

Endurance Space Race 2026

FINALS DATE
13 July 2026

LOCATION
Sofia, Bulgaria

PRIZE POOL
€17,000

APPLY BY
10 May 2026

The Mission

- Build an autonomous lunar rover to collect and deposit resources
- Design, build, and race against the competition
- Win by building the most effective or the most efficient resource collector!

Limitations

Vehicle:

- Start size: up to 500x500x500mm
- Weight: under 25 kg
- Power Source: electric battery
- Communication: none. Fully autonomous operation

Team:

- Up to 5 members per team

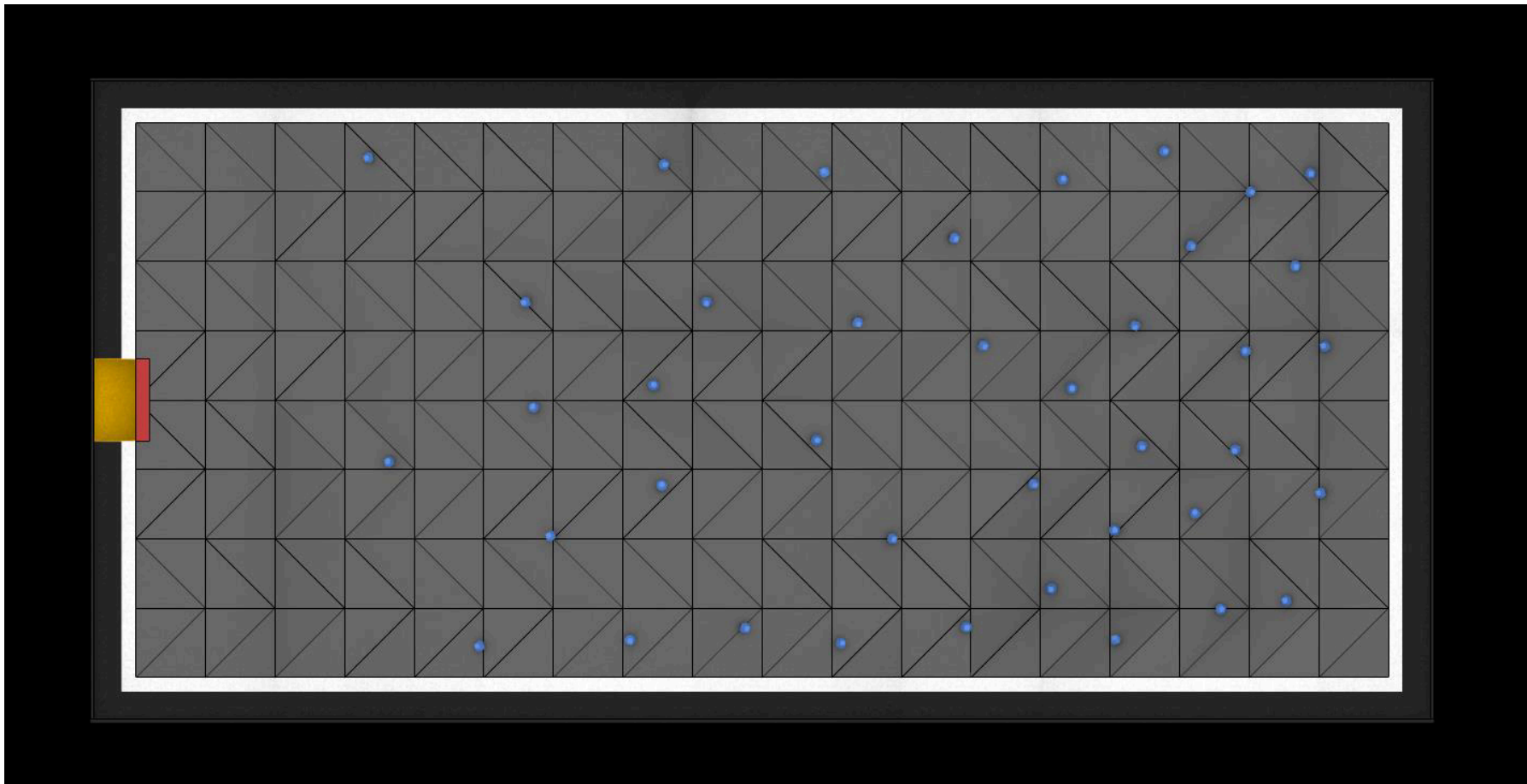
Participants:

- One person may join only one team
- Under 35 years of age
- Current or former employees of EnduroSat are not eligible for awards

