

18th International Technology Transfer Conference 8th and 10th of October 2025



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA VISOKO ŠOLSTVO,
ZNANOST IN INOVACIJE
Masarykova cesta 16, SI - 1000 Ljubljana



Sofinancira
Evropska unija

The 18th edition of the conference is organized by partners from two national consortia of knowledge and technology transfer offices, representing 13 public research organizations.

Conference topic:

Strengthening Spin-Out Support Systems: Bridging Research, Innovation, and Policy for a Competitive Deep Tech Europe; Enabling Research Commercialization and Sustainable Innovation through Coordinated EU and National Strategies

Objectives of the conference

Call for scientific papers on technology transfer and intellectual property

Conference Prize for the Best Innovation with commercial potential in 2025

WIPO National Award for Enterprises

WIPO National Award for Inventors

ORGANIZERS



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

MESEC ZNANOSTI

18ITTC is organised within the campaign Mesec znanosti that is coordinated by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation.



18th International Technology Transfer Conference, 8th and 10th of October 2025

Conference topic: Strengthening Spin-Out Support Systems: Bridging Research, Innovation, and Policy for a Competitive Deep Tech Europe; Enabling Research Commercialization and Sustainable Innovation through Coordinated EU and National Strategies

Paper presentations: scientific papers on technology transfer and intellectual property / Call for papers [More details here \(click\)](#)

Conference Prize for the Best Innovation in 2025 The main objective of the special prize for innovation is to encourage commercialization of inventive/innovative technologies developed at public research organizations. The winners will get also 3,000 EUR.

[More details here \(click\)](#)

WIPO National Award for Enterprises The award will be given to Slovenian enterprise for Developing successful strategy for the commercialization of university-based innovation.


[More details here \(click\)](#)

WIPO National Award For Inventors The Medal will be given to individual researcher or to a group of researchers from Slovenian public research institute whose patented invention has shown a significant economic and technological development in Slovenia.

[More details here \(click\)](#)

Organization

ORGANIZERS

 **Jožef Stefan
Institute**
Ljubljana, Slovenia lead conference partner

 **FIS**
Fakulteta za
Informacijske študije
Faculty of Information studies

 **GeoZS**
Geološki zavod
Slovenije

 **IMT**

 **KEMIJSKI INŠTITUT**

 **Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije**
Agricultural Institute of Slovenia

 **NIB** NACIONALNI INŠTITUT ZA BIOLOGIJO
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

 **RU
DOL
FO
VO**
Science and
Technology
Centre Novo mesto

 **UNIVERZA NA PRIMORSKI**

 **UNIVERZA
V LJUBLJANI**

 **UNIVERSITY OF
MARIBOR**

 **ZAG**
ZAVOD ZA
INŽENIRING
SLOVENIJE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE

 **ZRS**
AGENCIJA ZA PROMOTIVNO INOVACIJSKO POLITIKO
AGENCY FOR PROMOTIVE INNOVATION POLICY

 **REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Mag. Robert Blatnik, Jožef Stefan Institute

Peter Alešnik, University of Ljubljana

Nina Smerdu, University of Maribor

Dr. Tina Mesarič, University of Maribor

Prof. dr. Simona Kustec, University of Primorska

Izr. prof. dr. Jana Hojnik, University of Primorska

Dr. Ana Hafner, Rudolfovo – Science and Technology Centre Novo mesto

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Mag. Robert Blatnik, Jožef Stefan Institute

Mag. Marjeta Trobec, Jožef Stefan Institute

Urška Mrgole, Jožef Stefan Institute

Doroteja Novak, University of Maribor

Dolores Dolšak, University of Maribor

Leon Pavlič, University of Primorska

Petra Vanič, University of Ljubljana

Dr. Ana Hafner, Rudolfovo – Science and Technology Centre Novo mesto

Dr. Mateja Košir, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Scientific papers on technology transfer and intellectual property (tbc)

Niko Schlamberger, past President of Slovenian Society INFORMATIKA

Doc. Dr. Tamara Besednjak Valič, Faculty of Information Studies in Novo Mesto

Assoc. Prof. Dolores Modic, Nord University Business School

Izr. prof. dr. Jana Hojnik, University of Primorska

Izr. prof. dr. Urška Fric, Faculty of information studies in Novo mesto

18. ITTC is organized in collaboration with the [International multiconference Information Society](#) (IS2025).

SUPPORTERS



MESEC ZNANOSTI

18ITTC is organised within the campaign Mesec znanosti that is coordinated by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation.



