DMEA München
13–15 April 2027
Connecting Digital Health

DMEA sparks Award 2027 Conditions of participation of bvitg Service GmbH

(As of: October 2026)

bvitg

MESSE MÜNCHEN

DMEA sparks Award 2027
Conditions of participation of bvitg Service GmbH

The DMEA sparks Award is presented to graduates for practice-oriented bachelor's and master's theses that address the digitization of the healthcare sector. This includes, for example, degree programs such as medical informatics, e-health, health management, health economics and healthcare management.

The DMEA sparks Award is sponsored and presented by the German Association of Healthcare IT Vendors (bvitg e. V.) and its subsidiary bvitg Service GmbH. The competition is organized by bvitg Service GmbH, Markgrafenstraße 56, 10117 Berlin (hereinafter referred to as "BSG").

Graduates who wish to apply for the DMEA sparks Award must register with BSG on the DMEA application portal (hereinafter referred to as the "Portal") and submit their application. By registering on the Portal, applicants agree to these Terms and Conditions.

1. Objective

The DMEA sparks Award recognizes outstanding, practice-oriented theses. We are looking for scientifically sound theses that offer innovative solutions for health IT. The best theses will be presented publicly and honored as part of the competition.

2. Timeline and Evaluation Process

2.1 Submission Deadline

Projects may be submitted via the portal from November 11, 2026, through January 17, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. (CET).

2.2 Evaluation Phase

In a subsequent 4-week evaluation process, the expert jury will select the ten best projects from all submissions (five bachelor's theses and five master's theses). All participants will subsequently be notified of the results in writing.

The ten finalists will then be asked to submit a five-minute video (a brief presentation of their work) within 10 days. The video will be factored into the jury's final decision and will also be eligible for the "Audience Award." All winners will be announced at the DMEA during the awards ceremony.

2.3. Awards Ceremony

The DMEA sparks Award ceremony will take place on April 14, 2027, as part of DMEA – Connecting Digital Health (April 13–15, 2027) in Munich.

All finalists are strongly encouraged to attend the awards ceremony in Munich. All ten finalists, along with one guest each, will receive free admission to DMEA 2027 (complimentary tickets).

The schedule is as follows:

The Live Pitch: The finalists will first present their work in a short presentation (pitch) live in front of the audience.

The Awards Ceremony: Immediately following the pitches, the official awards ceremony will take place to present the prizes for first through third place in the Bachelor's and Master's categories, as well as the Audience Award.

3. Participation requirements and registration on the portal

3.1. Students and graduates whose thesis was submitted after January 31, 2026, to a university in Germany or abroad and which addressed a topic relevant to the digital health industry are eligible to apply. Employees of bvitg e. V. and BSG are excluded.

3.2. If multiple people have co-authored a thesis, a joint application is permitted. In this case, any prize money will be divided equally among all contributors (co-authors). A prerequisite for participation is that all authors and co-authors are named in the submission.

3.3. It is not permitted to resubmit a thesis that has previously been submitted for the DMEA Young Talent Award or the DMEA sparks Award.

3.4. The thesis must have already been officially submitted to the respective university at the time of application. A grade does not need to have been assigned at that time.

3.5. Participation in the competition is free of charge and voluntary.

3.6. The required fields marked with an asterisk on the portal are necessary for making a decision regarding the application and for properly conducting the competition and the DMEA.

3.7. All applications are stored in the portal, even if they are rejected. BSG uses this data to plan future DMEA events—for example, to invite former applicants to give presentations or to check whether an application for the DMEA sparks Award or the DMEA Young Talent Award has been submitted in the past.

If you do not consent to this storage, you may request the deletion of your application or your entire portal user account at any time by sending an email to dmea@bvitg.de.

Please note: The deletion does not affect the usage rights for award-winning works that have already been irrevocably transferred (see Section 12 of these Terms and Conditions).

4. Content Requirements for Submissions

4.1. Theses submitted for the DMEA sparks Award should address an aspect of digitalization in healthcare. Examples include: logistics in hospitals, apps designed to improve patient care, or the optimization of diagnosis using digital tools. The academic program in which the thesis was written is of secondary importance.

4.2. The topic of the thesis must be summarized in an abstract (on the portal). The abstract should address the following aspects:

- The research question underlying the thesis, its objectives, and its practical relevance.
- The methods or methodology and materials used to achieve the thesis's results.
- What results were achieved, and what opportunities and risks arise from them.
- Are the results already being applied in practice, or what further steps would be necessary to implement the results in practice?
- Provide an assessment of what distinguishes your thesis, your approach, or the results achieved—or what makes them surprising.

