

Bitspiration Booster - Acceleration program outline

How it works

At Bitspiration Booster, we do **three-month acceleration program** which usually runs from January through March or from July through September. Each batch can have up to **10 start-ups**.

Application process is ongoing. Startups apply online on Bitspiration Booster website. We ask you to provide us with basic information and upload your pitch deck or video. Don't forget to give us your contact details!

Each project is screened by Bitspiration Booster team and may be consulted within a broader mentor network. Applicants are often asked to provide additional info before the final decision. **We are replying to all inquiries**, so that you always have a basic feedback.

Once invited to join the programme, you will be asked to move **your founders and/or CEO** (usually 3-5 people) to a designated co-working space, so that we can work together and physically meet you regularly for maximum feedback and efficiency. The core part of the acceleration process finishes with a Demo Day @ **Bitspiration Festival**.

We stay in touch after the programme too. Our aim is to keep you in the loop and provide smart support when you need it (while not trying to co-run your business or get control over it). We commit to this all the way to your start-up's maturity.



How we design your path



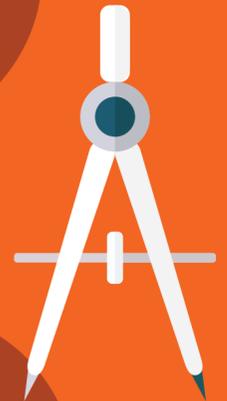
At Bitspiration Booster our approach is based on **tailored mentoring that we agree on together.**

We will spend first 2 weeks with each of the start-ups to precisely map the processes and challenges for their business. If you've done some of it already, this will be very useful for us. Maybe you got it right. Maybe you missed something.

What we aim to achieve is a **common understanding** of the pieces of work that we define as priority and commit to complete by the end of the acceleration program.

We want you to be ready, self-conscious and well **prepared for the Demo Day!**

@ Bitspiration Festival



Why we dive deep into the operations



What is unique about Bitspiration Booster is our commitment to deeply understand **your operational challenges** and work with you to manage these.

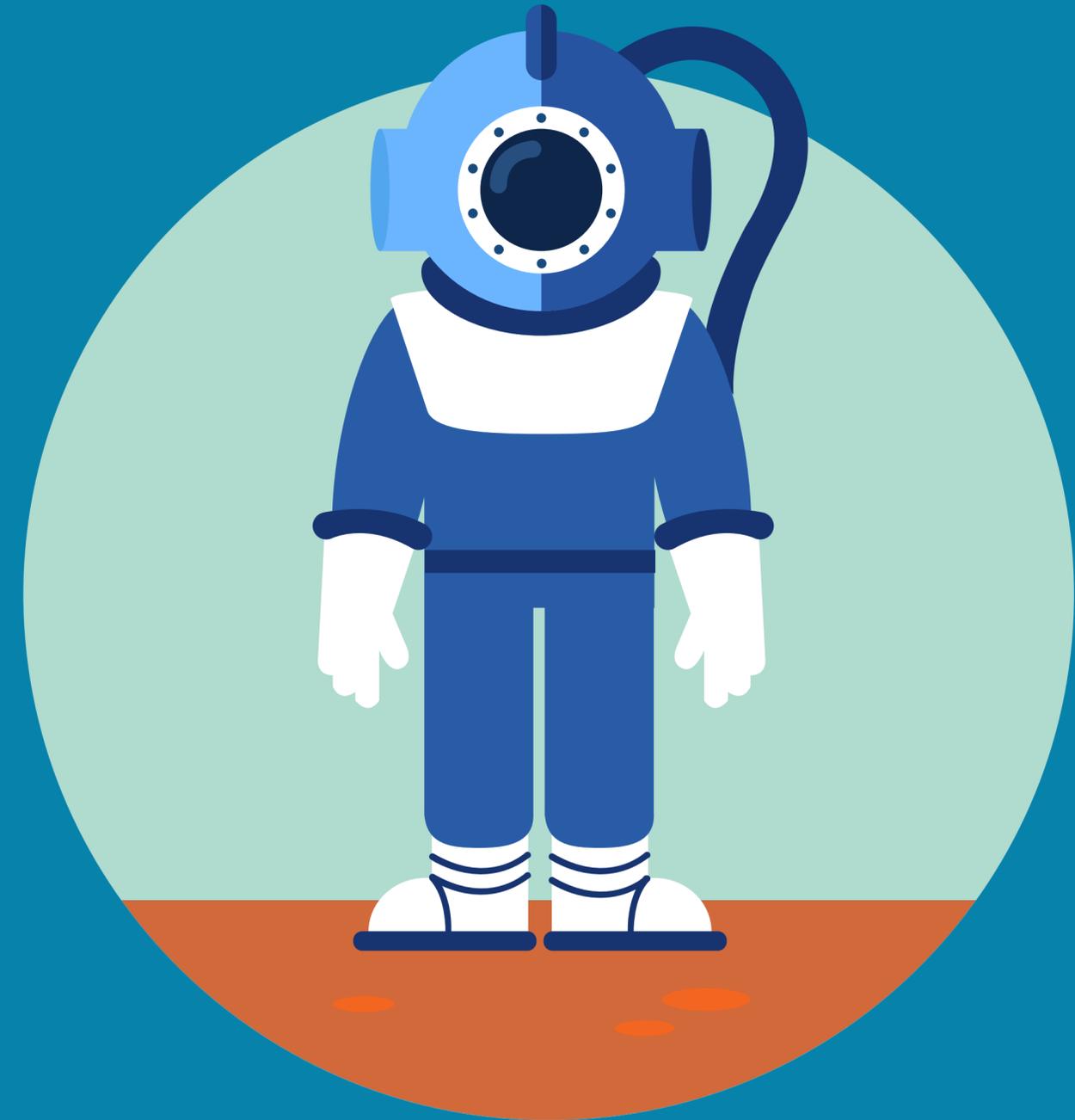
Our experience in working with start-ups suggests that operational issues are one of the most common bottle-necks in their development

