

Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize

Building Bridges Between Science and Industry



**KARL HEINZ
BECKURTS
STIFTUNG**

1. Purpose and Scope of the Prize

Established by the Karl Heinz Beckurts Foundation, the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize recognizes outstanding scientific achievements that demonstrably lead to innovative technological applications and successfully bridge science and industry—true to the spirit of Karl Heinz Beckurts.

The honored achievement must originate at, or under the auspices of, a publicly funded institution. The associated technological application must either already be realized or clearly emerging, and it must convincingly demonstrate the utility, societal benefit, or economic relevance of the scientific achievement.

The Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize is awarded annually and endowed with **EUR 30,000** as a single prize. In the case of a group award, the prize money is shared equally among the recipients. The Prize may be held concurrently with other fellowships or awards.

2. Eligibility and Nominations

Eligible Candidates

Eligible nominees include:

- Scientists from universities and other institutions of higher education
- Scientists from non-academic research institutions
- Scientists from industry, provided they are part of a collaborative group that includes members from the above-mentioned institutions

For group nominations involving more than two scientists, a spokesperson must be designated. The specific contribution of each nominee to the joint achievement must be clearly described.

Eligible Nominators

Nominations may be submitted by:

- Universities and other institutions of higher education
- Non-academic research institutions
- Scientific and technical professional associations

- Commercial enterprises
- Previous recipients of the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize

Self-nominations are not permitted.

3. Selection Criteria

In accordance with the bylaws of the Karl Heinz Beckurts Foundation, the Prize honors achievements that have led to **concrete industrial or technological innovations**. It is **not** intended to recognize pure basic research or lifetime achievements.

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- **Original and innovative scientific achievement** that bridges scientific excellence and industrial application, supported by evidence of clearly defined and proven applications
 - **Scientific excellence and expertise**, demonstrated by indicators such as:
 - A strong scientific publication record
 - Acquisition of significant third-party funding
 - Awards, honors, and recognitions
 - National and international reputation
 - **For nominees in medicine, medical technology, or pharmacology:** successful results of a clinical study must be confirmed
 - **Patents and licenses** related to the achievement are of significant importance and should be clearly documented
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4. Selection Procedure

The selection process follows a **two-stage evaluation procedure** conducted by the Foundation's Board of Trustees, with advisory support from a Pre-Selection Committee.

Stage 1: Pre-Selection

Renowned experts from a broad range of disciplines—including, but not limited to, physics; mechanical, process, and automation engineering; chemistry; biology and biochemistry; mathematics, information science, and data processing; electrical engineering and microelectronics; materials science; medicine; and economics and innovation—review all submissions.

Up to five nominations are shortlisted. For each shortlisted nomination, **at least three external reviewers**, who are internationally recognized experts in the relevant field, provide written evaluations.

Stage 2: Final Selection

Based on the shortlist and the external reviews, the Foundation's Board of Trustees selects the prize recipient(s).

All individuals involved in the evaluation process act impartially and independently. The Foundation adheres to the conflict-of-interest guidelines of the German Research Foundation (DFG).

5. Timeline

- **March 31, 2026:** Deadline for submission of nominations via the Karl Heinz Beckurts Foundation's online application form. [Please find the link here.](#)
 - **April – September 2026:** Two-stage evaluation process, including external written reviews
 - **Autumn 2026:** Award ceremony and presentation of the Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize at Forschungszentrum Jülich
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6. Application Documents and Submission Guidelines

The nomination dossier must be submitted **in English**, as applications are evaluated by international experts.

Required Documents

1. **Endorsement letter** from the management of the submitting organization (maximum 3 pages)
2. **Proposal document** (maximum 10 pages, excluding references, patents, and licenses; font: Arial, 12 pt)
3. **Curriculum vitae** of the nominated scientist(s), including:
 - Key references
 - List of patents and licenses

Formal Requirements

- Choose a **concise and descriptive title** that reflects the topic area and the achievement
- For group nominations with more than two potential recipients:
 - A spokesperson must be identified
 - Individual contributions to the joint achievement must be clearly described in the proposal and CVs

- **External reference letters must not be included** at this stage; they will be requested for shortlisted candidates during the evaluation process
- Submit **one single PDF document** containing:
 1. Endorsement letter
 2. Proposal
 3. CV(s)

The submitting organization must upload the PDF via the [Foundation's web-based submission form here](#) before the deadline.

7. Content Guidelines for the Proposal

The proposal should provide a clear, precise, and generally comprehensible description of the achievement, with particular attention to:

- Technical classification of the achievement within the relevant discipline
 - Potential for concrete technological application
 - Proven utility or benefit to society
 - Market potential and competitiveness
 - Unique features and, where possible, clear superiority over existing products or solutions
 - Long-term prospects for sustained transfer of the scientific achievement into significant application domains
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This call for nominations aims to identify scientific achievements that exemplify excellence at the interface of research and innovation, and that embody the legacy of Karl Heinz Beckurts.