

# EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD 2013

ENTRY FORM

SUBMISSION

DEADLINE:

18 OCTOBER 2012



## FAQs

### 1. Conditions for proposing an inventor or entering yourself

#### 1.1 What kind of inventions will be considered?

Inventors proposed for the European Inventor Award must have been granted at least one valid European patent for the invention. You must therefore enter the relevant European patent (EP) number on the entry form. You can enter up to three patents granted for the invention.

#### 1.2 What are the requirements for inventors?

Any inventor of any nationality who has at least one valid European patent can be nominated. Inventors with a European nationality are eligible for the Industry, SMEs, Research and Lifetime Achievement categories, even if they are currently living outside Europe. Other nationals can only be nominated for 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 Why might an inventor be excluded?

An inventor may NOT be entered for the competition if:

- the patent has not yet been granted, or has been granted by a patent office other than the EPO
- the relevant patent is subject to pending opposition or appeal proceedings
- the relevant patent is within a nine-month notice of opposition period
- the patent has been revoked
- they have already been finalists or winners in previous European Inventor Award competitions (please see the list of past finalists and winners).

#### 1.5 What are the five award categories?

The European Inventor Award is presented in five categories:

- **Industry:** The Industry Award is presented in recognition of inventors of outstanding and commercially successful technologies patented by large European companies. These are companies that have more than 250 employees and an annual turnover of more than EUR 50 million.
- **Research:** This Award honours inventors working at universities or research institutions. Inventions presented in this category will often have led to major technological progress and enhanced the reputation of the inventor's institution.
- **SMEs:** This Award is presented to the people behind inventions at small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are companies that had fewer than 250 employees and an annual turnover of less than EUR 50 million when the patent was granted. Ideally, the invention will have been a commercial success and helped the SME to expand its business.
- **Lifetime Achievement:** This category honours the long-term contribution of an individual European inventor whose dedication and tireless efforts – and patented landmark inventions – have had a major impact on his/her field 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 turnover of the company applying their patented invention. However, the

invention or related products must be available and enjoy considerable commercial success in Europe.

#### 1.6 Are any areas of technology excluded?

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

### 2. Formal criteria for proposing an inventor or entering yourself

#### 2.1 What documents do I have to submit?

Your entry is complete if we have received the following documents by 18 October 2012:

- a completed entry form
- a written statement (max. 500 words)

Candidates nominating themselves must also submit:

- a current CV with their contact details
- references from persons/companies who can be considered capable of judging whether their invention has been a economic success or benefits society or who helped them to achieve that success.

#### 2.2 What languages can I use on the form?

English, French or German

#### 2.3 What do I have to consider when filling in the entry form?

You must state the name and nationality of the nominated inventor, the EP number(s) of the invention and the award category for which the inventor is nominated. The information must be typed or written in print. Be sure to remember to sign the form before submitting it.

#### 2.4 Where 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:

European Patent Register database: <https://register.epo.org>

Espacenet database: <http://worldwide.espacenet.com>

#### 2.5 How do I submit the entry?

You can submit your entry in three ways:

- by filling in the entry form online
- by e-mail, with a scan of the signed entry form, written statement and other documents attached, to: [european-inventor@epo.org](mailto:european-inventor@epo.org)
- by post in an envelope addressed to:  
European Inventor Award  
c/o European Patent Office  
80298 Munich, Germany

#### 2.6 What is the final deadline for entries?

Entries for the European Inventor Award 2013 must be submitted by 18 October 2012. The finalists will be announced in spring 2013. The winners will be announced at the Award ceremony in May 2013.

Please visit [www.epo.org/european-inventor](http://www.epo.org/european-inventor) for updates.



## ENTRY FORM FOR THE EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD 2013 **NOMINATE AN INVENTOR**

### Deadline: 18 October 2012

Please fill in this form to the best of your knowledge and submit your completed documents by e-mail to: **european-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](http://www.epo.org/european-inventor)

### Proposer

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

### If you are not nominating yourself:

- 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 nominate the following person(s) for the European Inventor Award 2013

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. Invention ( <i>official title/name of the invention</i> )
5. Brief description of invention ( <i>max. two sentences</i> )
6. Area of technology ( <i>for example medical technology, computer technology, pharmaceuticals, etc.</i> )
7. Award category <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> SMEs <input type="checkbox"/> 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", max. three patents; national patents or PCT application numbers are not considered</i> )
9. Publication date of the relevant European patents ( <i>DD/MM/YYYY</i> ) ( <i>max. three patents</i> )
10. Patent applicant
11. Professional representative before the EPO
12. Other relevant documents (prior art)

**Please enclose a written statement (max. 500 words) explaining:**

- the invention clearly and concisely in terms understandable to non-experts
- why the proposed invention is innovative and deserves the award
- what the invention's practical applications are
- what impact it has had on the economy and/or society
- how it has improved quality of life and/or benefits the environment.

**If you are nominating yourself, please also enclose:**

- a current CV with your contact details
- references from persons/companies who can be considered capable of judging whether your invention has been an economic success or benefits society or who helped you to achieve that success.

**Optional documents:**

- media coverage of the inventor(s) and/or invention
- any other supporting material about the inventor(s) and/or the invention, its practical application and economic or social impact.

**Declaration**

Please read the declaration and sign below.

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

**Additional declaration for self-nominees:**

If I am selected as a finalist and nominated for an European Inventor Award 2013, I consent to my name and, where appropriate, the name of my company/employer, and photographs and video/audio recordings of me, being used in connection with the selection procedure and award of prizes. I confirm that I shall not seek any financial compensation whatsoever for this use and acknowledge that there is no right of recourse.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Place

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature