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Entrepreneurs to compete for \$130,000 in prizes

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The Minnesota Cup, the state's "American Idol" for entrepreneurs, has expanded this year's contest with more prize money and divisions, organizers say.

The fifth annual contest, sponsored by the University of Minnesota, Wells Fargo and the state government, will offer a total of \$130,000 in cash prizes, up from \$70,000 last year. Top prize in each division will be \$20,000, except the student division, which has a top prize of \$5,000.

Awards will be given in new divisions for companies in high tech, bioscience, clean and green technology companies and social entrepreneurship, defined as companies trying to solve a social issue.

There will also be a general division and student division. In previous contests, there were only the general and student divisions.

Entrants can submit their applications online beginning Monday at www.minnesotacup.org. The deadline for applications is May 22. Awards will be announced Sept. 10 at the McNamara Alumni Center of the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus.

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