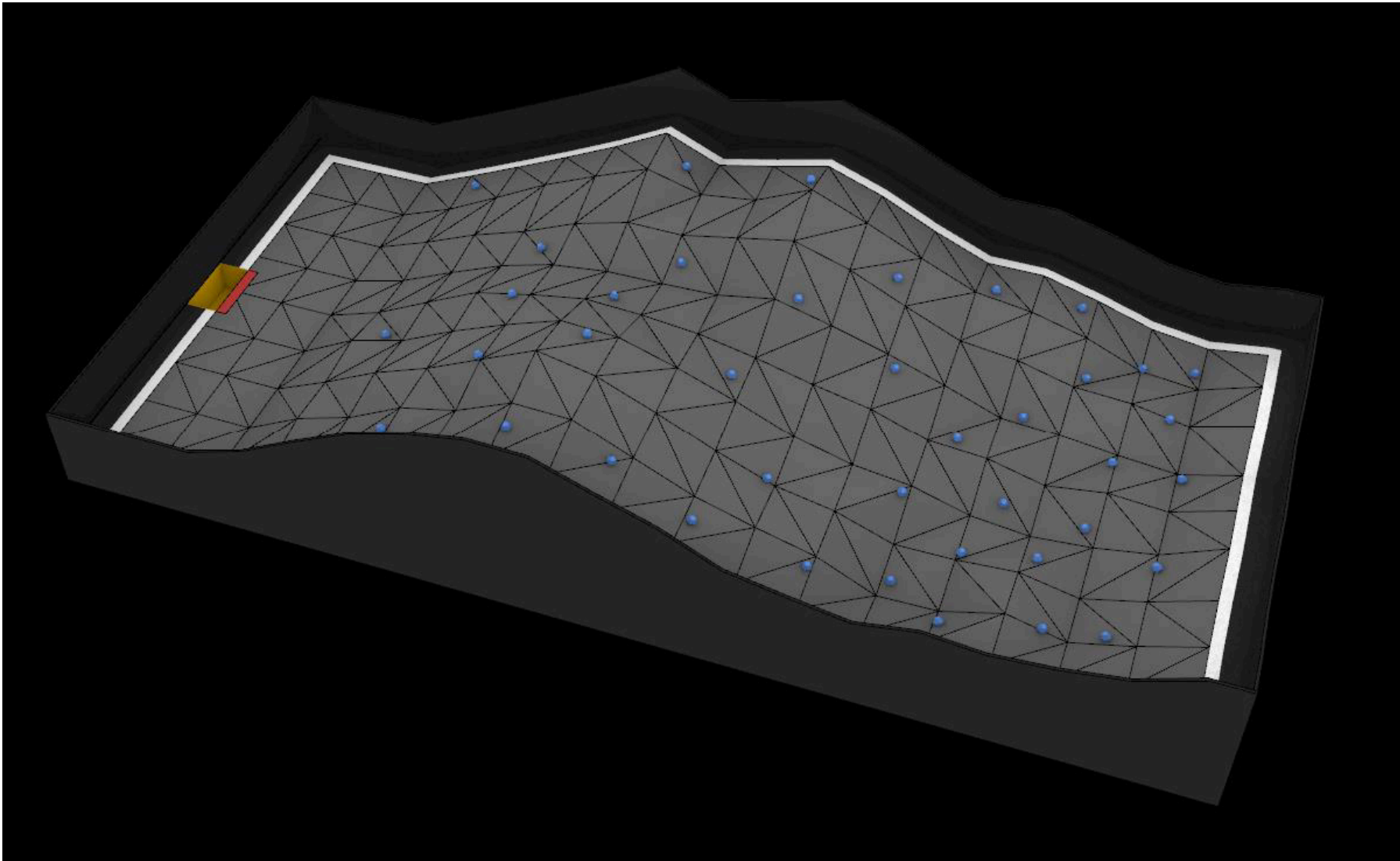
The Field

General:

- Field size: 480x230 cm
- Two play areas: Base field and Resource field (grey)
- Surroundings: Penalty zone and Penalty wall
- Footprint:

