



Photronics21 “#next_photonics. Prototype your idea contest”

Photronics21 established a dedicated Innovation Challenge to push for more entrepreneurship in photonics. It addresses PhD students, master students and makers alike who have an idea for a photonics product that can transform into a real business. 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 (conference, fair) in optics and photonics taking place in Europe.
3. The conditions for eligibility are:
 - a) The product is not on the market yet
 - b) The idea has potential for application in industry
 - c) The idea is innovative
 - d) The idea is presented in English
 - e) 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, max 2 minute 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 and fill in the application form at www.photonics21.org

The recipient is expected to be present at the prize ceremony at the corresponding event.
5. The Photronics21 Award committee should consist of representatives from industry and of representatives from academia.
6. The committee shall be provided with the applications by the Photronics21 Secretariat, evaluate the material and propose a recipient of the award. Each member of the Committee shall rank the best 5 applications in rank order 1 to 5 (or best 10 in rank order 1 to 10 if more than 50 applications are received). In the case of close results, a telephone conference for further discussion will be arranged.
7. The prize consist of getting access to the ACTPHAST EU innovation incubator to carry out a full feasibility testing of your idea worth up to €30,000 provided in-kind by giving access to Europe's top photonics experts and infrastructure including a start-up business coach.

Photronics21 will cover travel costs and accommodation costs to allow the entrepreneur to visit the Photonics PPP Innovation Incubator for SMEs. The award also includes a meeting with an experienced photonics entrepreneur and as the case may be with potential first industry customers from Photonics21 membership.
8. The time frame of the procedure shall be the following:

Approximately 25 weeks before the ceremony, the first announcement shall be published on the website

Following by an announcement in the newsletter

The call shall be open for approximately 12 weeks

After the closing date, the applications shall be sent within one week to the committee.

Within 2 weeks, the ranking results of the committee shall be sent to the Photronics21 Secretariat.

The decision shall be made one week later.

The recipient will be phoned or emailed by the Secretariat promptly.