



Photronics21 “#next_photonics. Prototype your idea contest”

Any person active in the field of optics and photonics, may apply for the “#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, young entrepreneurs and makers alike who have an idea for a photonics product that can transform into a real business. 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 (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, max 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 and fill in the application form at www.photonics21.org
Or
 - c) Send in a description of your idea/product not exceeding 4 A4 sides (12point font) making clear the
 - a. Nature of innovation
 - b. Potential impact to industry
 - d) Fill in the application form at www.photonics21.org
5. 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.

The call for applications shall be announced in Photronics21 newsletters and on the Photronics21 website.
7. The prize consists of a cash prize of €5,000 plus getting access to the ACTPHAST EU innovation incubator to carry out a full feasibility testing of your idea worth up to €30,000 by giving access to Europe's top photonics experts and infrastructure including a start-up business coach.

The award also includes a meeting with an experienced photonics entrepreneur and as the case may be with potential first industry customers from Photronics21 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.