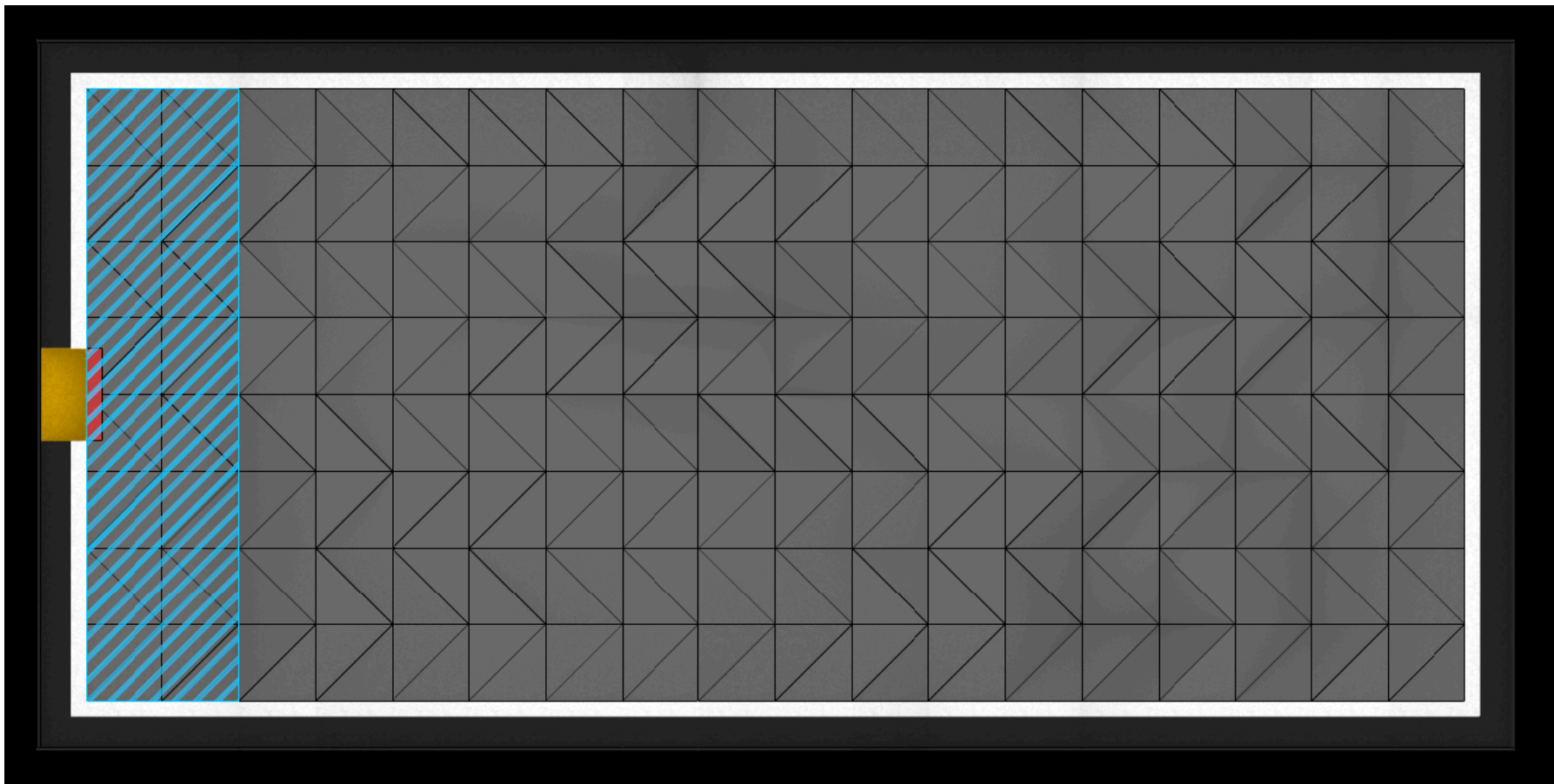


- Example Geometry:



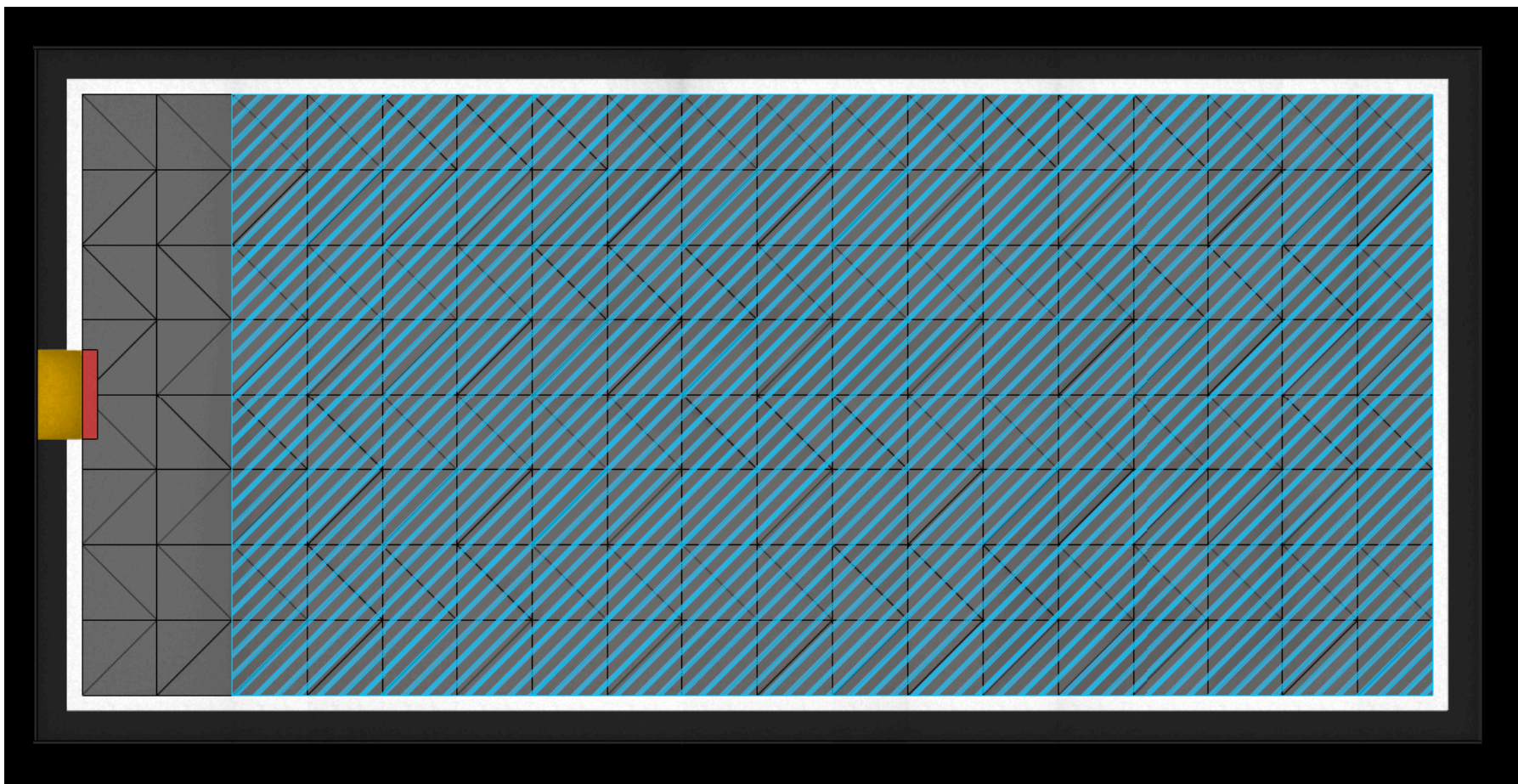
Base Field:

