

## Backgrounder

### Mission Innovation Champions Programme

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort

#### Background

The Mission Innovation Champions Program celebrates and supports innovative individuals who are accelerating the clean energy revolution by working on key clean energy research and technology developments. By supporting cross-border exchanges of ideas and talent, and by building a community of visionaries committed to the promise of clean energy research and development, the program activates and engages a new generation of researchers, inventors and leaders.

The 2019 Champions Program attracted wide interest with applicants spanning academia, business and research. The [2019 Champions](#) work in a variety of energy-related fields and industries. They are the people inventing the products and services of the future or discovering the science that underpins them. Their participation at the 4th MI Ministerial (MI-4) meeting in Vancouver in May 2019 gave an added dimension to discussions by showcasing the entrepreneurial creativity and scientific excellence that is transforming the clean energy sector.

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*“The Mission Innovation Champions programme has connected me with like-minded people around the world. Collaboration is key to generating the big ideas that will change the way we produce and use energy.”*

*Alvaro Beltran  
2019 MI Champion (European Commission)  
CEO and founder of Onyx Solar*

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#### Selection process

Mission Innovation Champions are selected through a rigorous international competition, including peer-to-peer reviews and evaluations by a diverse panel of experts from around the globe. Nominations and applications are evaluated based on the audaciousness and creativity of the ideas or solutions proposed, their potential impact and the vision of the candidates towards addressing climate change challenges in the energy sector through innovation.

#### Timeline

A second round of the MI Champions Program was announced at COP25 in December 2019. The programme officially launches on Monday, 20 January 2020. All candidates must register to complete an application no later than 5:00 PM GMT on 18 March 2020. The application deadline is 1 April 2020 at 5:00 PM GMT.

#### 2020 Results

The selected Champions will take part in the fifth Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI-5) in Viña del Mar, Chile from June 2-5, 2020, where they will be recognized by the Mission Innovation community and gain visibility through active outreach and communication efforts.

To apply or nominate an exceptional researcher or innovator, visit the MI Champions website: [www.michampions.net](http://www.michampions.net).