The conference has been organized by the Jožef Stefan Institute as the initiator and the main organizer since its inception.

Programme

8th of October 2025, Faculty of Management & University of Primorska ([details of location](#)), please [register](#). Programme [in PDF](#).

08.30 – 09.00	<p>REGISTRATION</p> <p>Faculty of Management, Izolska vrata 2, Koper</p>
09.00 – 09.30	<p>Welcome addresses</p> <p>Klavdija Kutnar, Rector, University of Primorska</p> <p>Tomaž Boh, Director-General Science Directorate, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation</p> <p>Urša Jerše, coordinator of UNIK@TT consortium, Head of Technology Transfer Office at University of Ljubljana</p> <p>Robert Blatnik, coordinator of KTO consortium, Head of Technology Transfer Office at Jožef Stefan Institute</p>
09.30 – 10.00	<p>Key note: Backing the Bold: How SPRIND Builds the Future Through Disruptive Innovation and Mission-Driven Funding. Connecting National Ambition with European Opportunity to Empower Deep Tech and High-Risk Innovation.</p> <p>Olav Carlsen – Innovation Manager – SPRIND</p>
10.00 – 11.05	<p>Round table: Bridging the Gap: Synergizing Science, Research, and Innovation in the New EU Funding Landscape</p> <p>Chair: Andreja Kutnar, Acting Department Chair, InnoRenew CoE (UP IAM)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Tomaž Boh, Director-General Science Directorate, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation</p> <p>Olav Carlsen, SPRIND</p> <p>Žiga Lampe, Assistant Director of Strategic Development and Internationalisation Department at Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia</p>
11.05 – 11.20	<p>Break</p>

11.20 – 13.10	Best innovation with commercial potential: Pitch competition (in English) Chair: Robert Blatnik, Jožef Stefan Institute
13.10 – 14.20	Light lunch
14.20 – 14.40	Award announcement: Best innovation with commercial potential (in English) Award announcement: WIPO National award for enterprises Award announcement: WIPO National award for innovators
14.40 – 14.50	Break
14.50 – 16.30	Paper presentations: scientific papers on technology transfer and intellectual property (in English) Chair: Jana Hojnik, University of Primorska
16.30 –	Final networking

To participate please fill-out the [registration form](#).

For additional information please contact Organizing committee at Jožef Stefan Institute through the email: tehnologije@ijs.si.

Notice of Recording and Photography

10 October 2025, Award ceremony (within the [program of Awards of IS2025](#)) at Jožef Stefan Institute:

[Best innovation with commercial potential in the year 2025](#)

[WIPO National Award for Enterprises](#)

[WIPO National Award for Inventors](#)

CONFERENCE PRIZE FOR THE BEST INNOVATION WITH COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL IN 2025



The winning researchers:

dr. Anže Zidar, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Pharmacy for InflammGuardDuo – a smart nanofiber patch promoting gum health (1.500 EUR)

dr. Andreja Pondelak, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute for SAFE WOOD – a fire-resistant and durable mineralized wood technology (1.500 EUR)

Foto: Marjan Verč, Jožef Stefan Institute, 2025

ABOUT THE PRIZE

At the conference, a special prize for innovations from public research organizations in 2025 will be awarded. The emphasis of the competition is on presentation of business propositions of your (early stage technologies) in front of the evaluation commission, which is constituted of investors and technology commercialization experts. The commission members will evaluate the commercial potential of the presented technologies and will award the teams with the highest commercial potential of their invention/innovation.