- Size: 50x200 cm
- Flat, horizontal
- Surface: Silicon Carbide P100
- Color: grey (example #5A5A5A)
- Footprint:



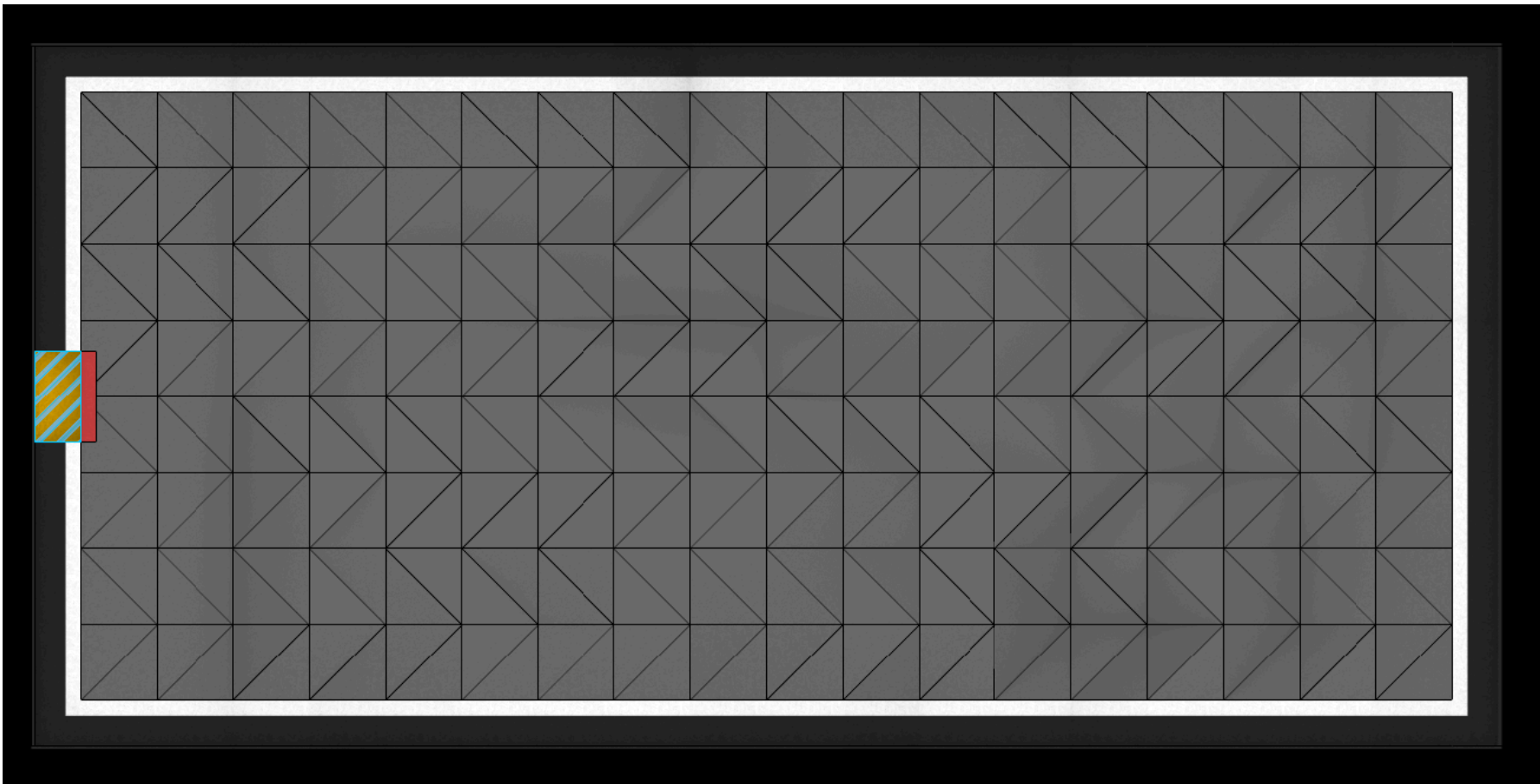
Resource Field:

- Size: 400x200 cm
- Faceted terrain, inclination under 30°
- Steeper near the Base Field, lower inclinations further away.
- Surface: Silicon Carbide P100
- Color: grey (example #5A5A5A)
- Footprint:



