RWTH Aachen University Innovation Award 2023

Call for Applications for the RWTH Aachen University Innovation Award 2023

Deadline for submission: 20 November 2023

1. **Background**
   
   It is our vision to become the leading tech incubator in Europe creating innovation and new businesses in a new and integrated way. We aim to embed the idea of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the university in order to promote and accompany researchers and inventors at RWTH Aachen University throughout the entire innovation process, from the first idea to the market-ready innovation and/or technology. The award is given to professors, postdocs, doctoral candidates, students, scientists and non-scientists at RWTH Aachen University and Forschungszentrum Jülich who with their ideas contribute to the innovative and radiant power of the Aachen region.

2. **Participation**
   
   The RWTH Innovation Award is presented to innovative and/or technology-based ideas with particularly high market and exploitation potential. The innovation or start-up project can still be in the idea stage, at an early stage of implementation, or shortly before exploitation, e.g. within the spin-off process. Spin-offs that have already been founded are **excluded** from the application.

   The RWTH Innovation Award addresses the following **target groups**:
   
   - **Doctoral candidates, post-doctoral students and professors** who are employed by RWTH Aachen University or Forschungszentrum Jülich at the time of application,
   - **Non-scientific staff** who are employed by RWTH Aachen University or Forschungszentrum Jülich at the time of application,
   - **Students** who are enrolled at RWTH Aachen University at the time of application, and
   - **Teams consisting of people from the above categories.**

3. **Formalities of the application**
   
   The application is completed by the electronic submission of:
   
   - Completed cover form
- Completed application form

Up to and including **20 November 2023** to **communications@rwth-innovation.de**. The required application documents can be downloaded here.

Failure to comply with the formal criteria will result in the application not being reviewed. The application can be submitted in German or English.

4. **Evaluation of the applications**

The applications are reviewed by a selection committee based on the criteria of **degree of innovation of the technology**, **social relevance of the technology field or area of application**, **technology readiness level**, **development plan**, **market potential**, and **overall impression of the application**. The selection committee is composed of professors of RWTH Aachen University, other employees of RWTH Aachen University and selected industry partners.

5. **Prize money**

The RWTH Aachen University Innovation Award consists of three prizes, each of which comes with different amounts of money:

- 1st prize of the RWTH Aachen University Innovation Award: EUR 1,500
- 2nd prize of the RWTH Aachen University Innovation Award: EUR 1,000
- 3rd prize of the RWTH Aachen University Innovation Award: EUR 500

6. **Award presentation**

The winners will be informed about their successful participation in the competition. The ceremonial awarding of the prize takes place within the annual "RWTHtransparent" event.

7. **Acknowledgement of RWTH Aachen University**

The RWTH Aachen University Innovation Award not only honours special projects, but also serves as an incentive for further start-up founders.

In case of publications by the award winners that include the content of the funding, they are entitled to add the following note to the publication:

"Winner of RWTH Aachen University’s Innovation Award 2023"

(„Gewinner des Innovation Awards der RWTH Aachen University 2023“)
8. **Applicant declaration**

By submitting an application, each applicant declares that he or she or RWTH Aachen University or Forschungszentrum Jülich owns the rights to the submitted innovation and grants RWTH Aachen University the non-exclusive right to reproduce the submitted application in any way, in particular to make copies and electronic copies of the original, and to make available these copies in any form to its employees as well as to the jury to process and evaluate the application and to publish extracts of the application in consultation with the applicant.

The employees of RWTH Aachen University who are involved in the review and assessment of the applications are subject to secrecy regarding the content of the applications. In addition, RWTH Aachen University will also enter into a comprehensive non-disclosure agreement with the partners from industry who are members of the jury and who also financially support the Innovation Award of RWTH Aachen University. This agreement will exclude the use of the innovation beyond the above mentioned and explicitly granted rights.

Furthermore, each applicant declares with the submission of the application that he or she agrees to the storage of his or her personal data at RWTH Innovation GmbH, as far as this is necessary for the processing and evaluation of the application by RWTH Aachen University. Every applicant is entitled to view his or her personal data stored at RWTH Innovation GmbH, both when the data is first stored and at any time thereafter.

9. **Change of the conditions of participation**

RWTH Aachen University reserves the right to change the conditions of participation or other conditions at any time.

10. **Contact**

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