

Call for Applications for the RWTH Aachen University's Innovation Award 2024

Submission Deadline: 1 December 2024

1. Background

The economist Joseph Schumpeter (1883-1950) defined *innovation as the successful implementation of a technical or organizational novelty, rather than merely its invention.*

Scientific institutions play a crucial role in fostering innovation by generating knowledge through excellent education and research, laying the groundwork for addressing socially relevant questions of the future. Their contributions initiate innovation processes and develop solutions. Innovations generally take years to emerge after research findings are transferred to the market (either through existing companies or through spin-offs) and have become established in the market.

RWTH Aachen's vision is to develop a unique innovation ecosystem that provides societal value. The Innovation Award recognizes individuals actively contributing to this vision, advancing from ideas to innovative solutions. These solutions can include technologies, processes, products, inventions, or software.

2. Target Group

Applicants must have created their contribution to innovation while employed at RWTH Aachen, Uniklinik RWTH Aachen or Forschungszentrum Jülich. Therefore, all individuals employed by RWTH Aachen, Uniklinik RWTH Aachen or Forschungszentrum Jülich at the time of development are eligible. Developments already commercialized will also be considered, provided they were commercialized no more than three years before the application date.

3. Application Requirements

For a successful application, the fully completed cover sheet and application form must be submitted **by email** to communications@rwth-innovation.de by **1 December 2024**. Applications that do not meet the formal requirements will not be reviewed. Applications may be submitted in either German or English. The required application documents can be downloaded [here](#).

4. Application Review

Applications will be evaluated by a selection committee based on the criteria of **innovation level, social relevance of the technology or application area, technological readiness level, market readiness level, and market potential**. Higher individual scores lead to a better overall rating, allowing disruptive ideas to

compete with more mature technologies and awarding solutions along the entire innovation pipeline.

The selection committee consists of professors from RWTH Aachen, additional RWTH Aachen staff, 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's Innovation Award: EUR 1,500
- 2nd Prize of the RWTH Aachen University's Innovation Award: EUR 1,000
- 3rd Prize of the RWTH Aachen University's Innovation Award: EUR 500

6. Award Ceremony

The award winners will be notified of their successful participation in the competition. The formal award ceremony will take place as part of the annual "RWTHtransparent," held in January of the following year.

7. RWTH Aachen Acknowledgement

The RWTH Aachen Innovation Award not only recognizes exceptional projects but also serves as an incentive for additional innovation drivers. Award winners are entitled to include the following statement in any publication that references the content of the award: „(Ausgezeichnet mit dem) Innovation Award der RWTH Aachen University 2024“ / “(Awarded with the) RWTH Aachen University's Innovation Award 2024”.

8. Applicant Declarations

By submitting an application, each applicant confirms that either they or RWTH Aachen or Forschungszentrum Jülich held the rights to the submitted project at the time of its creation. Furthermore, the applicant grants RWTH Aachen a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to reproduce the submitted application in any way, particularly by making copies of the original, including electronic copies, and to make these reproductions available to its employees and the jury in any format for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating the application. Excerpts may be published **after consultation** with the applicant. RWTH Aachen employees involved in the evaluation and review of applications are bound to confidentiality regarding the content of the applications. Additionally, RWTH Aachen will establish a comprehensive non-disclosure agreement with the external jury members regarding

the content of the applications, which will prohibit the use of the innovation beyond the rights expressly granted above.

9. Modification of Participation Terms

RWTH Aachen reserves the right to modify the participation terms or other conditions at any time

10. Data Privacy

Furthermore, by submitting the application, each applicant declares their consent to the storage of their personal data by RWTH Innovation GmbH, insofar as this is necessary for the processing and evaluation of the application by RWTH Aachen. Each applicant may access the data stored about them at RWTH Innovation GmbH, both upon initial storage and at any later time.

You may withdraw your consent in whole or in part at any time with effect for the future in text form to RWTH Innovation GmbH, Campus-Boulevard 57, 52074 Aachen, Germany, or by e-mail to info@rwth-innovation.de. The information on data processing can be found in our [Privacy Notice](#) (specifically under the section “*Further information on commercial services*”).

11. Contact

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