

## Definitions:

"Application" means a submission of an application of a contestant for the Prize for Women Innovators.

"Contestant" means the woman who competes for the prizes under the terms of this contest.

## Eligibility criteria

Applications must fulfil all of the following eligibility criteria:

1. The contestant must be a woman.  
Example of proof: Copy of any official document of identification, e.g., passport, identity card.
2. The contestant must be a resident of an EU Member State or a country associated to the Research Framework Programme.  
Example of proof: Copy of any official document of identification, e.g., passport, driving licence etc.
3. The contestant must be the founder or co-founder of an existing and active company. Example of proof: Copy of any official document showing that the candidate has founded a company (e.g., copy from the business register).
4. The company has been registered before 1 January 2009.  
Example of proof: Copy of any official document showing the date of registration of the company (e.g., copy from the business register).
5. The annual turnover of the company was at least EUR 0.10 million in 2009 or 2010.  
Example of proof: Copy of a document showing the annual turnover in 2010 (e.g., copy of the annual report to the tax authorities).
6. Either the candidate as a natural person or the company founded/co-founded by the candidate has received or is receiving EU funding from Research Framework Programme(s) (R&D FP) or from the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).  
Example of proof: Copy of a document demonstrating the past or existing EU funding.

## Award criteria

Applications will be judged according to the following award criteria:

1. Originality and marketability of the developed product or service provided by the company of the candidate
2. The economic relevance for Europe  
The economic relevance of a product or service of the company for Europe is measured by the number of countries (inside and outside the EU) where the product or service is sold, and by the size of the turnover achieved with this service or product in 2010.
3. The social relevance for Europe  
The social relevance of a product or service of the company for Europe is defined by the potential of the service or product to help Europe with regard to the grand societal challenges such as the ageing of Europe, global warming, clean water, renewable energy and resource efficiency.
4. High scientific content of the innovation  
The contestant must have been involved in the research and innovation activities connected to the origin of the product or service provided by the company she has founded or co-founded. Entries will be compared according to the number of patents/co-patents, scientific publications (or co-publications) and trademarks.



## How to submit

1. An Application must be submitted via the submission form on the web site of the contest: [www.ec.europa.eu/women-innovators](http://www.ec.europa.eu/women-innovators). See the Submission Guidelines below for further information.
2. An Application must conform to the Submission Guidelines set out below. Applications which fail to do so will be rejected.
3. The deadline for submission of applications is 20 September 2011, at 17:00 (Brussels local time). Applications arriving after the deadline will be deemed ineligible.
4. All submissions will be automatically registered in a database and acknowledged immediately after entry; however, we cannot be responsible for entries or responses which may get lost.
5. There is no fee to enter the contest.
6. An individual can only submit one application. In this application she should present all her achievements relevant to the contest.

## Submission Guidelines

1. An application can only be submitted via the submission form provided at the [www.ec.europa.eu/women-innovators](http://www.ec.europa.eu/women-innovators) web page.
2. The submission consists of three steps:

**Step one** asks for major background data.

**Step two** will ask the contestant to provide proof that the contestant meets all of the eligibility criteria listed above.

Please note that these criteria are rigorously applied, and that the submission must fulfil all the eligibility criteria that are listed above and in the Work Programme, if the applicant is to be considered as a contestant.

During the submission, the contestant has to upload only 2 documents of proof: an electronic version of the document giving evidence that she is the founder/co-founder of an existing and active innovative company, and an electronic version of the document proving that the contestant has received or is receiving EU funding from the Research Framework Programme(s) (R&D FP) or from the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). These documents can be submitted without translation. The size of both files submitted cannot exceed 5 Megabytes. If one or both documents are not submitted, the application will be regarded as ineligible.

For all other items the contestant has to confirm in her application that she is in possession of the necessary documents of proof. The European Commission reserves the right to ask the contestant at a later stage to submit these documents. If these documents cannot be delivered within four days (equal to 92 hours) after the request by the European Commission, the application will be disqualified from the contest.

In **Step three** the contestant has to describe her achievements according to the award criteria described above.

**Submission is finalized** when the contestant initiates the final submission process by clicking the "Submit" button. After pressing the submit button, no further change of the application will be possible. The contestant is herself responsible for the completeness of the application.

All applications will be automatically registered in a database and their receipt will be acknowledged automatically after entry; however, the European Commission cannot be held responsible for entries or responses with incomplete data or those that may get lost. The sending of an acknowledgement of receipt does not imply that an application has been accepted as eligible for evaluation. If a contestant would like to withdraw her application, she can do so by replying to the email from the European Commission confirming her acknowledgement of receipt. The contestant is assumed to be the individual named in 'Step one'.



## Prizes

The winners will be announced at the Innovation Convention in Brussels on 5 December 2011. Three prizes are awarded:

First prize: € 100.000

Second prize: € 50.000

Third prize: € 25.000

The winners will be invited to attend the European Innovation Convention 2011 and will meet the Commissioner and other leading political, scientific and business figures.

## Selection of winners

A High Level Jury comprising independent experts will be in charge of assessing the quality of the applications for the 'Prize for Women Innovators' in line with the rules of the contest.

The European Commission reserves the right not to select a winner if no suitable entries are received or proposed by the jury.

## Processing of personal data

- All personal data contained in the application of the winner shall be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L8 of 12.01.2001, p1) on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Such data shall be processed by the Controller solely in connection with the implementation and follow-up of the application of the winner, without prejudice to a possible transmission to the bodies in charge of a monitoring or inspection task in accordance with Community legislation and this application.
- Applicants may, on written request, gain access to their personal data and correct any information that is inaccurate or incomplete. They should address any questions regarding the processing of their personal data to the Controller, via the contact person: Mr. Peter Droell, Head of Unit of RTD/C1 (Address: European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, SDME 9/47, 1050 Brussels, Belgium). Applicants may, at any time, lodge a complaint against the processing of their personal data with the European Data Protection Supervisor.
- The Commission shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:
  - The name of the winner and her company;
  - The contact addresses of the winner;
  - The general purpose of the activities of the company of the winner in relation to the award of the prize in the form of the summary provided by the winner;
  - The amount of the prize awarded;
  - The geographic location of the activities carried out.

## Preparation of the award ceremony

The European Commission will produce a short video about the winner and her company. Photos taken by the European Commission either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the European Commission.

