Institut "Jožef Stefan", Ljubljana, Slovenija

The Organization Committee of the 16th International Technology Transfer Conference which will be held on 11th October 2023 at the Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia

announces a

PUBLIC CALL

FOR THE BEST INNOVATION IN 2023

AT PUBLIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (PROs)

1. Subject of the Call

The public call aims to reward authors of technologies with the best value proposition. Its purpose is to promote technology transfer from public research organizations through licensing and spin-out business development. The call is open to authors of inventive or innovative technologies with ideas for commercialization, who are the Conference participants and will present their ideas at the Conference.

2. Purpose and Objective of the Call

The call intends to support academia-industry technology transfer in the field of natural sciences. It aims to promote inventiveness and innovation at PROs for transfer to the economy, primarily through the commercialization of technology, products, and services via licensing and spin-out companies.

3. Target Group

Eligible applicants for the call are individuals who plan to develop innovative scientific-research ideas and are employed in PROs. The proportion of the employment relationship is not restricted. It is allowed for multiple persons (individuals) to submit the same application for the same project/idea.

The PRO where the applicant is employed must be a co-owner or holder of the rights to the applicable ideas, know-how, or intellectual property rights (any of the above is appropriate for the given example).

The applicable ideas, know-how, or intellectual property rights must not yet be exclusively licensed out or commercialized in any other way (e.g., intellectual property rights exclusively transferred to a third party).

The applicant must participate in the development of the applicable ideas as the author, co-author, or collaborator but not necessarily the lead author.

4. Application

4.1 Application Documentation

The application form is available at http://ittc.ijs.si/awards/ and at the Office for substantive project support, technology transfer and innovation (CTT), Jožef Stefan Institute, Jamova cesta 39, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

4.2 Submission of Applications to the Call

A complete application, following the instructions provided in the call, must be delivered by email to tehnologije@ijs.si (scanned forms A, B, and C) no later than August 31st, 2023, and by mail to the organizer (original signed forms A, B, and C) with a postmark no later than August 31st, 2023, to the following address:

Institut "Jožef Stefan"

Office for Substantive Project Support, Technology Transfer, and Innovation (CTT) – Public Call for the 16ITTC Prize

Jamova cesta 39

SI-1000 Ljubljana

SLOVENIA

The application is considered received on time if it is sent via regular mail with a postmark no later than August 31st or if it is received by the Jozef Stefan Institute dispatch center (stamp of the dispatch center).

4.3 Date of opening of Applications

The opening of the applications will be held on 1st September 2023 at 11 am.

4.4 Completeness of the Application

The application is considered complete if it contains the following documents:

- Completed and signed applicant details (Form A). Note: It is essential to provide the applicant's email address, which will be used to notify the applicant of the application's acceptance or to request additional information. Note: if more persons applying for the same project simultaneously, it is necessary to complete the same number of forms as is the number of inventors.

- Completed content form (Form B).

- Completed and signed eligibility declaration of the call (Form C). Note: It is necessary to complete the same number of forms as there are inventors.

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The application must be written entirely in English.

Only one application is permitted for the same idea/invention.

4.5 Completion of the Application

Within three days of opening the applications, the organizer will notify and invite applicants whose applications are not valid to modify them. Applications must be completed within three days from the request given to the applicant.

4.6 Refusal of Applications

Applications that do not comply with the participation terms, are not completed within the specified period, or are incompatible with the purpose of the call will be discarded, and the applicants will be notified within ten days by email.

5. Criteria for Evaluating the Applications

The criteria for evaluating the applications are divided into six segments with different weights. The criteria and weights are presented in Table 1; the maximum total number of points for all six criteria is 20. Each application will be assessed by the members of the commission based on predetermined assessment criteria. The evaluation of the project application will be one part of the final assessment; the second part will be a project presentation at the workshop to be held during the conference. The project with the highest rating will be declared the winner of the conference.

6. Notification of selection

Applicants will be informed of the selection results at the conference.

7. Awards

7.1 General Provisions on Selection and Award Prizes

The evaluation and selection will proceed if at least two complete applications are received by the deadline.

If by the deadline, the organizer does not receive any application or none of the applications, based on the commission's opinion, is eligible for the prize, the prize will not be awarded.

The commission will decide the number of awarded projects and the distribution of the award prizes.

