

KARL HEINZ BECKURTS PRIZE

Terms of Reference

Principles and Goal

The purpose of the Foundation, which is an independent entity having legal capacity, is to promote science and particularly partnerships between the sciences and industry. The focus is on supporting suitable activities that stimulate the formation of interrelationships between scientific work in public institutions and industry. In accordance with its bylaws, the bestowal of the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize constitutes a chief support mechanism of the Foundation. The Prize is intended to honour achievements that have resulted from collaboration between science and business concordant with the career of Karl Heinz Beckurts, It is awarded for outstanding scientific achievements that have demonstrably arisen from impetus provided by the recipients for innovative technological applications. The designated achievement, the idea, or the preparation for technological application shall have been carried out under the auspices of a publicly funded institution. The technological application that has already been carried out or is clearly emerging must substantiate the utility or benefit of the outstanding achievement.

Conditions of participation

Candidates cannot apply for the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize. Potential recipients must be nominated by a body that is authorised to submit a nomination.

These include:

- universities and other institutions of higher learning,
- non-academic research institutions,
- scientific and technical professional associations,
- previous recipients of the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize
- and commercial enterprises.

The nomination documents must be punctually submitted electronically via the web-based form located on the homepage of the Foundation. The submission deadline is the 15th of March 2025. The total length of the nomination submission should not exceed ten pages. 12-pt Arial is preferred. Please

submit the application in English, as the applications will be evaluated by international experts. The topic area should be identified in a concise title with a reference to the achievements to be honoured. A brief endorsement of the application by the sponsoring organisation should preface the application and a CV of the nominee should be included. We ask that no evaluations be submitted, as these will be requested as part of the selection process by the Karl Heinz Beckurts-Stiftung. When submitting documents on-line to the website, we request that the nominee's field be designated as one of the disciplines displayed by the system.

Award criteria

Scientists from universities and non-academic research institutions are eligible, as are scientists from industry who are members of a group from the aforementioned. In the event a group is nominated having more than two scientists as potential recipients for the Prize, a spokesperson for the group shall be named. The group nomination must indicate what was contributed to the joint achievement by whom.

The evaluation proceeds on the basis of the criteria listed below:

- Substantiation of the innovative energy and originality of the scientific achievement(s) presented in the application that constituted the basis for converting and implementing concrete innovation(s) bridging science and industry. Well-defined, proven technological applications are of key import here.
- Exact description of the achievement in a generally comprehensible manner with special consideration given to:
 - o technical classification of the achievement in the respective discipline
 - o potential for concrete technological application
 - o proven utility or benefit
 - o market potential and competitiveness
 - o unique features, description of superiority to existing products on the market if possible
 - o future prospects

- Listing of the patents and licences registered for the achievement(s)
In the case of nominees from the field of medicine, medical technology, and pharmacology, a clinical study should already have been successfully carried out.
- C.V. of the scientists nominated
- Assessment of the scientific excellence and expertise of the potential recipient based upon previous scientific achievements, established for example by
 - o publications in refereed, highly ranked scientific or technical journals,
 - o receipt of funding for large third-party projects,
 - o awards and recognition,
 - o national and international reputation.

In accordance with the bylaws of the Foundation, the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize recognises outstanding scientific achievements demonstrably resulting in concrete industrial innovation(s) from the impetus lent by the recipients – and not for achievements in pure research. The Prize is in principle not awarded for the lifetime's work and achievements of scientists.

Financial means, type, and size of the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize

The Prize is presented as a singular award of 30 000 Euro and is not divisible. Should the investment returns of the Foundation allow, several prizes of 30 000 Euro each can be awarded. If a group of scientists receives the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize for a joint achievement, the award shall be shared equally among the group's members. The Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize can be awarded cumulatively with stipends or awards of other public or private institutions.

Jurying

The selection of candidates is carried out by the Foundation Board of Trustees advised by a Pre-Selection Committee.

To maintain the reputation of the Prize, all participants in the selection process are requested to evaluate the nominations submitted in a fair, factual, and neutral manner. To formalise this as well, the Foundation follows the guidelines on conflict of interest of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft / DFG) and has adopted the guidelines for this purpose:

(cf. DFG Form 10.201 http://www.dfg.de/formulare/10_201/10_201_en.pdf)

All participants in the selection process for the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize are cordially requested to take the guidelines into account.

The jury procedure takes place as a two-stage process:

1. Examination and short-listing of the submissions by the Pre-Selection Committee

The Pre-Selection Committee comprises renowned scientists in the areas of physics, mechanical engineering / process engineering / automation, chemistry, biology / biochemistry, mathematics / information science / data processing, electrical engineering / micro-electronics, materials science, medicine, and economics. Following the submission deadline, the nomination materials are sent to the members of the Committee. The Pre-Selection Committee chooses up to five worthy candidates in a selection session, with at least three evaluations from internationally renowned scientists with appropriate expertise collected for each choice.

2. Selection of the candidates by the Foundation Board of Trustees

The Foundation Board of Trustees selects the recipient(s) based upon the short list of the Committee and the requested evaluations.

The presentation of the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize takes place during an awards ceremony on the 17th of November 2025 in Heidelberg.