Announcement of the Third “AI Ningbo” Artificial Intelligence Empowering Industry Competition

The Third “AI Ningbo” Artificial Intelligence Empowering Industry Competition sincerely invites global elites in the field of artificial intelligence to actively register and participate in the competition.

I. Background of the Competition

Artificial intelligence is an important driving force for the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, and will have a profound impact on global economic and social development and the advancement of human civilization. At present, artificial intelligence is developing rapidly and changing with each passing day. In order to further promote the application of artificial intelligence technology in actual production and life scenarios in agriculture, industry, services and other fields, accelerate the gathering of outstanding talents in the field of artificial intelligence from both China and abroad, and empower industries to upgrade and improve their development, the Third “AI Ningbo” Artificial Intelligence Empowering Industry Competition is hosted by the China Computer Federation, strongly supported by the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange, and jointly organized by the Talent Office of the Ningbo Municipal Party Committee, Ningbo Municipal Development and Reform Commission, Ningbo Municipal Bureau of Economy and Information Technology, Ningbo Talent Development Group Co., Ltd., various districts (counties and cities) and development zones under the jurisdiction of Ningbo, as well as relevant universities and research institutes.

The competition will simultaneously open registration channels both domestically and internationally, targeting global elites in the field of artificial intelligence, to solicit and select a number of new artificial intelligence technologies, products and projects with core competitiveness. A series of support measures, including project funding, entrepreneurship incubation and fund investment, will be provided to create an innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem for artificial intelligence with Ningbo characteristics.

II. Competition Tracks

The competition features “Artificial Intelligence + Manufacturing” and is divided into tracks including embodied intelligent robots, intelligent connected vehicles, intelligent

consumer products, artificial intelligence chips, intelligent sensing, and intelligent software. For detailed descriptions of the tracks, please refer to the Appendix.

III. Categories and Registration Requirements

The competition consists of three categories: the Growth Group, Startup Group, and OPC Group： The Growth Group is for entrepreneurial projects involving enterprises already established in China and registered for more than 2 years; the Startup Group is for entrepreneurial projects involving enterprises that have not yet been established in China or enterprises registered for no more than 2 years; the OPC Group is for entrepreneurial projects involving a limited liability company that has not yet been established in China or has been registered for no more than 2 years and is funded and established by one shareholder, or a limited liability company established with several shareholders but centered around one natural-person shareholder. Each applicant may register for only one group, and generally shall meet the following conditions:

1. Have a good social reputation and no record of misconduct;
2. Be no more than 60 years old;
3. Hold a master's degree or above (except for the OPC Group);
4. Have relevant work experience related to the project (except for the OPC Group);
5. Have come to Ningbo to start a business (work) within the past two years (after January 1, 2024), or have not yet come to Ningbo to start a business (work);
6. The applicant must be the legal representative and actual controller of the enterprise, and an enterprise registered in Ningbo must not be a subsidiary or branch of an enterprise located elsewhere;
7. Have not previously been selected, in an individual capacity or as a team leader or team member, for the "3315 Series Program" or the Yongjiang Talent Project (including both introduction and cultivation categories);
8. The intellectual property involved in the project being submitted shall belong to the applicant or the company established by the applicant, shall have no unresolved disputes, and shall not violate relevant national laws and regulations.

For particularly outstanding and urgently needed projects, exceptions may be made to the applicant's age and educational qualifications as appropriate.

IV. Competition Schedule

Overall competition period: July 2026 to January 2027.

1. Project Solicitation: From now until September 15, 2026. Project solicitation will be conducted in the form of competition divisions according to the intended location for project settlement.

2. City Competitions: September to October 2026. City competitions will be held in major cities across China to determine some of the projects participating in the municipal grand final.
3. Division Finals: October to November 2026. Each competition division will select projects to participate in the municipal grand final.
4. Municipal Grand Final and Award Ceremony: January 2027. The Competition Organizing Committee will organize the municipal grand final, determine the final list of winners, and hold the award ceremony.

