

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

AWARD CEREMONY VENUE

Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Roosevelt tér 9
1051 Budapest
Hungary
Tel. +36 (1)411 6100
www.mta.hu

ACCOMMODATION

Special rates have been negotiated for select hotels. For recommended hotels, please visit www.epo.org/european-inventor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Hotline +49 (0)89 2399-1830
Fax +49 (0)89 2399-1835
E-mail: european-inventor@epo.org
www.epo.org/european-inventor

EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD 2011 CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF INVENTION

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19 MAY
BUDAPEST

WELCOME TO THE EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD 2011

The European Inventor Award has become a constant feature in the field of innovation in Europe. This award, organized for the sixth time by the European Patent Office, recognizes inventors and their ground-breaking inventions for their contribution to technology, economy and society.

The inventors are the true heroes of our knowledge society today. Their creativity and innovative capacity is key to Europe's leading role in the global economy of the 21st century.

The EPO, by protecting their inventions through high quality patents, plays an important role in the economic cycle from investment to market success. Strong patents help companies recover their investments in R & D enabling them to continuously invest in innovation. Moreover, by publishing all technical documentation related to every single patent application, the EPO fosters further innovative efforts and, ultimately, scientific progress and benefit to society.

The European Inventor Award is a unique occasion to remind all actors involved in the ongoing need for support to innovation across Europe.

Benoît Battistelli
President
European Patent Office



JOIN US IN BUDAPEST

The world of ideas and inventions is fascinating and unpredictable. When inventors, researchers and scientists set about their work there is often no knowing where their journey will take them. Yet one thing is for sure: The spirit of invention, the curiosity and the drive to discover things that are new and groundbreaking, has been the key to propelling human progress for generations.

Launched by the European Patent Office and the European Commission in 2006, the European Inventor Award has quickly established itself as one of the most prestigious competitions of its kind.

The patents that protect the inventions that we honour reflect this idea through their public disclosure of an invention. With patents detailing each inventive step of an invention, they contribute directly to an open system where being able to access and build upon knowledge is possible – a crucial factor for inventors.

We celebrate the very spirit of invention with Europe's highest distinction for inventors: The European Inventor Award, 19 May 2011.

Join us for this unique event at the historic Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary.

We look forward to seeing you there.

THE NOMINATION CATEGORIES

The European Inventor Award features five nomination categories intended to ensure that recognition is given to inventors from major corporations, small and medium-sized firms, universities, research institutes and individual inventors.

INDUSTRY

The Industry Award recognises the inventors of outstanding and commercially successful technologies patented by large European companies. The companies in question have more than 250 employees and annual revenues of more than EUR 50 million.

SMEs

The SME Award is presented to the people behind inventions at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or research institutions. Ideally, the invention has helped the company achieve commercial success and has proven to have a benefit to society. SMEs are companies that have fewer than 250 employees and annual revenues of less than EUR 50 million when the patents were granted for the invention.

RESEARCH

The Research Award is awarded to persons working in research institutes or at universities. It is intended to award the research work that often underpins inventions. Ideally, the research has led to an invention that has had commercial success and led to a benefit for society.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The Lifetime Achievement Award honours the long-term contributions of an individual European inventor. With their dedication and tireless efforts – and their patented landmark inventions – these inventors have had a major impact on their respective fields of technology and society at large. In this category, an inventor's entire body of work is relevant.

NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

This category is open to all inventors who are not European nationals, regardless of the size or revenues of the company applying their patented invention. The invention or related products must be available and enjoy commercial success in Europe.



THE SELECTION PROCEDURE

The nomination procedure for the European Inventor Award is open to the general public, so anyone can submit a nomination. In addition, we receive nominations from national patent offices and EPO experts. We consider any technological field as long as the invention has received a valid European patent.

Once the deadline has passed, the nominations go through a procedural and legal check by an expert EPO panel. The nominations are subject to careful checks to ensure that the proposed patents are still valid and that they meet the competition criteria.

The shortlists for each category are passed on to a high-profile internationally renowned jury comprising politicians, managers, scientists, researchers and industry experts. They nominate three inventors in each category, before finally selecting the winners.

Using a carefully devised points rating system, the jury members judge the entries based on the following criteria:

- **Benefit for society:** impact on health, environment and well being.
- **Economic success:** job creation, national or regional development within Europe.
- **Technological impact:** was the invention a breakthrough, has it generated other inventions or even laid the foundations for a new technology sector?

