

Company: ABB Ltd, Zurich, Switzerland
Company Description: ABB is a global technology leader in electrification and automation, focused on enabling a more sustainable and resource-efficient future. The company combines its engineering and digitalization expertise to help industries improve performance, efficiency, and sustainability. The global Accelerator program empowers employees to collaborate, innovate, and develop transformative solutions.
Nomination Category: Event Categories
Nomination Sub Category: Corporate & Community - Hackathon
Nomination Title: ABB Accelerator – nomination for the “Event Award – Hackathon”



1. If you are providing a written essay for this nomination, submit in this space an essay of up to 525 words describing the event: its genesis, goals, development, and results:

Total 522 words used.

GENESIS

The concept of the hackathon event was born in 2023, marked by two pilot editions held in Switzerland, India, and Poland. After joining ABB, Peter Alkema partnered with the original organizing team and expanded the effort into a global program. This led to the creation of the Accelerator Organizing Team – a fusion group of over ten professionals dedicated to driving innovation and business value across ABB’s global technology landscape. Peter’s previous hackathon experience played a key role in shaping the framework for ABB’s Accelerator program. To better reflect its multidisciplinary scope, the initiative was rebranded “**Accelerator**

– **hackathon-style event.**” Unlike traditional hackathons, Accelerator incorporates a broad range of disciplines beyond coding, including data & AI, digital workplace, advanced automation, and process improvement. All the skills and abilities required to craft end-to-end solutions that deliver real value for ABB businesses and ABB external customers. This initiative is open to all the employees at ABB who are supported by external partners.

GOALS

- Drive cross-functional innovation across ABB's global technology landscape
- Develop end-to-end solutions that create real value for ABB and external customers
- Maximize impact by aligning use cases with strategic goals and existing initiatives
- Foster collaboration between employees across business areas and functions with external partners
- Encourage continuous learning through targeted, accessible training
- Support ABB’s digital transformation with scalable, reusable solutions and a sustainable, innovative ecosystem

DEVELOPMENT

Under Peter Alkema’s leadership, Accelerator has grown into ABB’s largest initiative of its kind, combining technology, strategy, and collaboration at a global scale. Each event merges advanced technology, multidisciplinary teams, and strategic case alignment to ensure projects are innovative and complementary to existing efforts.

A key strength of Accelerator is its emphasis on cross-company collaboration, including all four ABB business areas and corporate functions. Participants regularly work with about 30 external partners per event to jointly drive innovation and tangible business value.

The first two editions took place in Krakow, Poland, focusing on Information Systems challenges. Subsequent editions, dedicated to ABB businesses, were held in Bangalore, India (Process Automation), San Luis Potosí, Mexico (Electrification), and Shanghai, China (Robotics & Discrete Automation).

RESULTS

Each Accelerator event has brought together participants from multiple countries and diverse areas of the company, fostering a culturally and professionally rich environment. This diversity has led to the submission of over 700 use cases (projects), centered around innovative technological solutions with the potential to drive tangible business value across ABB. Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a recurring theme, highlighting its growing impact across business areas.

Key outcomes:

- **5** global editions held across Poland, India, Mexico, and China
- **2,000+** participants from 37 countries
- **695** innovative use cases approved by experts
- **545** working solutions delivered

Ongoing learning and development through tailored training and events like the AI Boost conference, which became a flagship initiative since the second Accelerator

Key figures by event:

- March 2024 (Poland): 43 use cases, 300+ participants, 20+ partners
- June 2024 (Poland): 97 use cases, 300+ participants, 30+ partners
- September 2024 (India): 215 use cases, 600+ participants, 20+ partners
- March 2025 (Mexico): 171 use cases, 400+ participants, 30+ partners
- May 2025 (China): 169 use cases, 400+ participants, 30+ partners

2. Optionally, you may list creative and production credits for your event - a list of the people and organizations that contributed to its development:

The list of key contributors and the partner companies is included in the **ABB Accelerator - Summary Deck.pdf**.

3. Which will you submit for this nomination, a video of up to five (5) minutes in length or a written essay of up to 525 words? Choose one:

Essay of up to 525 words

4. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the nominated video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video:

Attachments/Videos/Links:

[ABB Accelerator – nomination for the “Event Award – Hackathon”](#)

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