Important Dates and Activities for Applicants to the ITTC Prize for Best Innovation:

26 August 2025

Preparatory Workshop: Learn how to draft a strong application.

Location: Jožef Stefan Institute.

Until 1 September 2025

One-on-One Expert Sessions: Receive individual support with your application.

To schedule a session, email robert.blatnik@ijs.si (cc: tehnologije@ijs.si).

2 September 2025

Application Deadline: Submit your three-page application form.

Application forms are available below.

4 September – 7 October 2025

Pitch Practice: Practice makes perfect! Join practice sessions to refine your message and delivery.

18 & 25 September 2025

Pitch Preparation Workshops: Develop and rehearse your pitch with expert guidance.

Workshops and one-on-one sessions are available to support you.

8 October 2025

Pitch Day: Present your idea to the evaluation commission at **ITTC18 in Koper**.

EVALUATION COMMISSION MEMBERS tba

- [Maja Cergol Lipnik, Assitant Director, Inkubator Sežana](#)
- [Olav Carlsen, Innovation Manager, SPRIND](#)
- [Žiga Lampe, Assistant Director of Strategic Development and Internationalisation Department at Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia](#)
- [Tanja Kožuh, Director, Primorska Technology Park](#)
- [Nina Dremelj, Managing Partner, Vesna Deep tech Venture Fund SCSp](#)
- [Giulio Bollino, CNR Physical Sciences Department IP Manager, Italian National Council of Research](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

All information disclosed during the presentations of the submitted cases are considered as confidential. This part of the conference is considered a non-public event.

PRIZE FUND: 3,000 EUR, deadline for submission: **2 September 2025**

[Public call](#) (in English language)

[Application form A and C](#) [Application form B](#)

[Promo video \(in Slovenian language\)](#) [Promo poster \(in Slovenina and English\)](#)

Interested in applying?

Please let us know by clicking the button below to register your interest. This will allow us to send you further information, provide support, and invite you to the upcoming workshops. This informal interest does not oblige you to do anything.

I AM INTERESTED!

WIPO NATIONAL AWARD FOR ENTERPRISES



Elvir Čaušević, Gorenje gospodinjski aparati, d. o. o., mag. Karin Žvokelj, director of Slovenian Intellectual Property Office, dr. Tomaž Bregar, Gorenje gospodinjski aparati, d. o. o.

Photo: Marjan Verč, Jožef Stefan Institute, 2025



Nina Meglič, ReCatalyst, d. o. o., mag. Karin Žvokelj, director of Slovenian Intellectual Property Office, Aleksandra Logar, ReCatalyst, d. o. o.

Photo: Marjan Verč, Jožef Stefan Institute, 2025

Justification: The WIPO national award for enterprises 2025 award goes to Gorenje gospodinjski aparati d.o.o. for their outstanding intellectual property portfolio and their long-standing commitment to integrating innovation into both corporate strategy and everyday operations.

The company has successfully institutionalized innovation through a robust internal regulatory framework which ensures that employee creativity is nurtured, protected, and rewarded. With a tradition of patenting dating back to the 1970s, Gorenje has developed a comprehensive system for managing intellectual property rights, fostering transparency in idea submission, and applying rigorous evaluation mechanisms.

Equally important, Gorenje's reward system not only incentivizes employees through financial and non-financial recognition but also guarantees fairness in collaborative projects, including those involving external partners. This approach strengthens cross-boundary innovation and reflects the company's openness to knowledge exchange.

Through continuous cooperation with Slovenian and international universities, Gorenje has positioned itself as a bridge between academic research and industrial application, contributing to both the national and European innovation ecosystems. Its role as the central holder of industrial property rights within the Hisense Europe Group further reinforces its strategic importance as a hub of technological advancement.

In recognition of this holistic and dynamic innovation system – one that empowers employees, advances science and technology, and creates significant economic and social value – we are proud to present the WIPO 2025 award to Gorenje gospodinjiski aparati d.o.o.