Whenever we meet founders, their major goal is to deliver the product / services. They live their idea and are totally focused on it. And this is the way it should be. But being so committed often leads to **losing the bigger picture**. When it happens, the founder either cannot deliver the project, finds it extremely difficult to deliver, or cannot scale it up.

Building a project requires commitment, but also:

- strong, motivated team;
- secured basic funding;
- clear picture of the market, growth plans, scaling;
- clear vision of the problem you address;
- mission & values the team shares

When you speed up, deadlines are crucial and cause sleepless nights, you have to make quick decisions and try to navigate between dependencies. It gets easy to lose control and make simple mistakes. This often leads to serious problems and endangering your startup.



Why we dive deep into the operations



Working with start-ups we saw many of these:

- delays in hardware deliveries;
- deliveries incomplete and/or low quality;
- going out of cash;
- re-defining end product half-way through;
- re-defining again;
- recruiting staff in a hurry;
- team not sharing the founders' values;
- micromanagement killing creativity;
- not sharing problems within the team etc.

We will support you in analysing your processes and strategy. We aim to allow you focussing more on the project by **improving the operational management of your company**. This will prevent you from making (or decrease the number of) all the mentioned mistakes.

It does not mean creating multiple procedures and hiring managers responsible for the execution, but rather (depending on the project):

- describing your vision, mission and values;
- helping you to hire appropriate people, who'll add value;
- planning share of duties & responsibilities within your team;
- designing clear process for manufacturing / assembling;
- building and managing your network;
- finance planning and management;
- investor relations & reporting

What you get



Start-ups invited to join Bitspiration Booster are provided with an extensive support package incl.:

DIRECT FUNDING



Bitspiration Booster will provide it to give you some flexibility while participating in the program, we want the core team of founders eg. CEO, CTO and/or few others to be fully engaged and focused on acceleration activities, not on cashflow.

3-MONTHS OF DESK SPACE IN A DESIGNATED AREA



We want you to physically move the team to a co-working space that will be shared with other programme participants. This is important as we believe direct, regular and face-2-face feedback is essential to the efficiency of intense mentoring. We will cut down online / telco support to maximize the positive impact on your business.

INDIVIDUAL MENTORING SESSIONS



Based on each participant's individual assessment we decide what areas are crucial for successful development of your start-up and design mentoring accordingly. We don't want you to attend mentoring you may not need at this stage, but focus on must-have ones.