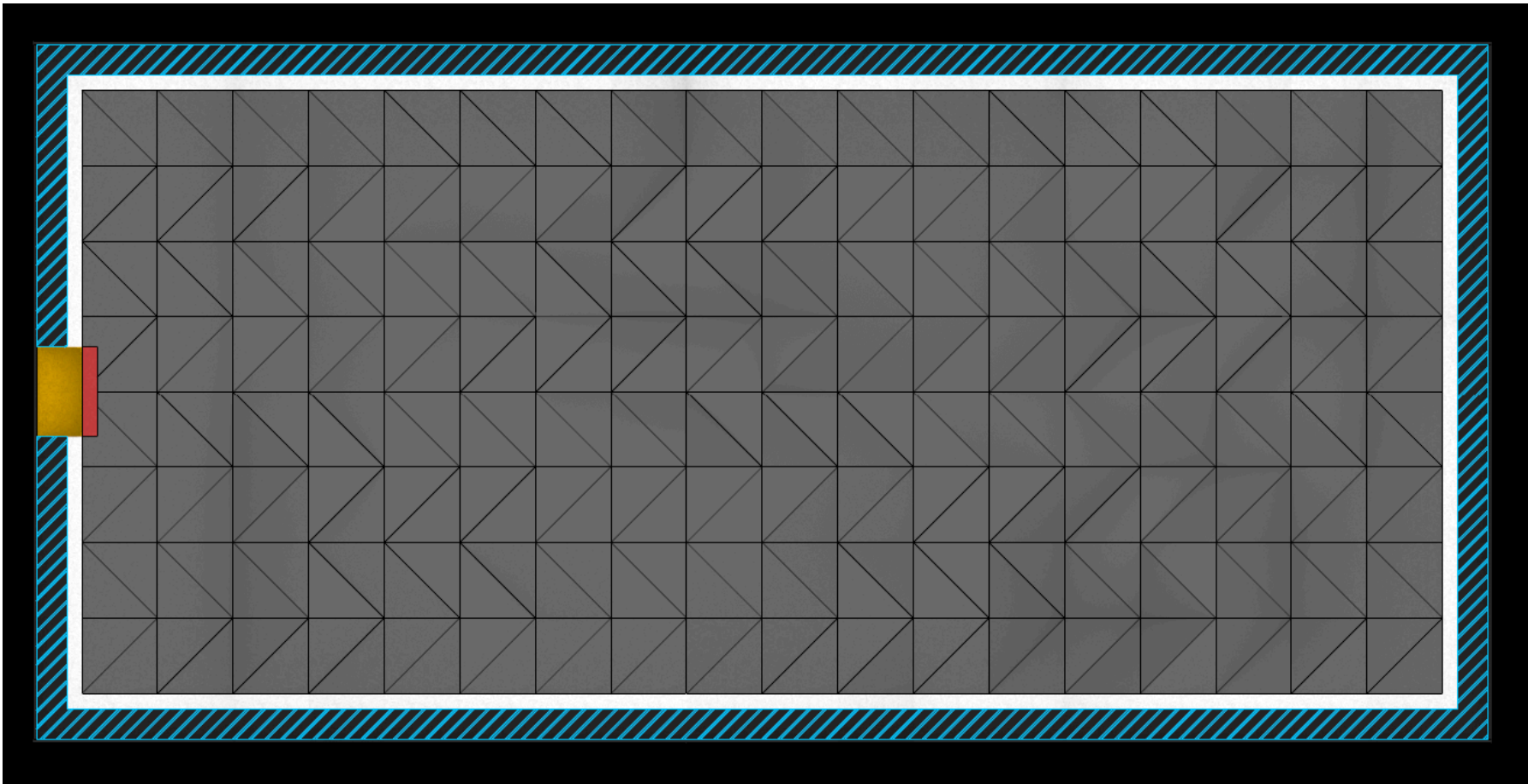
Deposit Pit:

- Size: L30xW15xD15 cm (vertical walls)
- Location: adjacent to the Base field
- Color: yellow (Example #EDA600)
- Footprint:



