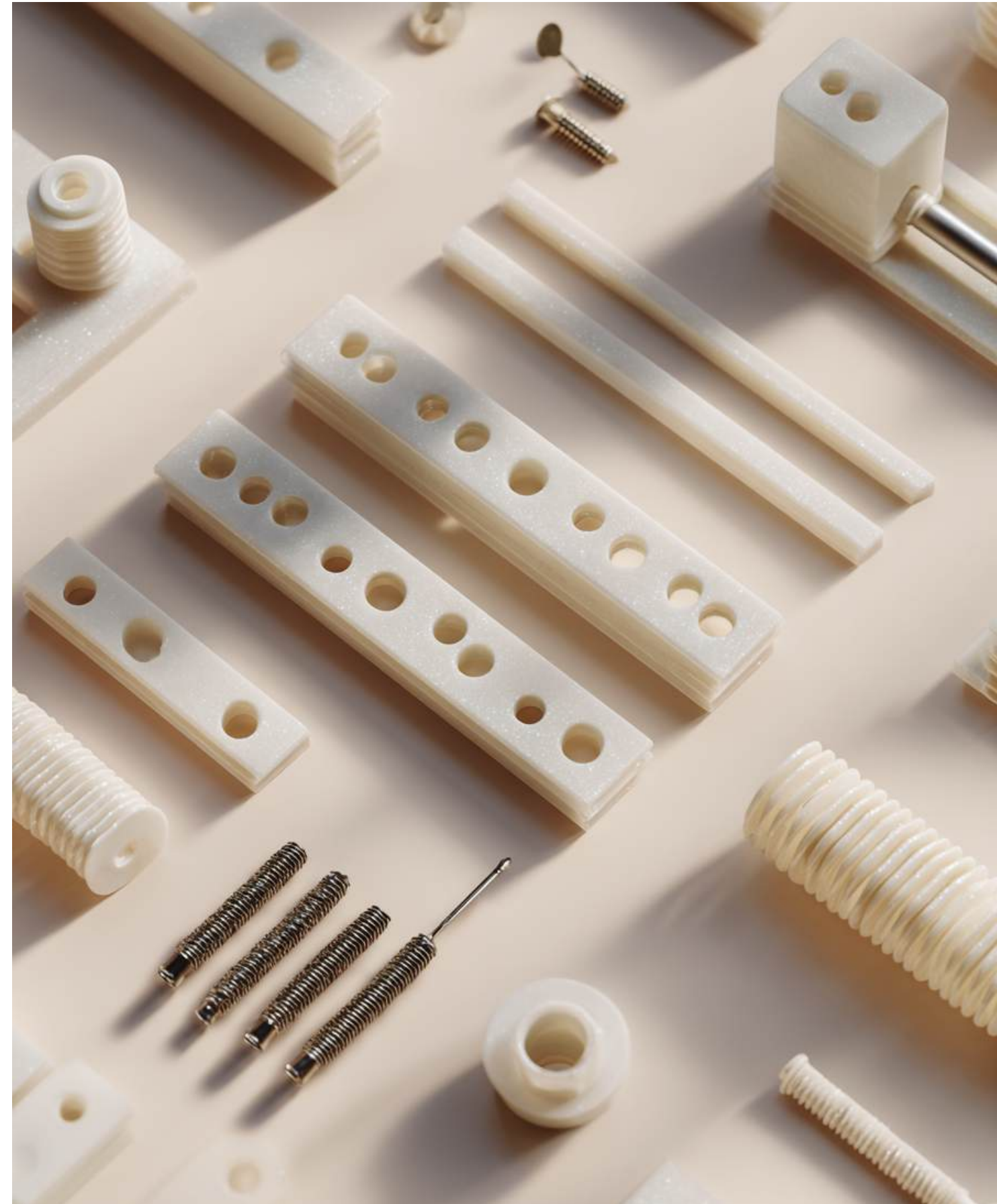
- Personal information will be collected and processed solely for the administration of the competition, including communication, validation, publication, prize administration, and author crediting.
- All personal data will be processed in accordance with the UK GDPR and [Creathlon's Privacy Policy](#).

## 11. Communications:

- Official announcements, competition updates, and notifications will be published through the official competition platform and/or sent to the registered email address provided during registration.
- Participants are responsible for ensuring their contact details remain accurate throughout the competition.

## 12. General:

- This document provides a summary of the Competition Terms & Conditions.
- For complete information regarding eligibility, registration, fees, submissions, intellectual property, licensing, prizes, legal responsibilities, and all other applicable provisions, please refer to the Full Terms & Conditions available at [creathlon.co.uk](#).
- In the event of any inconsistency between this summary and the Full Terms & Conditions, the Full Terms & Conditions shall prevail.



**For full competition Terms & Conditions as well as Definitions of Terms please check [creathlon.co.uk](#)**