5. Formal Requirements for Submissions

5.1. The abstract (see Section 4.2) and the complete thesis (as a PDF document) must be submitted via the portal. In addition, the following complete information is required for the application:

- Names and contact information of all authors
- Portrait photos of all authors
- Title of the thesis
- Information about the university

If the entry is marked as “restricted,” a letter of consent from the company or institution must be sent to BSG (dmea@bvitg.de) by the application deadline, authorizing BSG, bvitg e. V., and their partners to use the information for the purpose of conducting the competition.

5.2. All submissions must be sent to BSG exclusively through the portal—submissions via email are not accepted. After uploading, the application can still be edited until the application deadline. Applications received after the application deadline cannot be considered for this year’s competition.

6. Selection of the Winners

6.1. Based on the abstracts and theses, a panel of experts (see Section 7) will select five finalists for each of the two categories, Bachelor’s Theses and Master’s Theses. The theses will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Practical relevance / benefits for users
- Methodology
- Structure, organization, and presentation of the work
- Originality / Innovation

6.2. After the announcement, the finalists must create a video presentation of their work (maximum 5 minutes). These videos should convey the results of the work in a clear and entertaining manner. They serve as an additional basis for evaluation by the expert jury.

6.3. Content that violates applicable laws, official regulations, or public decency is prohibited. This includes, in particular, depictions that are harmful to minors, pornographic, racist, glorify violence, incite hatred, or are offensive.

Entries that miss the mark or could damage the image of BSG, bvitg e. V., or the DMEA may also be excluded. In such cases, BSG reserves the right to exclude the entry from the current competition. Those involved will be notified separately of any exclusion.

7. Expert Jury

7.1. Submitted entries will be evaluated by a jury. This jury consists of representatives from the Federal Association for Health IT (bvitg e. V.) as well as representatives from DMEA's partner organizations. The partner organizations include BVMI e. V., KH-IT e. V., GMDS e. V., Hashtag Gesundheit e. V., and the bvitg generation_next network.

7.2. The independent and final decisions of the expert jury are not subject to appeal. Legal recourse is excluded.

8. Award Prizes

8.1. Applicants will not receive any compensation for participating in the competition. All applicants will be provided with a 3-day ticket to attend the current DMEA. Finalists may also apply to Messe München for reimbursement of travel expenses, provided that their employer or university does not cover those expenses (see Section 9).

8.2. The winners will be selected from among the 10 finalists and will receive the following prize money:

Bachelor's theses: 1st prize: €1,500 – 2nd prize: €1,000 – 3rd prize: €500

Master's theses: 1st Prize: €2,000 – 2nd Prize: €1,000 – 3rd Prize: €500

Audience Award: €500

8.3. There are no restrictions on how the money may be used. The prize money will be transferred to the winners within 8 weeks after the event. To this end, the winners will be contacted by BSG and asked to provide their bank account information.

9. Travel Expenses for Finalists

9.1. Messe München GmbH will reimburse the finalists of the DMEA sparks Awards for travel and lodging expenses incurred in connection with their participation in the awards ceremony, up to a maximum of €150.00.

9.2. Travel expenses will be reimbursed to finalists only if their employer or university does not cover them. The following expenses will be covered for the individuals mentioned above:

- one night's lodging, including breakfast (excluding extras and personal expenses such as parking fees, minibar, telephone charges, etc.)
- travel expenses (train fare and flight in 2nd class/economy, or a flat-rate travel allowance of €0.30 per km)

Requirements:

- The finalist's employer or university will not cover the costs
  (please include a statement confirming coverage of travel expenses)
- The total cost per person will not exceed €150.00

Travelers are responsible for the accuracy of the information they provide and for ensuring that their documents are complete. All parties involved are required to limit travel expenses to what is strictly necessary. If it was necessary to deviate from the principles of economical and cost-effective use, a sufficient justification must be provided.

9.3. To receive a refund, a formal invoice including all supporting documents must be submitted following the DMEA. The invoice may be sent to Messe München GmbH either by mail or by email:

- By email: fakturierung@messe-muenchen.de
- By mail: Messe München GmbH, Am Messesee 2, 81829 München

The invoice must include the following information and documents:

- Subject: DMEA 2027 Travel Expense Report
- Event and Date of Participation
- Invoice Purpose: DMEA sparks Award 2027 Finalist
- Order Number: 4500239170
- Sender's full bank account information
- A written statement confirming that the travel expenses will not be covered by either the sender's employer or the university.

9.4. Note: The invoice must indicate whether the applicant is subject to value-added tax (VAT) or not. If the applicant is subject to VAT, a VAT number must also be provided.

9.5. Travel expenses must be invoiced to Messe München GmbH after the event has ended, but no later than 4 weeks after the DMEA, along with the necessary supporting documents.