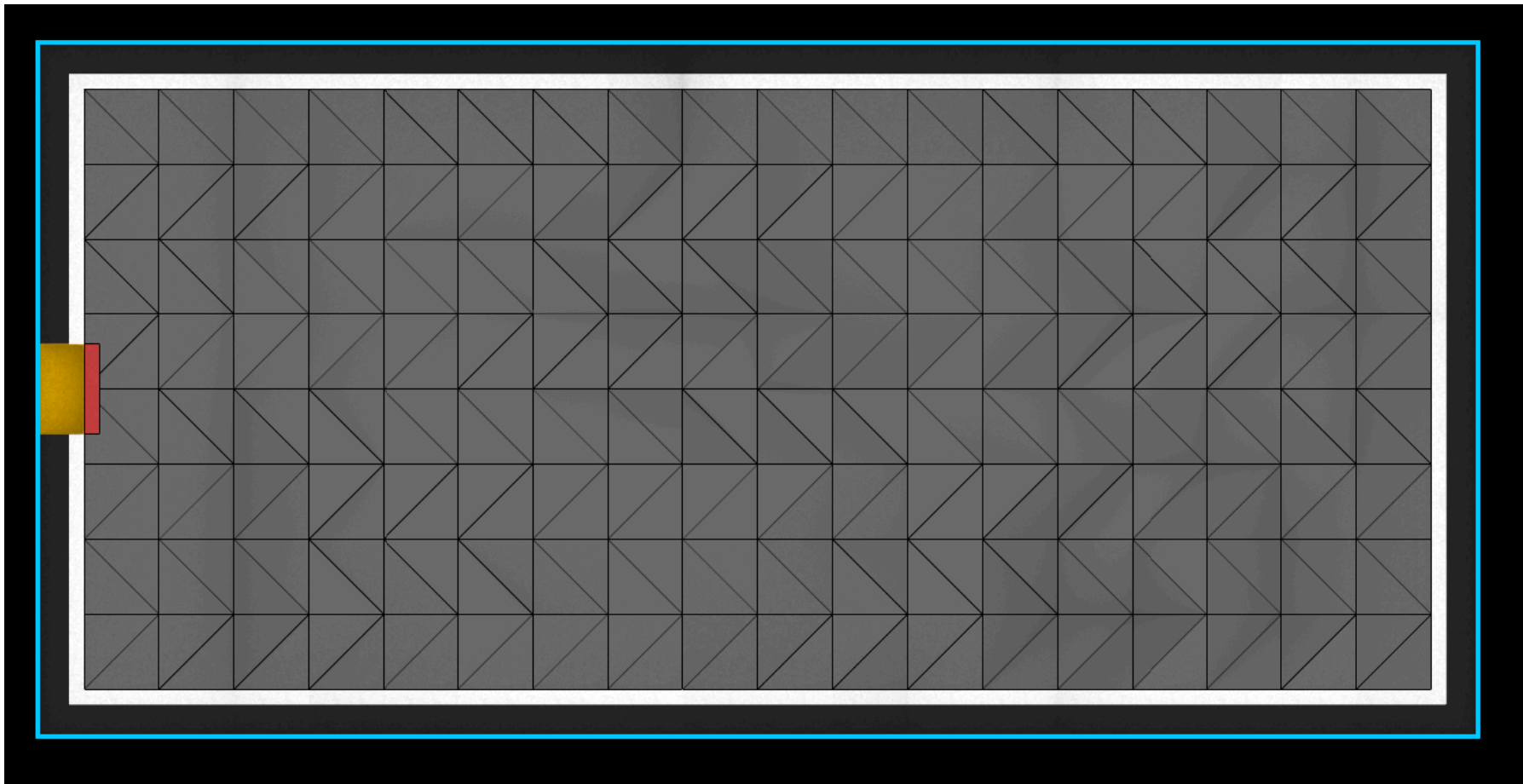
Penalty Field - surrounding the Base and Resource Field

- Size: 10 cm
- Color: matte black (example #131313)
- Footprint:



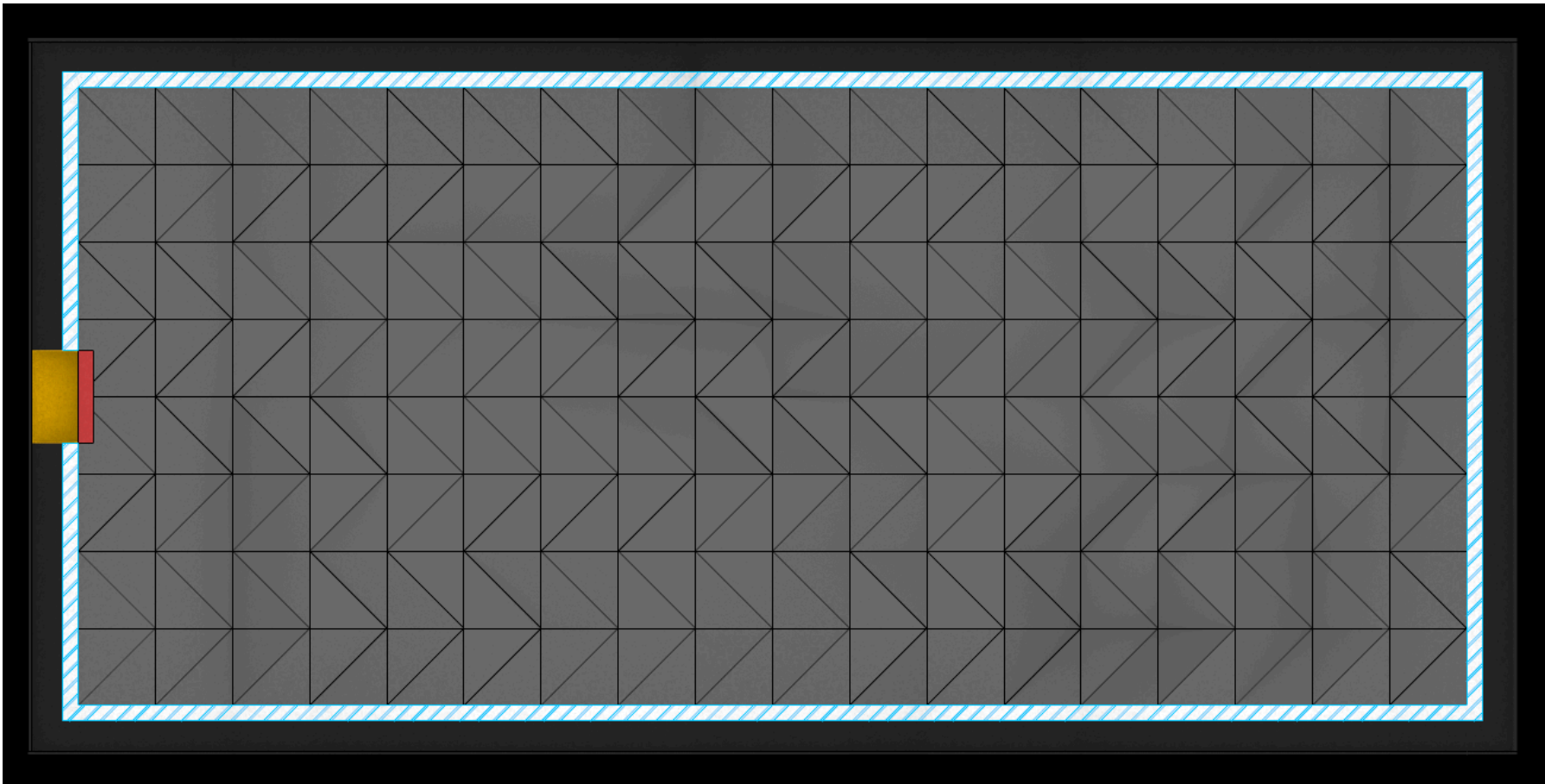
Penalty Wall - surrounding the Penalty Field and Deposit pit

