



EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD 2010

RECOMMEND AN INVENTOR RULES AND GUIDELINES

This document provides all the information necessary for you to recommend an inventor for the European Inventor Award 2010. Refer to these frequently asked questions for details of who may be proposed for the Award in each of the four categories and for formal requirements for submitting a valid recommendation.

Once you have read these materials, you may propose an inventor using the entry form attached or by downloading the form online at www.epo.org/european-inventor. Please note that a short written statement supporting the proposal is required.

Seize this opportunity and submit your proposal by 12 September 2009.



FAQs

1. Conditions for recommending an inventor

1.1 What kinds of inventions will be considered?

Inventors proposed for the European Inventor Award must have been awarded at least one valid European patent for their invention. Please include the European patent (EP) numbers of up to three patents granted for the invention on the entry form.

1.2 What are the requirements for inventors?

Any inventor of any nationality possessing at least one valid European patent can be proposed. Inventors with European nationalities are eligible for the Industry, SMEs/Research and Lifetime Achievement categories. This also applies if they currently live outside of Europe. Other nationals can be entered for the European Inventor Award competition in the Non-European Countries category.

1.3 What if more than one inventor worked on an invention?

You can nominate a team of inventors. Several teams have won the Award in the past.

1.4 Can all inventors be considered for the Award?

An inventor may NOT be entered for the competition if:

- The relevant patent is the subject of pending opposition or appeal proceedings.
- The patent has been revoked.

1.5 What are the four Award categories?

The **European Inventor Award** is presented in four categories:

- **Industry:** The Industry Award recognises the inventors of outstanding and commercially successful technologies patented by large European companies. These are companies that have more than 250 employees and annual revenues of more than EUR 50 million.
- **SMEs/Research:** This Award is presented to the people behind inventions at small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or research institutions. SMEs are companies that had fewer than 250 employees and annual revenues of less than EUR 50 million when the patent was granted. Ideally, the invention has helped the company achieve commercial success and business growth.
- **Lifetime Achievement:** This category honours the long-term contributions of an individual European inventor. With their dedication and tireless efforts – and their patented landmark inventions – these inventors have had a major impact on their respective fields of technology and society at large.
- **Non-European Countries:** This category is open to all inventors who are not European nationals, regardless of the size or revenues of the company applying the patented invention. The invention or related products need to be available in Europe, however, and enjoy considerable commercial success.

1.6 Are any areas of technology excluded from the Award?

No, all technologies for which a European patent can be granted will be considered.

2. Formal criteria for recommending an inventor

2.1 What documents need to be submitted?

Your recommendation is complete if we have received the following documents by 12 September 2009:

- A completed **entry form**
- A **written statement** explaining why the proposed invention is innovative and deserves the Award, what its significance is for the European economy, and what demonstrable success it enjoys on the market (max. 400 words).

2.2 What language can recommendations be submitted in?

English

2.3 What should I consider when filling out the entry form?

The entry form should be typed and signed by the person submitting it. It needs to contain the name and nationality of the proposed inventor, the EP numbers of the invention and the Award category in which the invention is entered.

2.4 Can I recommend anyone?

Inventors who have already been finalists or winners of the European Inventor Award in previous years will not be considered.

2.5 How can I find the valid EP numbers?

The EPO's databases are extremely helpful when it comes to finding EP numbers and checking on the status and validity of a patent:

EPO Online Services database: www.epoline.org

esp@cenet data base: <http://ep.espacenet.com>

2.6 How can I submit the entry documents?

The entry form can be submitted in two ways:

- By e-mail, attaching a scan of the signed entry form and written statement, to: european-inventor@epo.org
- By post in an envelope addressed to:
European Inventor Award
c/o European Patent Office
80298 Munich, Germany

2.7 What is the final deadline for entries?

The call for proposals for the European Inventor Award 2010 ends on 12 September 2009. The finalists will be announced in February 2010.

Please visit www.epo.org/european-inventor for updates.



ENTRY FORM FOR THE EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD 2010

RECOMMEND AN INVENTOR

Deadline: 12 September 2009

Please fill this out to the best of your knowledge and submit your completed documents by e-mail to: europaean-inventor@epo.org

or by post to the following address:

European Inventor Award
c/o European Patent Office
80298 Munich, Germany

Download this form at www.epo.org/european-inventor

Proposer

Surname	
First name	
Firm or organisation	
Position	
Address (<i>street, city, postal code, country</i>)	
Telephone	Fax
E-mail address	

- Please do not inform the candidate of my recommendation.
- Please inform the candidate that he/she has been proposed on my recommendation.

I wish to recommend the following person(s) for the European Inventor Award 2010

1. Name(s) of inventor(s) (<i>If more than one person is mentioned, please say, if appropriate, who played a particularly significant part in the invention's development.</i>)
2. Nationality of inventor(s)

3. Contact details <i>(address/telephone and/or fax/e-mail address)</i>
4. Proposed invention
5. Description of invention
6. Area of technology
7. Award category <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> SMEs/Research <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Achievement <input type="checkbox"/> Non-European Countries
8. Publication number of the relevant European patents <i>(EP B1 numbers only, for example "EP 0 925 570 B1". Please indicate up to three patents.)</i>
9. Publication date of the relevant European patents <i>(DD/MM/YYYY) (Please indicate up to three patents.)</i>
10. Patent applicant
11. Authorised representative before the EPO
12. Other relevant documents (prior art)

Please enclose a written statement explaining why the proposed invention is innovative and deserves the Award, what its significance is for the European economy, and what demonstrable success it enjoys on the market (max. 400 words).

To the best of my knowledge, the information given in the documents and attachments is true and complete.

Date

Place

Signature