



EUROPEAN
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Media Invitation

17th European Union Contest for Young Scientists

Moscow, 17-22 September 2005

With bright minds to the bright future!

From 17-22 September 2005, Russia will host the 17th annual EU Contest for Young Scientists. A selection of Europe's most brilliant young scientific minds will be competing to win prizes totalling € 28 500. Some 126 young people from 35 countries will be exhibiting 79 innovative projects. The competition is open to people aged between 15 and 20 and will be judged by 15 distinguished scientists. An exhibition of the students' entries will be set up at Moscow's Bauman University, where journalists will have the opportunity to meet the participants and learn more about their projects. In addition, Nobel laureates will be on-site to meet the finalists and members of the press (please see below provisional media programme – press participation limited).

Set up to promote the ideals of cooperation and interchange between young scientists, the aim of this event is to recognise the importance of science in 21st century global society, to encourage young people to pursue scientific endeavours, and ultimately to inspire them to dedicate their lives to the sciences. The competition is part of the **European Union's Science and Society programme** and the contest is an opportunity for the next generation of scientists to present their ideas and meet peers from across Europe and beyond. The contest has proven to be an altogether positive opportunity for talented young people, many of whom go on to be successful researchers and contribute to the future direction and dynamism of Europe.

Students from 22 EU member states, 2 EU candidate countries, 3 EFTA countries and 8 guest nations have produced the **79** shortlisted projects¹. Each competing team has already beaten tough national competition. The projects cover a wide range of scientific disciplines ranging from medical research, space and engineering to mathematics and the social sciences. The competition does not just encourage interest in scientific research: some past projects have led to genuine breakthroughs and in some cases practical applications have been developed.

¹ **Countries participating in EUYSC 2005:** Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Success stories (more examples to be included in the press pack)

Mario Chemnitz (DE) is one of the latest Young Scientist Contest winners, with his 2004 project *An ultrasonic detector for gas chromatography* consisting of a cheap but very sensitive ultrasonic detector based on the relationship between sound velocity and the molecular mass of a gas to analyse gas mixtures and their components. The analyses can be completed using a PC software package.

Lina Tomasella (IT) was one of the winners at the inaugural YSC in 1989 with her project *Toxicity of colour dyes used as tracers*. She considers that her participation in the EU Contest was pivotal to her scientific career: "After my first prize in Brussels my self-confidence was very strong, and for this reason I pursued very firmly my aim to be a researcher in the future". She has since completed her PhD in Astronomy and is now Head of Education and Outreach at the Astronomical Observatory of Padua.

The total prize fund, worth **€ 28 500**, is divided into nine top awards. The three first prizes are worth **€ 5 000** each. The projects are evaluated by a jury, comprising a President and 14 other independent, international scientists who carry out their duties as individuals and not as representatives of an institution or a specific country. The President of the jury for the 17th EU Contest will be **Dr Ulf Merbold (Germany)**. Dr Merbold was the first ESA astronaut in space and the first non-American to fly on the Space Shuttle.

In addition to the Awards Ceremony, exhibition and Press Conference – and opportunities to interview contestants – the media programme (details to be confirmed) includes a visit to Mission Control Centre in Korolev and a special boat trip along the River Moscow. Press places on these visits are limited and interested journalists are advised to reply as soon as possible using the registration form below. Meanwhile the exhibition is open free of charge to the public from Saturday 17 to Thursday 22 September.

The award ceremony itself will take place on 21 September in the Great Kremlin Palace (to be confirmed) and will be hosted by **Igor Borisovich Fedorov**, Rector of Bauman Moscow State Technical University. Also in attendance will be **Achilleas Mitsos**, Director-General for Research at the European Commission, Nobel laureates and other internationally renowned scientists.

Further information for the press:

Further information about the EU Young Scientists Contest may be found at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/youngscientists> and <http://www.euro2005.ru/>

For this event, the European Commission is assisted by a contractor.

Interested media are kindly requested to register with:

Michelle Roverelli, Media Manager, Hill & Knowlton

Tel: +32.2.741.6213, Fax: +32.2.737.9552, Email: mroverel@hillandknowlton.com

Participating media will receive assistance in advance, logistical planning and complete practical details prior to the event.

If you would like more information on this year's contest or past winners, or if you are interested in an interview with project teams, members of the jury or the organising committee, also contact Michelle Roverelli (see above).

Media Programme:

Further details about events and locations can be found in the outline given below:

Please note:

- **Advance accreditation is essential.** We must send a list of participating journalists to the organisers in Moscow by **15 August**, so **please register early**. After this date we cannot guarantee accreditation, but will consider late applications on a case by case basis.
- 'Judging in Progress' signs will be posted at stands when students are being interviewed. We would ask you to refrain from photographing or interviewing students during these times.

Monday 19th September		
Time	Event	Venue
9.00 – 12.00 and 13.45- 16.00	Contest exhibition (Opportunities to interview contestants)	Moscow Bauman University: Exhibition Hall
16.00 – 17.00	Meeting of contestants with Nobel laureates	Moscow Bauman University
Tuesday 20th September		
Time	Event	Venue
9.00 – 12.30	Contest exhibition (Opportunities to interview contestants)	Moscow Bauman University: Exhibition Hall
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch with Jury and officials from Bauman University and the European Union (Further interview opportunities)	Moscow Bauman University
14.30 – 18.30	Trip to Mission Control Centre in Korolev Or – Visit to Laboratories of the Russian Academy of Sciences Or – Free time	---
19.00 – 23.00	Boat trip along Moscow River (opportunity to interview contestants, Nobel laureates, etc.) or Bolshoi Theatre	---
Wednesday 21st September		
Time	Event	Venue
11.30 – 13.00	17th EU Young Scientist Contest Award Ceremony	Great Kremlin Palace (to be confirmed)
13.30 – 14.30	Press Conference	EU delegation
14.00 – 16.00	Lunch Reception (interview opportunities with contestants and jury members, EC officials, Russian personalities (tbc) etc.)	---
16.00 onwards	Departure / free time	---

Media Registration Form
17th European Union Contest for Young Scientists
17-22 September 2005 – Moscow, Russia
Moscow Bauman University

I will participate in the 17th European Young Scientist Contest, Moscow
I will be arriving at on

I would like to interview key participants.
Please indicate your preferences:

I will not attend the conference but wish to receive further information on
the Young Science Contest and the projects presented. I am particularly
interested in:

.....
[please specify one or more countries and/or a particular project]

Contact details

Title: Dr Mr Ms
Name:.....
First name:.....
Organisation:

Position:.....
Specialisation:

Address:

Postal code:.....
City & country:

Direct line & mobile:.....
Mobile phone during the conference:

Fax:

E-mail:

Note for editors

Journalists wishing to attend should send back the registration form to:

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Fax: +32.2.737.9552, Mobile: +32.473.341.987

Email: mroverel@hillandknowlton.com

(Working under contract to the European Commission for this event)