

AI ETHICS NETWORK LLC (AIEN)

POLICY DOCUMENT

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Effective Date: August 28, 2026

Subject: External Collaboration, IP Integrity & Technical Due Diligence Framework

Applies To: All research fellows, operations team members, venture advisors, and external technical collaborators seeking research support, incubator space, or funding through AIEN and AIEN Labs.

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1. PURPOSE & SCOPE

This policy establishes a standardized protocol for evaluating, funding, and collaborating on external preprints, software frameworks, and commercial intellectual property (IP).

As generative AI tools make it trivial to produce high-level theoretical papers, complex mathematical notation, and synthetic code bases, AIEN must maintain rigorous epistemic hygiene. This policy ensures that all commercial ventures, academic partnerships, and funding tracks under AIEN Labs are grounded in verifiable engineering, authentic domain competency, and strict legal/operational boundaries.

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2. CORE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

1. Proof of Execution Over Proof of Concept: Synthetic or prompt-generated whitepapers are insufficient for commercial consideration. Funding and strategic backing require demonstrable, reproducible reduction to practice.
2. Epistemic Integrity: Collaborators must demonstrate deep, first-principles understanding of their submitted work without reliance on real-time generative assistance or superficial industry buzzwords.
3. Brand Integrity & Zero Public Misrepresentation: Unauthorized claims of partnership, milestone achievements, or external entity involvement (e.g., tagging third-party enterprise, government, or aerospace organizations) prior to formal, signed agreements are strictly prohibited.

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3. THE MULTI-STAGE VERIFICATION PIPELINE (GATING PROTOCOL)

All incoming projects seeking funding, IP acquisition, or commercial partnership with AIEN Labs must sequentially clear the following four mandatory gates:

[Gate 0: Artifact & Search] -> [Gate 1: Live Stress Test] -> [Gate 2: Code Audit] -> [Gate 3: Formal Agreement]

Gate 0: Artifact & Search Submission (Pre-Screening)

Before any technical meetings, Zoom calls, or funding discussions are scheduled, the external applicant must submit:

- Target Subsystem Specification: A granular, one-page definition of the concrete software, algorithmic, or hardware subsystem to be built and tested.
- Prior Art & Patent Search: A documented preliminary search demonstrating novelty and freedom to operate.

- **Reproducible Execution Package:** A containerized repository (e.g., Docker environment) containing runnable code, test suites, and raw execution logs that reproduce the paper's claimed mathematical or logical outcomes.
- **Granular Commit History:** Source code repositories must exhibit an organic, iterative version history (git commit logs) reflecting authentic development. Single-dump repositories of AI-generated text or code will trigger an immediate rejection.

Gate 1: Live Dynamic Stress Testing (Unscripted Defense)

Applicants who pass Gate 0 must complete a live, unscripted technical evaluation conducted by the AIEN review board. The evaluation will focus on:

- **Dynamic Parameter Invalidation:** The candidate will be presented with real-time constraint changes (e.g., latency spikes, asynchronous noise, hardware limits) and must verbally and mathematically adapt their system architecture on the spot.
- **Failure Mode & Edge-Case Analysis:** The candidate must explicitly define the operational boundaries and failure states of their proposed model.
- **Jargon-Free First-Principles Deconstruction:** The candidate must explain the core mechanics of their system without relying on high-level market buzzwords or abstract generalizations.

Gate 2: Code-Level & Mathematical Audit

- **Line-by-Line Inspection:** AIEN auditors will review arbitrary code blocks or proofs from the submission, requiring the author to justify specific design choices, constant parameters, and algorithms line-by-line.
- **Verification of Synthetic vs. Human Contribution:** Submissions found to be entirely synthetic outputs lacking human architectural oversight or mathematical grounding will be disqualified from the commercial track.

Gate 3: Formal Due Diligence & Commercial Contracting

- **Transition to formal term sheets, option agreements, or research grants, contingent on full legal review and clear IP assignment definitions.**

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA RULES

To protect AIEN, AIEN Labs, and its institutional partners from reputational exposure and premature public claims:

1. **Strict Non-Disclosure of Evaluation Status:** Applicants and collaborators are strictly forbidden from publicly announcing review milestones, claiming to have "passed gates," or characterizing exploratory talks as formal partnerships or funding commitments.
2. **Prohibition of External Entity Tagging:** External collaborators may not tag, reference, or associate third-party entities (e.g., SpaceX, NASA, venture funds, or partner universities) alongside AIEN-related research on public channels (including LinkedIn, X, or personal blogs) without prior written sign-off from AIEN management.
3. **Enforcement & Disqualification:** Any unauthorized public disclosure, performative social media posting, or misrepresentation of Gate status will result in immediate and permanent termination of all commercial funding tracks and project evaluation.

5. ACADEMIC COLLABORATION VS. COMMERCIAL FUNDING TRACK

AIEN maintains a clear structural boundary between open academic inquiry and commercial venture development:

- **Academic Research Track:** If a collaborator fails to meet Gate 0/Gate 1 requirements for commercial readiness but demonstrates genuine scholarly interest, AIEN may permit standard open-source preprint hosting or peer-to-peer academic discussion. This track involves zero capital investment, zero IP transfer, and no commercial affiliation.

- Commercial / IP Funding Track: Mandatory adherence to all steps in Section 3. If the required technical artifacts, subsystem definitions, or legal searches are not produced, the commercial track is automatically halted.

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6. COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

This policy is maintained by the Lead Researcher and Operations Management at AI Ethics Network LLC. Failure to adhere to these guidelines by internal members or external partners will result in the immediate revocation of access to AIEN infrastructure, funding options, and collaborative frameworks.

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Approved by:

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