

The 4th International Technology Transfer Conference, which will be held on the 24th and 25th of October 2011 at the Jožef Stefan Institute and the University of Maribor, with the project PRO TT (Technology Transfer from public research organizations in the economy), which is financially supported by the Slovenian Technology Agency (TIA)

announce a

PUBLIC CALL FOR THE BEST INVENTIVE/INNOVATIVE PROJECTS WITHIN PUBLIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (PROs) FOR THE ECONOMY IN 2011

1. Subject tender

The subject tender is rewarding inventive and innovative projects, which with their applicable value are interesting and useful to the economy. The aim is to promote cooperation between research organizations and development groups in the economy.

The call is open to anyone who has an inventive or innovative idea, who is a conference participant, and who is actively participating at the Workshop, which will feature maximum **5** of the best examples.

2. The purpose and objective of the call

The purpose of the call is to support development projects in the inventive and innovative technological ideas/projects areas:

- Nanotechnology,
- New materials,
- Biotechnology,
- Management technology and production,
- Communication technology,
- Computer technology and technology skills,
- Environmental technology,
- Reactor technology.

The aim of the call is to promote inventiveness/innovation from PROs for the economy.

3. Target group

Eligible applicants for the call (i.e. individuals) are the conference participants who wish to develop innovative scientific-research ideas and are employed in public research organizations.

4. Application

4.1 Application documentation

The tender documentation is available at <http://tehnologije.ijs.si/technology-transfer-conference-2011/conference-prize.html> and at the Center for Technology Transfer and Innovation, Jožef Stefan Institute, Jamova cesta 39, 1000 Ljubljana.

4.2 Submission of applications to the call

A complete application in accordance with instructions from the call must be delivered by e-mail to tehnologije@ijs.si no later than 27 Sept. 2011 and by mail to the organizer, including 27 Sept. 2011 (post stamp of that day) to Institut "Jožef Stefan", Center za prenos tehnologij in inovacij – Javni poziv: Nagrada za inovativnost za gospodarstvo, Jamova cesta 39, 1000 Ljubljana.

4.3 Date of opening applications

Opening of the applications will be on 28 Sept. 2012 at 11 am.

4.4 Completeness of the application

The application is complete if it contains the following documents:

- Completed and signed applicant details (Form A),
- Completed content form (Form B),
- Completed and signed eligibility declaration of the call (Form C).

The application must be written entirely in Slovene and in English.

4.4 Completion of the application

The organizer will, within three days of opening the applications, notify and invite those applicants whose applications are not valid to modify them.

4.5 Refusal of applications

The applications that do not comply with the terms of the participation, or that are not completed within the specific period, or that are incompatible with the purpose of the call will be discarded and the applicants will be notified within ten days.

5. Criteria for evaluating the applications

Criteria for the evaluating the applications are divided into six lots, which together account for total of 19 criterions. The criteria are presented in the table below; each of the 19 criterions brings at the most 10 points.

Criteria lots	Criterions (maximum 10 points each)
1. Overall	Degree to which project aligns with market need
	Project's IPR situation
2. Product/application advantage	Unique benefits
	Meets customer needs better
	Value for money
3. Market attractiveness	Market size
	Market growth
	Favorable trends
4. Competitive situation	Degree of entry barriers
	Level of
	Manufacturing / processing synergies
5. Technology maturity	Technical gap
	Complexity
	Technical uncertainty
6. Risk versus return	Expected profitability (e.g. NPV)
	Return (e.g. IRR)
	Payback period
	Certainty of return / profit estimates
	Low cost & fast to do

Table 1: Criteria for evaluating the applications (source: Jon Wulff Petersen, TTO A/S, Denmark)

Every application will be assessed by the members of the commission on the basis of predetermined assessment criteria. The evaluation of the project application will be one part of the final assessment; the second part of the final assessment will be a project presentation at the workshop that will be held on the first day of the conference. The best rated project will be the winner of the conference.

6. Notification of selection

Applicants will be informed of the results of the selection at the conference.

7. Awards

7.1 General provisions selection and award prizes

The evaluation and selection will be made if at least two complete applications are delivered.

If by the deadline the organizer does not receive any applications or none of the applications based on the commission's opinion is eligible for the prize, the prize will not be awarded.

The commission shall decide on the number of winning projects and the allocation of the awards.

The recipient of the prize is released to the public at a public award ceremony in the end of the first day of the International Technology Transfer Conference.

At a public award ceremony the organizer will describe the procedure of the selection, a brief outline of the expert committee, provide the number of requests to declare a winner and read the expert opinion.

7.2 The amount of funds and grant awards

The award fund for the best project after the commission's selection is **€10,000**.

A maximum of five awards will be awarded.

8. Organizer and the Commission

The Organizer of the Award Call for the Jožef Stefan Institute (hereinafter referred to as the organizer) in cooperation with the National institute of Chemistry, the National institute of Biology, and RDA North coastal region for University of Nova Gorica, the University of Maribor and the University of Ljubljana.