- Size: 25 cm
- Color: matte black (example #131313)
- Footprint:



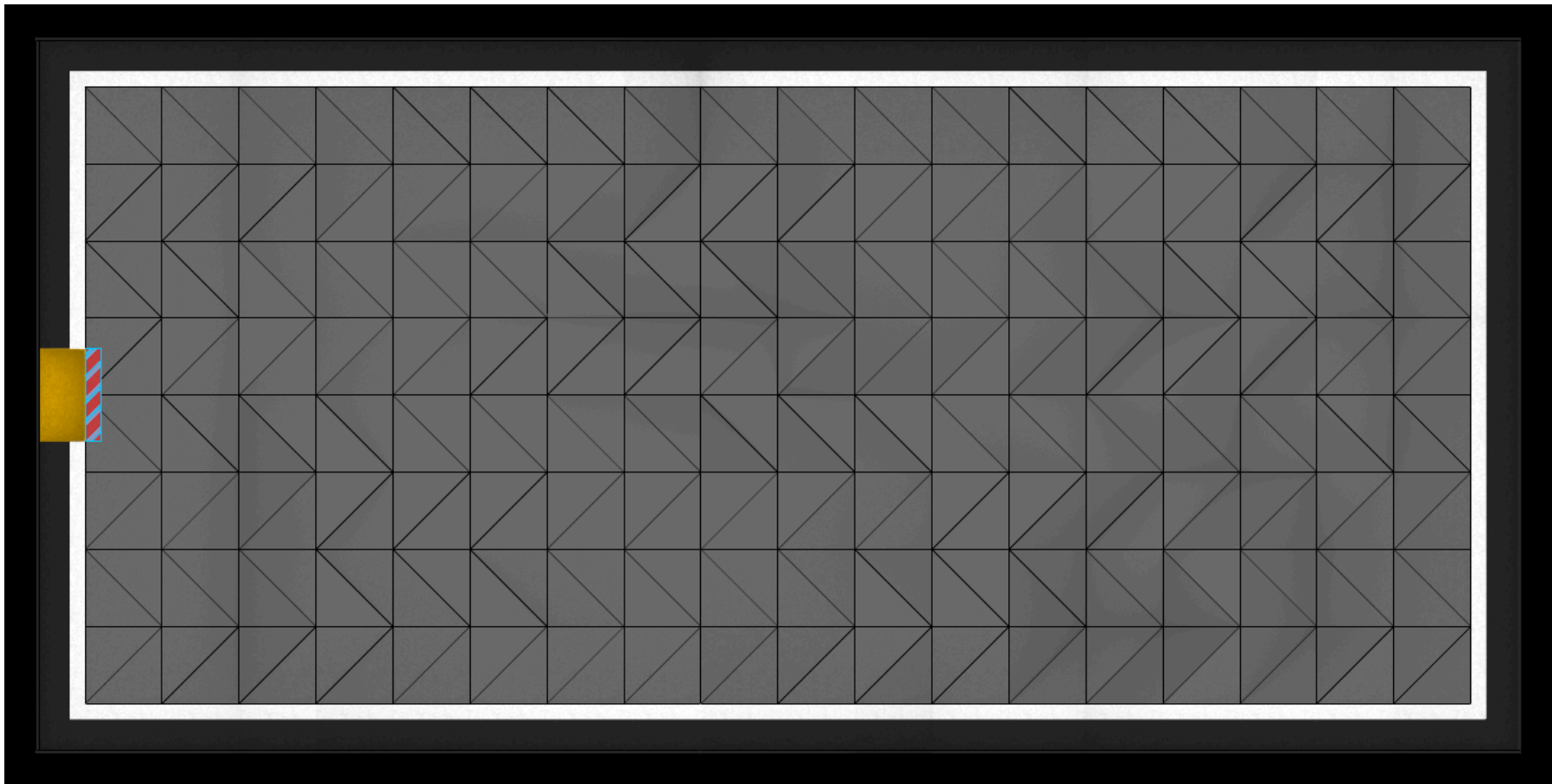
Field Boundary – separation line between the Base Field, the Resource Field and the Penalty Field

- Size: 5 cm
- Surface: Retroreflector ORAFOL REFLEXITE
- Footprint:



Deposit Pit Boundary - separation between the Base Field and the Deposit Pit

- Size: 30x5 cm
- Surface: Silicon Carbide P100
- Color: red (example #B30000)
- Footprint:



Resources:

- Count: 40 pcs
- Geometry: regular dodecahedron, edge length 1.5 cm
- Weight: 10 g
- Material: PETG
- Color: bright blue (example #067EC8)
- Location: Unevenly scattered in the Resource field. Lower density near the Base Field, higher further out

