

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



## URGENT Challenge 2026

Universality, Robustness, and Generalizability for Enhancement



challenge website

The ICASSP 2026 **URGENT Challenge**, building upon two successful previous editions, returns for a third iteration to advance cutting-edge research in **universal speech enhancement**. In this year, the challenge emphasizes advanced **data curation pipelines** and introduces substantially more diverse speech conditions, including **emotional**, **accented**, and **whispered** speech, to better promote robustness and generalization across real-world scenarios. Additionally, it features the first-ever large-scale **Speech Quality Assessment** track specifically tailored to speech enhancement, opening new avenues for reliable perceptual evaluation and generalizability.

### Track 1: Universal Speech Enhancement

### Track 2: Speech Quality Assessment for SE Systems

## Important Dates

- **Sept 1, 2025** – Start of Challenge  
(baseline, training & validation data)
- **Nov 3, 2025** – Release of Non-Blind Test Data
- **Nov 18, 2025** – Release of Blind Test Data
- **Nov 21, 2025** – End of Challenge
- **Dec 1, 2025** – Notification of Final Results

## Organizers

Chenda Li, Wei Wang, Wangyou Zhang, Kohei Saijo, Robin Scheibler, Yihui Fu, Marvin Sach, Samuele Cornell, Zhaoheng Ni, Anurag Kumar, Tim Fingscheidt, Shinji Watanabe, Yanmin Qian

Contact: [urgent.challenge@gmail.com](mailto:urgent.challenge@gmail.com)

## How to Participate?



Fill the Google Form  
for Quick Registration