8.1 The functions of the organizer are:

- Preparing the tender for the award with instructions for the application;
- Establishment of the commission members;
- Review of all the applications received, the elimination of incomplete applications, the transmission of other applications to the commission members for assessment;
- Presentation of the awards at the Technology Transfer Conference 2011.

8.2 Functions and powers of the Commission:

- An independent evaluation of each application received in relation to the assessment criteria;
- The commission receives applications from the organizer and evaluates the applications on the basis of the estimator;
- The best application is the one that collects the most points from the commission.

If there are several applications with the same assessment, the commission, according to the criteria for the winner, has the discretion to select a winner.

The commission shall decide by a majority vote of all the members. The decision of the commission is final.

9. Additional information



Dr. Špela Stres, Head of the Organizing Committee, Communication and Technology Transfer, Jožef Stefan Institute, e-mail: tehnologije@ijs.si.



FORM A

Application to the public call

FOR THE BEST INVENTIVE/INNOVATIVE PROJECTS WITHIN PUBLIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (PROs) FOR THE ECONOMY IN 2011

General Information:

Name and Surname:			
Address:			
Postal Code:		Post:	
Telephone:		Mobile:	
E-mail:			
Name of the idea:			
Technology Field of the Idea:			

Date and place:

Signature:

FORM B

Description of Innovative scientific-research idea and the possibilities of transferring into practice

A brief description of the invention that you believe has market potential – about **two paragraphs for each question**. The description is intended to encourage reflection on the prospects for the commercialization of the technology, product or know-how and searching for the optimal path from idea to product, possible funding sources, the identification of risks, etc. All the information will be treated in confidence.

0. Reason: potential of the innovative idea – why do you think your business idea is innovative?

1. Invention: description of the invention in two paragraphs.

2. Status: description of the invention's development stage (two paragraphs).

3. Market: how do you assess the market needs for the product/service that is the result of the idea? What is the possibility of marketing the results of your ideas? Who are the potential users/beneficiaries?

4. Competition: how do you assess the market needs for your product/service that is the result of the idea? What is the key competitive advantage of the invention?

5. Publishing: were there any key elements of the invention published or they will be - where and when?

6. Inventor: description of the inventor.

Examples of some answers (Source: Evaluating Opportunities, Praxis, 2008):

- Example of the invention's description:

Electric-field generation for charged-particle analyzers. Dr. B. Sparke in the Department of Physics has developed a novel technique and apparatus for producing customized electric fields, using inexpensive and easy to produce flexible circuits. This technique replaces the need for expensive and complex precision machining of electronic lenses in applications such as mass spectrometry.

Describe the key innovation brought by the invention and how does it improve the quality of life.

- Example of the status description:

Status: Research was sponsored by a large multi-national industrial partner and a student of Dr Sparke's is a co-inventor. Two applications have been demonstrated on prototype designs.

Describe the stage of the invention's development that is either at the level of ideas, perhaps a small project has been running with a company or even a strategic project with the company. Was the survey completed successfully but had no practical applicability, has it already produced a prototype or pilot system, is the product already on sale, etc.

- Estimation of the competitive advantages

Market: Electric-field generators are widely used in analytical instrumentation, such as ion mobility detectors, mass spectrometers and cyclotrons. The application of charged particle analysis to the evaluation of bio-molecules is a new and rapidly growing area. Current techniques for generating electric fields are costly and cumbersome; inexpensive, flexible methods might be expected to expand markets as well.

What is the key competitive advantage, innovation or added value for potential buyers (lower price, better quality, brand new product/technology, control of a given market, other...)? Does such/comparable product not yet exist, is there a lack of that kind of products on the market, is the improvement to an existing technology/product? What is the risk that the competition may take the (published) invention and overtake you – link to the next question?

- Example of an inventor description

Inventor: Dr Sparke is a well-known, mid-career analytical chemist and this is her first invention. She does not have strong industry contacts, but her lab is well funded.

Does the inventor have an interest in commercialization or business use of the invention? What is the willingness of the inventor to input into the business use of the invention in terms of work and money (no need to specify specific amounts)? Is he/she prepared to be fully employed (full/partial /part-time) in the company? After starting the company does he/she intend to pursue an academic career / sell the company / remain a shareholder? What is the human potential for the commercialization of inventions?

FORM C

DECLARATION
of the Applicant to the
PUBLIC CALL FOR THE BEST INVENTIVE/INNOVATIVE PROJECTS WITHIN PUBLIC
RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (PROs) FOR THE ECONOMY IN 2011

The applicant, _____, certifies with his/her signature that information, given in the documentation and application forms of this public call are true and

DECLARES:

- I meet the general conditions for participation in this public call, as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4
- I accept the conditions and criteria of this public call
- The ideas presented in the submitted documentation are not owned by third parties outside the public research organization where I work, and do not violate the provisions previously negotiated in non-compete clauses.

Place and date

Signature
