

EIT Awards 2017

Call for Nominations for the EIT Innovators Award

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

www.eit.europa.eu



The EIT is a body of the European Union

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1 Introduction - Background

In order to promote an entrepreneurial mind-set and a risk-taking culture within the EIT Community, the EIT introduced the *EIT Entrepreneurship Award* in 2012. This award was presented to three successful ventures that had benefitted from each KIC's business creation support activities.

In 2013, the EIT further developed the concept of the EIT Award. The 'EIT Entrepreneurship Award' was renamed to 'EIT Venture Award'. The '*Change Agents and Next Generation of Entrepreneurs Award*' (EIT CHANGE Award) was introduced to incentivise entrepreneurship-driven innovation at EIT-KIC student and alumni levels.

In line with the EIT's vision to gradually extend the EIT Awards and cover the three main EIT-KIC activity pillars of business creation, education and innovation, the EIT introduced the 'EIT Innovators Award' in 2015 to present highly successful innovation teams of the EIT-KICs.

As of 2015, the EIT Awards thus comprise the EIT Venture Award, the EIT CHANGE Award, and the EIT Innovators Award.

2 Objectives

The EIT Awards promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe and contribute to the branding of the EIT in Europe and globally. The EIT Awards cover the three sides of the Knowledge Triangle and put on the spotlight: high-potential entrepreneurial start-ups brought to maturity by KICs; innovation teams encompassing different Knowledge Triangle actors that deliver outstanding innovations; and EIT Alumni that excel in putting into practice the skills and competences acquired in EIT labelled educational programmes as the next generation of entrepreneurs and change agents in European societies. The EIT Awards are an essential instrument to demonstrate the EIT's and KIC's achievements to stakeholders.

The **EIT Innovators Award** recognises KIC **innovation teams** composed of individuals from across the knowledge triangle that have developed a product, service or process with a high potential for societal and economic impact.¹

Within the EIT Community, the EIT Awards play an important role in celebrating achievements and success, identifying role models and increasing opportunities for the further development of the EIT Award winners.

¹ In showcasing successful innovations and the teams who develop these, the EIT Innovators Award promotes the specific innovation activities and projects KICs are undertaking.

3 Timetable

Activity	Deadline	Comment
Publication of the call for Nominations	31 March 2017	On EIT website
Deadline for submitting applications	31 May 2017	Nominees send application and documentation to KICs (SPOCs)
Evaluation by EIT	Month of June 2017	Check on completeness documentation and whether the candidates meet the eligibility, non-exclusion and selection criteria
If relevant: KICs will be given opportunity to provide missing information or new nominees	Until 7 July 2017	
Formal publication of nominees	17 July 2017	On EIT website
Communication campaign	17 July 2017 – 31 December 2017	
Award decision	15-16 October 2017	During EIT Awards event, prior to announcing the winner of the Award
EIT Awards 2017 ceremony	16 October 2017	
Provision of prize	Within one month after the EIT Awards 2017 winners ceremony on 16 October 2017	

4 Prize

The **EIT Innovators Award** winner will benefit from:

- An increased European-wide promotion of its business and the prerogative to use the label “EIT Innovators Award Winner” in their profiling and marketing activities;
- A monetary prize of €50,000.

5 Admissibility Requirements

Applications must be

- Sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 3;
- Submitted in writing (see section 14), using the application form;
- Drafted in English.

Failure to comply with those requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

6 Eligibility Criteria

In order to participate in this Award competition, KIC innovation teams need to fulfil the following set of criteria:

- The nominated Innovation Team has provided a duly completed template for Nomination for the EIT Innovators Award;
- The team shall involve individuals from at least three KIC partners representing at least two sides of the Knowledge Triangle;
- KIC partners shall come from at least two different countries;
- The team has received funding for their project by a KIC between 01/01/2014 and 31/05/2017.
- Each member of the nominated Innovation Team (or the core team) has provided a duly completed and signed Declaration of Honour.

A core team may be defined if the teams are very large. The evidence to be provided by the applicant (core) teams as part of the application package consists of a description of the team

(this is included in the template for the EIT Innovators Award Competition) and a Declaration of Honour of each of the team members.

