



Europäisches
Patentamt
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40 EUROPEAN
PATENT
CONVENTION
YEARS 1973–2013
Innovation matters

EPO Innovation Contest

European Patent Academy

EPO Innovation Contest

Explore the wealth of available patent documentation and suggest new areas of innovation, particularly in the green technology and sustainable development sectors.

As part of the EPC's 40th anniversary celebrations, the European Patent Office is staging an Innovation Contest for students in the European Patent Organisation's member states.

The contest is open to students of all disciplines who are at least 18 years old, enrolled at a university, college or equivalent academic institution in one of the Organisation's member states.

There is no entry fee.

Contestants will be asked to define a research project of potential interest for future R&D. Their paper should include:

- a description of a technical problem currently faced in one of the following five fields:
 - A. Sustainable food production
 - B. Eco-friendly energy production and storage
 - C. Waste management, recycling and urban mining
 - D. Smart transport and traffic management systems
 - E. Smart house technology
- a presentation of the state of the art currently available in the problem area
- a general account of the market potential for the suggested solution to the chosen technical problem

Your national IP office will collect applications and then select a single contestant or team of contestants for each technical field. If you are selected, you will be registered on a dedicated distance learning (DL) programme offering guidance on how to develop your initial idea. The working language of the DL programme and accompanying online mentoring will be English, but you can submit your final paper in any one of the EPO's official languages, i.e. English, French or German.

All contestants who submit a final paper will be awarded a one-year subscription to the EPO's professional search tools on PISE/GPI, starting from October 2013. An international jury will select the winners, who will be invited to attend an award ceremony in Munich on 17 October 2013. The winner in each of the five categories will be awarded a prize of EUR 5 000.

For more detailed information, see the *"Rules of Participation"*.

Registration for the programme starts on

14 January 2013 and must be completed by **15 March 2013**.

The DL programme will be offered from

18 March to 13 June 2013.

The deadline for submitting the final papers is

13 July 2013 at 15.00 hrs CET.

To apply, please contact your national IP office mentioning "EPO Innovation Contest"!

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