9.6. Messe München GmbH will review the invoice within 30 days of receipt. Applicants will then receive the stated amount promptly via bank transfer to the specified account.

10. Publication of competition results, names, titles, abstracts, and excerpts from the thesis, as well as videos and photos

10.1. The DMEA sparks Award and its results will be covered in the media outlets of the DMEA, bvitg e. V., and BSG, as well as on the official DMEA website and that of Messe München. In addition, information about the award may be shared in other media outlets as part of the DMEA's press and public relations activities.

10.2. BSG, bvitg e. V., and Messe München GmbH are authorized to use the full names, titles, and abstracts of the final theses and/or excerpts from these theses, as well as photos of the finalists, in event-related print and digital materials (e.g., program websites, highlight flyers, social media posts).

10.3. BSG, bvitg e. V., and Messe München GmbH are authorized to publish the videos created by the finalists (see Section 6.2) on the DMEA YouTube channel, the DMEA website, and an online portal operated by Messe München GmbH.

11. Images and Sound Recordings

BSG, bvitg e. V., and Messe München GmbH will record events and the awards ceremony in whole or in part on film, in images, and in audio for the purpose of documenting the DMEA program, archive these recordings, and use them in the following ways:

- Broadcast as a livestream and make them publicly available for download on an online platform operated by Messe München GmbH as well as on the DMEA website.
- Use for public communications by Messe München GmbH, BSG, or bvitg e. V. in connection with the DMEA (e.g., website, social media, print media).
- For editorial coverage as part of their public relations efforts in their own and third-party print and digital media.
- Distribution to members of the press for the purpose of reporting on the DMEA

12. Rights of Use

12.1. Applicants grant BSG all rights necessary to fulfill this agreement. This includes, in particular, the right to use, as described in Section 10, the full names, titles, and abstracts of the final theses and/or excerpts from these theses, as well as photos and videos created by the finalists themselves, and the right to use the image and audio recordings as described in Section 11.

12.2. The grant of rights is irrevocable, unlimited in time and place, and transferable, and includes, in particular, the right to reproduce, distribute, and make the material publicly available.

12.3. BSG will respect the applicants' personal rights when using the material.

13. Early Termination of the Competition

If there is good cause, BSG reserves the right to suspend or terminate the competition without prior notice. A valid reason exists, for example, if the proper conduct of the contest can no longer be guaranteed for technical or legal reasons. Contestants have no claims against BSG in the event of a suspension or early termination of the competition.

14. Legal Consequences of Violating the Terms and Conditions of Participation

Individuals or their entries may also be excluded from participation, particularly in the event of a violation of the Terms and Conditions of Participation or an attempt at manipulation. In such cases, BSG reserves the right to take legal action, particularly if third parties file claims against BSG for legal violations. Prize money may also be revoked and reclaimed retroactively in the event of a violation of the Terms and Conditions. Applicants have no claims against BSG in the event of exclusion.

15. Liability

15.1. Entrants are responsible for ensuring that their submissions do not infringe on the rights of third parties (e.g. copyrights).

15.2. Should a submission infringe upon the rights of third parties, the respective entrants shall indemnify BSG, bvitg e. V., and Messe München GmbH against all claims by third parties arising from an infringement of copyrights or other third-party rights for which the respective entrants are responsible.

15.3. BSG bears unlimited liability for intentional or grossly negligent conduct, as well as in all cases of culpable injury to life, limb, or health; in cases of fraud; upon the assumption of a guarantee; or in the event of claims under the Product Liability Act.

15.4. In cases of simple negligence, BSG shall be liable only for breaches of fundamental obligations. A fundamental obligation is an obligation whose fulfillment is essential to the proper performance of the contract and on whose compliance the other party may rely. In the event of a negligent breach of a fundamental obligation, BSG's liability shall be limited to compensation for foreseeable and typical damages.

16. Miscellaneous

Should any provision of these Terms and Conditions be invalid, the validity of the remaining provisions shall remain unaffected. The invalid provision shall be replaced by an appropriate provision that most closely reflects the intent of the invalid provision.

17. Data Protection Information (Art. 13 GDPR)

Please review the DMEA's general privacy policy.

18. Jurisdiction and Venue, Applicable Law

18.1. Berlin is agreed upon as the place of jurisdiction and venue, to the extent legally permissible.

18.2. German law applies, excluding conflict of laws and the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods.

19. Final Provisions

19.1. Should individual clauses of these general terms and conditions be wholly or partially ineffective, or should the contract contain a gap, the effectiveness of the remaining contractual clauses or parts of these clauses shall remain unaffected. In place of the ineffective or missing provisions, the relevant statutory provisions shall apply.

19.2. Changes to these participation conditions (including this written form clause) require written form.

(As of: October 2026)