7 Exclusion Criteria

7.1 Exclusion from nomination

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals procedure if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in Article 106 of the EU Financial Regulation.²

7.2 Exclusion from award

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the award procedure, they fall under any of the situations defined in Article 107 of the EU Financial Regulation.

7.3 Evidence provided by supporting documents

Applicants must sign a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in articles 106 and 107 of the EU Financial Regulation, filling in the relevant form attached to the application form accompanying the call for nominations and available at <http://eit.europa.eu/activities/entrepreneurship/2017-awards>.

8 Selection Criteria

8.1 Criteria

Applications for the EIT Innovators Award will be assessed by each KIC based on the following criterion:

² Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, as amended by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 547/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 and by Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2015/1929 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 October 2015

- The team must have successfully achieved at least the pre-commercialization stage.

8.2 Evidence provided by supporting documents

The evidence to be provided by the Innovators team as part of the application package consists of a document proving that the team has successfully achieved the pre-commercialisation stage.

9 Award Criteria

9.1 Criteria

An international jury composed of three experts with a diverse background in innovation and entrepreneurship will evaluate the supporting documents and presentations/pitches based on the criteria described below (assessed on a scale from 0 to 5 with half points, where 0 is the lowest score and 5 is the highest score; maximum score to be obtained in total is 20 points):

Criteria (equal weighting)	Explanation
1. Originality of the new product, process or service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Uniqueness and features of product/process/service ✓ Degree to which product/process/service is disruptive
2. The efficiency and effectiveness of the conversion of the idea into the outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Resources (time and finances) used to transform the idea (i.e. starting point) into a product/process/service ✓ The degree to which the intended innovation has been achieved ✓ Innovation process – planning, goals, milestones, team
3. Social and potential and real economic impact of the outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prospects to address a societal challenge tackled by the EIT and KICs ✓ Profit potential ✓ Plan/arrangements for commercialisation
4. Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality and persuasiveness of the presentation ✓ The clarity, demeanour, and professionalism of the presentation of the team and the business case

9.2 Evidence provided by supporting documents

The evidence on which the award decision is based comprises:

1. For award criterion 1-3: Description on how the above award criteria are met are to be presented in the Template for candidate teams and clarified during the presentation.
2. For award criterion 4: The applicants will have to present their application with respect to award criteria 1-3. Under this criterion the quality of the presentation will be assessed.

10 Legal commitment

In the event of a prize awarded by the EIT, the awardee will be formally notified of the award decision, including information about the procedure in view to formalise the obligations of the parties.

The winner must comply with the publicity obligations set out in the present call and with the provisions of Title III of the Rules for participation in the H2020 Programme³ regarding the dissemination and the exploitation of results.

The EIT or the Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.

The EIT may impose financial penalties and exclusion decisions in accordance with Article 106 of the EU Financial Regulations.

11 Payment arrangements

The prize will be paid in one instalment after the EIT Awards 2017 winners' ceremony on 16 October 2017 by bank transfer, provided that all the requested documents have been submitted.

³ Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006

12 Publicity

12.1 Publicity prior to the EIT Awards event

Between the time of the formal publication of the nominees and the video presentation at the EIT Awards event, nominees will be promoted by the EIT via different channels and media. The EIT will work with the nominated Innovators teams to produce different promotional materials, including their business profiles, videos, interviews ...etc.

12.2 Publication of prize-winner

All information relating to the prize awarded shall be published on the internet site of the EIT no later than one month after the 2017 EIT Awards ceremony on 16 October 2017.

The EIT will publish the following information:

- name of the prize-winner;
- the achievement that has been awarded;
- the amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the prize-winner, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the security and safety rights and freedoms of the individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the award winner.

12.3 Publicity by the prize-winner

The winner must promote the action and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Unless the EIT requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) must:

- a) display the EIT logo;
- b) display the EU emblem and
- c) include the following text:

“This team has been awarded the EIT Innovators Award from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This European body receives support from the H2020 research and innovation programme”.

When displayed together with another logo, the EIT logo and the EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.

For the purposes of its obligations, the winner may use the EIT logo and the EU emblem without first obtaining approval from the EIT or the Commission.

This does not, however, give it the right to exclusive use.

Moreover, the winner may not appropriate the EIT logo and the EU emblem (or any similar trademark or logo), either by registration or by any other means.