V. Competition Awards

A total of 85 awards will be established in the grand final, including the Special Prize, First Prize, Second Prize, Third Prize, Excellence Award, OPC Navigator Award, OPC Innovation Award, and OPC Rising Star Award. The specific number may be appropriately adjusted according to the evaluation results, and relevant awards may remain vacant or additional awards may be added. Winners may be directly selected for the Yongjiang Talent Project and enjoy the same services and support as those selected for the Yongjiang Talent Project. At the same time, they will receive prize money and project support according to the level of the award:

Special Prize: RMB 100,000 in prize money and RMB 20 million in project support.

First Prize: RMB 60,000 in prize money and RMB 10 million in project support.

Second Prize: RMB 30,000 in prize money and RMB 5 million in project support.

Third Prize: RMB 10,000 in prize money and RMB 3 million in project support.

Excellence Award: RMB 1 million in project support.

OPC Navigator Award: RMB 10,000 in prize money and RMB 1 million in project support.

OPC Innovation Award: RMB 8,000 in prize money and RMB 500,000 in project support.

OPC Rising Star Award: RMB 5,000 in prize money, with up to RMB 200,000 in project support provided by the relevant competition division.

For projects winning the Third Prize or above, a “linkage between investment and grants” support model will be adopted. Project support will consist of investment funds and subsidy funds, each capped at 50% of the total project support amount.If the project enterprise (already registered in Ningbo or changing its registration location from another location to Ningbo after winning the award) has received

private capital investment before the municipal grand final, the project support amount may be determined at a rate of 30% of the amount of private capital investment, whichever is higher, rounded down to the nearest RMB 100,000, with a maximum of RMB 20 million.

VI. Registration Instructions

1. Applicants shall comply with the competition rules and be responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of all information. The relevant application materials will serve as the basis for the disbursement of funds and project acceptance. If an applicant provides false information, their eligibility to participate in the competition and receive funding will be cancelled, and awards may be recovered as appropriate. Where illegal acts are involved, legal liability shall be pursued in accordance with the law.

VII. Other Matters

1. Projects that have won the Third Prize or above may not apply for the Yongjiang Talent Project again.
2. During the competition, the Organizing Committee may, as appropriate, publicly display, exhibit and promote participating projects to a reasonable extent. Applicants shall provide the necessary cooperation.
3. Matters not covered herein or matters requiring adjustment will be separately notified by the Competition Organizing Committee.

Appendix

Description of Competition Track Settings

I. Embodied Intelligent Robots

1. Key technologies for the robot “brain” and “cerebellum” (including embodied intelligent perception-control algorithms integrating perception, decision-making, and control; technologies such as multimodal perception and environmental modeling, high-precision sensors, etc.; and motion control algorithms such as online gait planning and real-time posture tracking);

2. Key technologies for robotic limbs and dexterous hands (including technologies such as bionic robotic arms, dexterous hands and legs/feet, whole-body coordinated motion control, dynamic grasping by arms, and dexterous operations);

3. Key technologies for actuators (including small-volume, high-burst drive motors, high-precision and high-efficiency transmission reducers, high-precision controllers, encoders, highly integrated and high-power-density joint components, harmonic reducers, rotary vector (RV) reducers, planetary reducers, etc.);

4. New materials (including new materials such as high-load-bearing and wear-resistant reducer materials, high-power-density motor magnetic materials, lightweight materials for the body and structural components, high-energy-density battery materials, etc.);

5. Specialized robots (including special-purpose robots for high-risk environments and special operation scenarios such as manufacturing, inspection and rescue, port and shipping logistics, and offshore operations; industrial robots with multi-robot collaboration and precision operation capabilities; service humanoid robots with emotional companionship and daily-life assistance capabilities; and interactive

humanoid robots with autonomous decision-making and emotion recognition capabilities).