WEEKLY MENTOR MEETUPS



One afternoon every week we will invite subject-matter experts to have a presentation for all participants followed by an extended Q&A session to go deep into their field of expertise. The topics will be based on your interests and may cover things like: intellectual property rights, UX, analytics, metrics and KPIs, pitching or public speaking best practice etc. This will be also an Open-Mic opportunity for you to share news, problems or innovative ideas you come up during the program.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



We will be working closely with Kraków and Warsaw startup communities to design special meetups and other events of value as well as to keep you posted on what's up in town.

PITCH SLOT @ BITSPIRATION DEMO DAY



We are strategic partner of Bitspiration Festival, the biggest startup conference in CEE, which is now focusing even more on the needs of start-ups, redesigns its agenda for it and provides us with amazing space and audience to organize a Demo Day, final stage of the acceleration program.

POST-ACCELERATION SUPPORT AND ADVICE



Start-ups that are Bitspiration Booster alumni will stay in our network and keep on engaging in community events, knowledge-sharing platforms, have access to recommended service providers and advisors.

Your input to the programme will be **up to 5% equity**, a fair deal compared to great majority of acceleration programs out there!

Who works with you



At Bitspiration Booster we make sure all the mentors **commit to deliver** on the defined goals, are reliable, available, open to feedback and have strong feeling of responsibility and motivation to support start-ups throughout the programme and later if necessary.

We work with mentors that are **active players** on the start-up and corporate scene in Poland and beyond. We believe the most valuable advice comes from those who learned their lessons. Our mentors are people ready to give back to the community, share and support new generation of bold entrepreneurs.

In our core **Bitspiration Booster Team** you will meet:



Paula Mazurek
co-founder and CEO



Oskar Grzegorzczak
co-founder and COO



Wojtek Burkot
co-founder and mentor



Andrzej Targosz
early stage investor and mentor

We are working with a wide network of trusted mentors. Their short bios join a growing website list on regular basis.

Mentors at Bitspiration Booster are experts in:

1. Core business areas i.e. “hard” skills of running, growing a successful company:

- Building management team
- Marketing / sales development
- Talking to investors (do’s and don’t’s)
- Product development
- Hardware building
- Scaling
- Tech projects management
- Research commercialization etc.

2. Soft skills that you may identify as crucial for your work environment:

- Managerial skills (team building, motivation, leadership etc.)
- Lean / agile culture development etc.
- Communication (feedback, hosting a meeting, pitching, interpersonal skills etc.)
- Time / task management

Based on the assessment we make together with start-ups to identify specific needs, we reach out to a wide network of experienced mentors. We will be cooperating with subject matter experts in various industry-related fields.

Sounds interesting? Apply now!



To get in touch with Bitspiration Booster, please submit your application incl. a pitch deck and/or a short video at: www.booster.bitspiration.com
We will review and reply with some basic feedback. Most promising teams will be invited to meet us in Kraków. After the interviews we decide on the program admission.

What happens when you get in

Once invited to Bitspiration Booster, your core team is expected to move to Kraków for a 3-month acceleration. We will have office space prepared for you.

Day one we'll immediately get to work helping you set up your company, if needed. During the program we have weekly meetings with various experts / practitioners in the startup development fields. There are regular office hours and mentoring sessions as well as occasional meetups.

To boost the acceleration process we connect startups individually with people from Bitspiration Booster network, who can be particularly helpful. After the program we organize an exclusive Demo Day at Bitspiration Festival for you to share the experience and show off a bit.

Bitspiration Booster keeps in touch after the program too. We continue to give advice and make introductions as long as founders need these.

Who we look for

People with ideas solving real world problems at scale. The ideal company would have two or three founders. We'll consider other models though.

International founders, please note: if your company is non Polish entity, your participation in Bitspiration Booster is conditional on conversion of your foreign company into PL corporation. We can only offer minimal help with the conversion process and it must be complete before the batch begins.

You must have at least 10% equity in the startup to be considered a founder. Only founders can come to interviews if invited or attend batch events if accepted. Ideally the equity would be divided more or less equally among the founders.

Apply online:

www.booster.bitspiration.com