13 Applicable law and jurisdiction

The present call is governed by the applicable Union law complemented, where necessary, by the law of Belgium. The General Court, or on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union, shall have sole jurisdiction to hear any dispute between the Union and any participant concerning the interpretation, application or validity of the rules of this contest, if such dispute cannot be settled amicably.

14 Data protection

The reply to this call for nominations involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the call for nominations and will be processed solely for that purpose by the EIT and the International Jury for the Innovators Award. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available on the privacy statement at: <http://eit.europa.eu/activities/entrepreneurship/2017-awards>.

Your personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) if you are in one of the situations mentioned in Article 106 of the Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council. For more information, see the Privacy Statement on http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm.

15 Procedure for the submission of Nominations

Nominations must be submitted by the candidates to the KIC contact persons in accordance with the formal requirements and by the deadline set out under section 5. The KICs select and appoint two nominees for the EIT Innovators Award and notifies the EIT by the deadline given in section 3.

Applications shall be submitted by the candidates on the correct form(s), duly completed, with all supporting documents, dated, and in accordance with the formal requirements and by the deadline set out under section 5. Application forms are available at <http://eit.europa.eu/activities/entrepreneurship/2017-awards>. Applications must be sent to the contact person of the KIC concerned given in Table 1 by email with all required documents attached.

No modification to the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes, the KIC and/or EIT may contact the applicant for this purpose during the evaluation process.⁴

Table 1 Contact points per KIC (SPOCs)

KIC	Contact person	Email
Climate-KIC	Stefan Denig	Stefan.Denig@climate-kic.org
EIT Digital	Edna Ayme-Yahil	edna.ayme@eitdigital.eu
EIT InnoEnergy	Oana Penu	oana.penu@kic-innoenergy.com
EIT Health	Sabine Schumann	sabine.schumann@eithealth.eu
EIT Raw Materials	Katerina Thomas	katerina.thomas@eitrawmaterials.eu

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the selection process.⁵

⁴ Art. 96 of the EU Financial Regulation

⁵ Art. 133 of the EU Financial Regulation, Art. 205 of the Rules of application of the EU Financial Regulation

16 Award process

Each KIC organises its own selection process using the Eligibility, Exclusion and Selection Criteria set out in sections 6, 7 and 8 of this document and appoints two nominees for the EIT Innovators Award.

The KICs provide the EIT the names of the nominees they put forward along with all required documentation by 31 May 2017.

The EIT will check if the Eligibility, Exclusion and Selection criteria are met.

Each nominated team will be asked to submit a self-produced short video. The videos will be presented during a dedicated session at the EIT Awards event.

A representative of a nominated team will be invited to give a presentation at the EIT awards event. The format of this presentation will be communicated ahead of the 2017 EIT Awards final jury pitching sessions on 15 October 2017 and the public pitching for the top three teams for the Innovators Award on 16 October 2017, during “INNOVEIT 2017”. A high-level jury will judge the presentation and the material provided and will have the opportunity to ask for clarifications of the presentation and/or documentation. The presentation will be organised as part of the EIT Innovation Forum “INNOVEIT” which will be held in Budapest on 16-17 October 2017.

KICs are expected to support their nominees in their preparation for the event. The EIT will organise a media and pitch/presentation training for the EIT Awards nominees prior to the event. One representative per Innovators team shall attend this training the week of 11 September 2017 unless proof is given by the Innovators team that such a training to pitch to a jury has been attended, and experience by the Innovators team to pitch on stage to a large crowd (500+ attendees) is presented to the EIT. Non-attendance will lead to the exclusion of nominees from the Award, unless in cases of “force majeure”.

The EIT Authorising officer will appoint an international jury of three members for the EIT Innovators award. The Jury will include one member of the EIT Governing Board and independent external representatives. The Jury will be supported by an EIT staff member. This Jury, which will have a diverse background in innovation and entrepreneurship, will evaluate the nominated Innovators teams based on the documentation, video presentation and responses to questions using the Award criteria set out in section 9 of this document.

The award decision will be made by the EIT Authorising Officer based on the recommendation made by the jury. The EIT Innovators Award winner will be announced at the EIT Awards event.