II. Intelligent Connected Vehicles

6. Perception technologies (including laser area-array radar and 3D imaging, millimeter-wave radar, ultrasonic sensors, intelligent cockpit perception, multi-source fusion perception, etc.);

7. Communication technologies (including V2X Internet of Vehicles, DSRC Dedicated Short-Range Communications, C-V2X Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything, and other technological products);

8. Decision-making and control technologies (including path planning, behavior prediction, motion control, reinforcement learning algorithms, etc.);

9. Security technologies (including data encryption, intrusion detection, OTA security, identity authentication, etc.);

10. Vehicle-road coordination technologies (including edge computing, cloud platforms, high-definition maps, etc.).

III. Intelligent Consumer Products

11. Intelligent vehicles (including consumer-grade AGVs, unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned vessels, intelligent agents, ad hoc networking technologies, etc.);

12. Intelligent devices (including smart household appliances and furniture with voice interaction and language understanding capabilities, whole-house intelligent equipment and systems, intelligent medical devices and equipment, smart energy storage system equipment, etc.);

13. Portable intelligent terminals (including wearable electronic devices, portable electronic devices, health monitoring devices, audiovisual devices, etc.).

IV. Artificial Intelligence Chips

14. Chip design and manufacturing (including RISC-V instruction sets, chip design tools, advanced materials, packaging and testing technologies, etc.);

15. Graphics processors, memory and optical communication chips (including key technologies such as parallel computing, high-bandwidth memory, dynamic random-access memory, massively parallel architectures, optical communication chips, etc.);

16. ASIC dedicated accelerator chips (including Tensor Processing Units (TPUs), Neural Processing Units (NPUs), customized computing architectures, low-precision inference, etc.);

17. Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) (including reconfigurable computing, hardware description languages, low-latency inference, dynamic logic optimization, etc.);

18. Brain-inspired computing chips (including neuromorphic chips, brain-computer interfaces, spiking neural networks, compute-in-memory architectures, event-driven computing, ultra-low-power design, etc.).

V. Intelligent Sensing

19. Vision/Environmental Perception Sensors (including CMOS/CCD image sensors, high-precision 3D vision sensors, infrared/ultraviolet sensors such as ToF, laser sensors, fiber-optic sensors, temperature and humidity sensors, gas sensors, particulate matter sensors, air pressure sensors, etc.);

20. Physical/Torque Sensors (including high-performance MEMS attitude sensors, high-dynamic-response torque sensors, pressure sensors, force/tactile sensors, torque/displacement sensors, magnetic sensors, acoustic sensors, ultrasonic/electromagnetic wave sensors, etc.);

21. Biological/Chemical Recognition Sensors (including highly reliable flexible tactile sensors/electronic skin, highly sensitive bionic olfactory sensors, blood pressure/blood glucose/blood oxygen/heart rate sensors, DNA sensors, electrochemical sensors, biometric recognition sensors, etc.).

VI. Intelligent Software

22. Artificial Intelligence Algorithm Models (including development frameworks, development tools, general-purpose foundation models, industry-specific vertical models, intelligent agents, etc.);

23. Data Processing (including datasets for data classification, cleaning, processing, annotation, etc., corpus and knowledge base generation tools, as well as databases, middleware, development and testing tools, etc.);

24. Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (including industrial software systems for product R&D and design, virtual simulation testing, intelligent production scheduling, quality inspection, warehousing and logistics, operation and maintenance management, etc.);

25. Industry Applications (including specialized scenario applications in public livelihood service fields such as education, healthcare, and elderly care, as well as characteristic scenario applications in key fields such as urban geospatial information, social governance, modern agriculture, and the marine economy);

26. Digital Twins (including emerging technology software such as VR/AR/MR, 3D modeling, AIGC, simulation, rendering engines, etc.);

27. Operating Systems (mainly targeting Internet of Things and embedded operating systems, including robot operating systems, industrial operating systems, etc.).