Justification: The WIPO national award for enterprises 2025 goes to ReCatalyst, d.o.o. for their pioneering work in the field of advanced catalyst materials and their exemplary use of the intellectual property system to drive commercialization and competitiveness in international markets.

ReCatalyst has demonstrated how a young, research-intensive enterprise can strategically leverage IP to achieve rapid market entry and growth. Through the successful out-licensing of two major patent families from the National Institute of Chemistry the company has built a strong foundation for product development and industrial collaboration. These patents are already granted in most major jurisdictions, ensuring robust global protection.

Building on this foundation, ReCatalyst launched its GEN2 catalysts in 2022, now tested by more than 20 customers worldwide. The company further advanced its innovation pipeline with the GEN3 catalysts, launched in 2024, supported by a newly filed European patent application and a PCT application. In addition to patents, ReCatalyst safeguards critical know-how and process-related trade secrets, underscoring a sophisticated approach to IP management.

Equally commendable is ReCatalyst's promotion of IP awareness both internally and externally. The company integrates IP into investor pitches, marketing campaigns, and staff training, while also providing financial incentives for employee innovation through internal rules on employment-related inventions. This comprehensive approach highlights how IP can serve not only as a defensive tool but also as a proactive driver of growth, reputation, and strategic positioning.

In recognition of their strong and forward-looking IP portfolio, their commitment to translating research into market-ready solutions, and their active promotion of the IP system as a cornerstone of innovation culture, we are proud to present the WIPO 2025 award to ReCatalyst, d.o.o.

ABOUT THE PRIZE

The aim is to stimulate Slovenian enterprises to intensify their cooperation with public research organisations. We wish to expose as a good practice those enterprises that are constantly and methodologically using the IP system in their business activities.

Slovenian enterprises are invited to apply via [this link](#) latest by 4 September 2025.

Info about the eligibility criteria and rating is available [here](#).

Recipients of the WIPO awards from previous years can not apply again.

Evaluation commission members:

Alojz Barlič, Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (SIPO)

Nina Urbanič, Slovene Enterprise Fund

M. Sc Annika Bastian, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

More info about the [WIPO Award Program](#)

Past awards: [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#), [2024](#)



HOME
18TH INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CONFERENCE, 8TH & 10TH OF OCTOBER 2025

ORGANIZATION OBJECTIVES VENUE PROGRAMME REGISTRATION
AWARDS ▾ CALL FOR PAPERS ARCHIVE

WIPO NATIONAL AWARD FOR INVENTORS



mag. Karin Žvokelj, director of Slovenian Intellectual Property Office, Nejc Novak for
izr. prof. Franc Majdič

Justification: WIPO 2025 award goes to assoc. prof. dr. Franc Majdič, professor at Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ljubljana, the co-inventor of six currently patented inventions, with one of the most important – “Modular hydraulic rotary motor”. This invention enabled the series production of a special hydraulic motor (rotator) in the company KGL d.o.o. This breakthrough invention opened a new production line for KGL, which had previously been limited to supplying parts for the automotive industry. By doing so, it provided the company with greater independence from fluctuations in the automotive market and ensured long-term strategic resilience. The invention has already delivered tangible industrial and economic benefits: it has enabled serial production for domestic and international markets, created new jobs, and strengthened KGL’s position as an innovative Slovenian manufacturer with global competitiveness. This achievement exemplifies the values of the WIPO Award: transforming inventive knowledge into real-world industrial application, generating measurable economic impact, and enhancing the international visibility of Slovenian innovation.

About the Prize

The goal is to award inventive and innovative activity of Slovenian public researchers and to recognize their contribution to national wealth and development.

Researchers from Slovenian public research organisations can apply via [this link](#) latest by 8 September.

Info about the eligibility criteria and rating is available [here](#).

Recipients of the WIPO awards from previous years can not apply again.

Evaluation commission members:

Alojz Barlič, Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (SIPO)

Nina Urbanič, Slovene Enterprise Fund

M. Sc Annika Bastian, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

More info about the [WIPO Award Program](#)

Past awards: [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#), [2024](#)