The Challenge

Round:

- Start position: freely chosen within the Base Field
- Initialization: After the organizers' START signal, use any button/switch mechanism to initialize the round for the device
- Goal: autonomously find, transport and place the resources into the Deposit Pit
- Time limit: 8 minutes. The round is over, and the resources in the pit are counted
- Early stop: optional STOP signal by the team that ends the round early. Resources in the pit are counted
- Penalty: if the vehicle contacts the Penalty Field and/or Penalty Wall more than 3 times or for more than 20 seconds, the round is over and the resources in the pit are counted

The Finals:

- Testing and dry runs
 - On competition day: total of 2 hours for lunch, vehicle setup, testing and dry runs
 - Field available for dry runs without resources and in alternating 10-minute slots per team
- Presentation and demos
 - Team presentation: 10 minutes
 - Q&A Session 1: short jury Q&A
 - Setup for rounds: 5 minutes
 - Round 1
 - Break 1: 30 minutes off the field
 - Round 2
 - Break 2: 30 minutes off the field
 - Round 3
 - Best Round Selection: the team picks the round to be scored
 - Q&A Session 2: short jury Q&A

Finalist selection

- Technical presentation (deadline: 10 May, 23:59 UTC)
 - Video: common format (one-shot presentation or edited), up to 5 minutes, under 2 GB
 - Supporting material: up to 5 A4 pages in PDF, under 50 MB
 - CV: brief CV, one PDF per person, under 25 MB
 - All material should be in English.
- Clearly present the design challenges and your approach to solving them
- Prototype for the technical presentation – not required (optional but welcome)
- Objective: convince us that you can build a high-performing vehicle on time and explain how it will win.
- Selection and next steps
 - Feedback and finalist announcement: by 22 May, based on tech viability and clarity
- Top finalists: will be invited to EnduroSat's Space Center
- BOM: Teams should submit a complete bill of materials for the vehicle with prices and links (if available) by the 6th of July
- Finals will be held on 13 July in Sofia, Bulgaria

Demonstration and finals

Location

- EnduroSat Space Center in Sofia, Bulgaria

Time

- 13th of July, 11:00

Program

- Short introductory presentation by organizers
- Tour of the Space Center
- Lunch, setup, testing and dry runs at the field
- Team presentations and live demonstrations
- Short break for jury deliberation
- Award Ceremony

Evaluation

Criteria (1-10 points each, total up of 60)

- Presentation – overall technical quality
- Presentation – technological viability of the vehicle
- Demonstration – number of resources collected in the selected best round
- Demonstration – time used in the selected best round. (less time scored higher)
- BOM – total component cost, scored using: $(\text{Lowest Finalist Price} / \text{This Team's Price}) \times 10$
- Q&A Sessions – team knowledge and preparedness

The team will be rated on the point total.

Jury: EnduroSat C-level representative, spacecraft hardware, software, and mechanical engineers.

Awards

Top 3 teams will receive:

- 1st Place: €10,000
- 2nd Place: €5,000
- 3rd Place: €2,000

Payout options (any combination up to the total amount)

- Bank Transfer
- Scholarship for the [Space Engineering Master's Degree](#) (€700 - €1000 per person)

Taxes:

- Scholarships for accredited programs: non-taxable
- Monetary prizes: subject to final tax, withheld and paid by the organizer

Example:

A three-person team winning 2nd place may choose two non-taxable scholarships ($2 \times €700$) and a cash award of €3,600 paid by bank transfer (subject to 10% withholding tax; €360 withheld, net cash €3,240), for a total gross prize value of €5,000.

Additional individual awards may be granted at the jury's discretion regardless of team rating in the form of paid internships, scholarships, free admission to Space Challenges, etc.

How to apply

1. Register your team by 10 May (23:59 UTC). Early registration is encouraged; last-minute entries are welcome
2. Use a dedicated team email at registration. This address is the primary and fixed channel for all communication and cannot be changed. We will use it to share Q&A and submission instructions and to grant you access to the Endurance Space Race Discord server (FAQ, team shuffle, community)
3. You may update your team name and members until you submit your application. You are even allowed to switch teams. However, no changes are allowed after submission.
4. You may ask up to three questions. Keep them concise—we will do the same. (We provide general guidance only)
5. Submit your application by 10 May (23:59 UTC)
6. Await finalist selection. We will send results and feedback to the team email by 22 May
7. Confirm by 30 May that your team can attend the Endurance Space Race 2026 Finals on-site in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 13 July
8. Submit a complete bill of materials (BOM) for your vehicle, including prices and links (if available), by 6 July
9. Attend the Endurance Space Race 2026 Finals and present your project, including a live prototype demo

Terms and Conditions

- Organizer: EnduroSat EAD (UIC 203367904), registered address: 99 Tsarigradsko shose Blvd., 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria
- All costs and expenses related to participation are the sole responsibility of the team and are non-refundable and non-reimbursable
- Ownership of all models, prototypes, submissions, and related IP remains with the respective team members/participants
- Evaluation and selection are at the sole discretion of the Jury and the Organizer, based on the announced criteria

Register your team by May 10, 2026

Endurance Space Race 2026 · Sofia, Bulgaria · July 13

[APPLY NOW](#)