

## Photonics21 Innovation Award

### Strengthen Entrepreneurship in Photonics

Any person active in the field of optics and photonics, may apply for the “Photonics21 Innovation Award”. Photonics21 established this dedicated Innovation Challenge to push for more entrepreneurship in photonics. It addresses PhD students, master students, young entrepreneurs, and makers alike who have an idea for a photonics product that can transform into a real business or product. This idea can be already described in a Master or PhD thesis or in a business plan or the like. Further details of the rules and conditions are given below.

1. The purpose of the contest is to push for more entrepreneurship in photonics
2. The prize will normally be awarded annually to the recipient in the field of any branch of optics and photonics. The award ceremony will be held alongside a major event (Venture forum, conference, fair) in optics and photonics taking place in Europe.
3. The conditions for eligibility are:
  - a) You have a product idea
  - b) **Or** you have a product to be developed further
  - c) The idea/product has potential for application in industry
  - d) The idea/product is innovative
  - e) The idea/product is presented in English
  - f) Submissions may be entered by individuals or teams
4. The applicants must submit the following material which serve as the criteria by which the work will be judged:
  - a) Make a short, less than 2 minutes, video that demonstrates the uniqueness of your idea and the added value it will have for integrators or end-users. Be creative and keep your message clear. Do not hesitate to use visuals or simulation to present your idea, prototype or product.
  - b) Upload the video on [www.photonics21.org](http://www.photonics21.org) in the application form at [www.photonics21.org](http://www.photonics21.org)

#### Or

- c) Send in a description of your idea/product not exceeding 4 A4 sides (12point font) making clear the
  - Nature of innovation
  - Potential impact to industry
  - Next steps to market
- d) Fill the application form at [www.photonics21.org](http://www.photonics21.org)

The recipient is expected to be present at the corresponding event.

5. The price consists of a cash prize of € 5,000 which is sponsored by industry, plus getting an entrepreneurial skills training or/and an Experience Centre training which can be chosen from existing courses/camps listed on the [PhotonHub Europe website](http://PhotonHub_Europe_website). Furthermore, the winners can get in contact with Venture capitalists.

#### Time frame:

Award announcement approximately 25 weeks prior to the award ceremony.

Call for applications shall be open at least 12 weeks.

Within 3 weeks after closing date, the ranking results of the committee shall be communicated to the Photonics21 Secretariat.

The recipient will be contacted by the Photonics21 Secretariat promptly.