The recipient of the prize will be announced to the public at a public award ceremony during the International Technology Transfer Conference.

At the ceremony, the organizer will describe the selection procedure, provide a brief outline of the expert committee, announce the number of requests, declare a winner, and read the expert opinion.

7.2 The Award Fund

The award fund for the best project, as selected by the commission, is €2,500.

A maximum of two awards will be granted.

8. Organizer and the Commission

The Organizer of the Award Call is Jožef Stefan Institute (hereinafter referred to as the organizer).

8.1 Functions of the Organizer

- Preparation of the public call for the award with instructions for participation
- Establishment of the evaluation commission (the Commission)
- Reviewing all received applications, eliminating incomplete applications, and forwarding the remaining applications to the commission members for assessment
- Collecting all assessments from the members of the commission and compiling them
- Notifying the commission and inventors of the preselection outcome
- Presentation of the awards at the International Technology Transfer Conference

8.2 Functions and powers of the Commission:

- Independent evaluation of each application received in relation to the assessment criteria;
- Independent evaluation and determination of applications, which inventors will have the opportunity to present at the Conference;
- Receives applications from the organizer and evaluates the applications on the basis of the assessment criteria;
- The best application is the one that collects the most points from the commission.

The evaluation will consist of two rounds. The first round will be based on written applications, while the second round will involve live presentations to the commission at the conference.

A maximum of ten applications with the highest evaluation scores from the first round will proceed to the second round.

If there are more than ten formally correct applications, the commission will select the top ten applications to continue to the second round.

In case of a tie for the tenth position, the commission will independently vote to determine the best application.

The order of presentations will be determined by a draw at the conference. Each presentation is limited to 5 minutes for a presentation with slides (pitch) and 7 minutes to answer questions from the commission.

The commission will assess the presentations using the same criteria as in the preselection.

If multiple applications receive the same assessment, the commission has the discretion to select a winner based on the criteria. The commission's decision will be made by a majority vote of all members and will be final.

The commission may also decide that no application is suitable for the award.

9. Additional information

Organizing Committee of the 16th International Technology Transfer Conference, Jožef Stefan Institute, e-mail: tehnologije@ijs.si.

APPENDIX: Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Short description of the criteria	Max number of points (min is 0)
Application	Which problem is the technology solving? Has this been verified with end users? What is the Technology Readiness Level (TRL)? How many different applications can the technology be used for? Is there a well-defined end-user for this technology? Is there any barrier to the end-user adopting this solution? Is there a clear existing end user need for this solution? How well does this solution match the users needs? When will this solution be ready for market? Will this solution have a social impact or bring other benefits to people?	10
Value chain	Where does the technology fit in? How well does the technology fit the existing value chain?	3
Market size and development costs	How is the market size in relation to the development costs? How large is the potential customer community for this product? 1000 100K 1m 100m? How strong is the competition in this market? How receptive will the market be to your idea? What total market share do you expect to get in 5 years? How aligned are the market drivers to the proposed solution? What Is the perceived value by the end user ? What is the perceived Strength level overall? What is the perceived Weakness level overall? What is the perceived Opportunity level overall? What is the perceived Threat level in your overall? Only limited development is required before an investor will commit Funds are available to complete the development investor or other sources (eg. PoC) The time to market Is shorter or comparable to the time scale for any competition For VC's: The costs associated with taking the product to market is at least 25 times smaller than the value of the market	2
Competition	What do the end users use today? Any other technology underway? Which is the expected competition level when you will hit the market How good is the present solution (not yours) in solving the problem? How good will any expected future solutions (not yours) be in solving the problem? How good will your solution be in solving the problem? How strong is your market differentiator?	1
The team	Are the inventors, members of the team, dedicated to the idea? The researchers have unique skills, have experience with tech transfer, and are enthusiastic about following the project through The team has the technical, business, marketing, financing skills needed to understand and develop the idea into a marketable product?	3
IPR & Regulatory	Can the intellectual property of the technology be protected? How strong is the patent likely to be? How dense is the IPR landscape in this technology area in terms of pending and granted patents? How strong is the IPR competition? How complex is the regulatory system in this area Is the technology ready for investment?	1

Table 1: Criteria for evaluating the applications (source: TTO Triangle, Jon Wulff Petersen, TTO A/S, Denmark)