THE JURY



Jerzy Buzek was named President of the European Parliament in 2009. He served as Poland's Prime Minister from 1997 to 2001. He formerly worked on Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Industry and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.



Wolfgang Heckl is the Director General of the Deutsches Museum and a professor of scientific communication in the School of Education at the Munich University of Technology. He is also the Managing Director of ENNAB: the Excellence Network NanoBio Technology in Munich.



Erno Rubik is an architect, designer, university professor and inventor of the Rubik's Cube. He founded Rubik Studio Ltd. and acts as its Managing Director. He formerly served as President of the Hungarian Engineering Academy, which he helped to found.



Margarita Salas is the President of both the Royal Board of the National Library of Spain and the Institute of Predictive and Personalized Medicine of Cancer. She is Dr. ad honorem of the Spanish National Research Council as well as President of Fundación Severo Ochoa.



Bowman Heiden is Innovation Director for the Qatar Science & Technology Park and Deputy Director of the Center for Intellectual Property Studies in Göteborg which he helped to found. He is also Chairman of the ScanBalt Knowledge Network on IP and Bio-Entrepreneurship.



Emma Marcegaglia is Managing Director of the steel manufacturing company Marcegaglia S.p.a. and all its various subsidiaries. She is also President of Confindustria, the leading organisation representing manufacturing and service companies in Italy.



Thierry Sueur is the Vice President of Intellectual Property and of European and International Affairs at AIR LIQUIDE. He is also Vice-Chairman of the Board of the French Intellectual Property Office and President of the French Group of AIPPI.



Blanka Rihová



Emmanuel Desurvire



Mart Min



Joshua D. Silver



Leigh Canham

EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD NOMINEES 2011

INDUSTRY

Ann Lambrechts (Belgium) of Bekaert for her invention of a steel wire element to improve the strength and stability of reinforced concrete.

Petr Korba and **Mats Larsson** (Switzerland) of ABB for their invention of a power oscillation detection system.

Jean-Paul Artis, Pascal Cornic, Stéphane Kemkemian and **Philippe Lacomme** (France) of Thales Airborne Systems for developing a car radar driver assistance system.

"Secure energy supply has become essential for today's society. National and regional power systems have been interconnected in a large continent-wide electric grid. Monitoring and controlling large distances using satellite-based time-synchronisation have been addressed in the ground-breaking innovation at the ABB Corporate Research Centre in Switzerland. The inventions from ABB provide grid operators with new solutions for wide-area monitoring, protection and control to prevent blackouts and to secure power and productivity for a better world".

PETR KORBA

SMEs

Leigh Canham (United Kingdom) from Intrinsic Materials for discovering and developing the usage of porous and bio-degradable Silicon in the biomedical field with pSiMedica and QinetiQ.

Jens Dall Bentzen (Denmark) of Dall Energy for developing a highly efficient biomass furnace with a wide range of usable fuels.

Béla Molnár, Tibor Virág, Attila László, Attila Tagscherer and **Viktor Varga** (Hungary) of 3D Histech for their invention of a virtual microscope capable of rapid and efficient focusing.

"Biomass will be a key element in the future energy system. The Dall Energy Biomass system can convert low grade biomass into energy with high efficiency at very low environmental impact. Further deployment of the invention will reduce import of fossil fuels, create jobs in Europe and reduce CO2 emissions".

JENS DALL BENTZEN

RESEARCH

Mart Min, Raul Land, Toomas Parve, Olev Märtens, Ants Ron and **Andres Kink** (Estonia) from Tallinn University of Technology for developing a method and device for the measurement of electrical bioimpedance.

Christine Van Broeckhoven (Belgium) of the Flanders Interuniversity Institute for Biotechnology for her contributions to neuro-pathological medicine.

Joshua D. Silver (United Kingdom) for his invention of self-adjustable and affordable glasses.

NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Alexander Gorlov (USA) from Northeastern University for his invention of a helical turbine for power and propulsion system.

Ashok Gadgil (USA) from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and **Vikas Garud** (India) from H2O Innovation for inventing a small and energy efficient UV water disinfection device at the Regents of the University of California.

Gavriel Iddan (Israel) from Given Imaging who invented a pill-sized camera for wireless capsule endoscopy.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Per-Ingvar Branemark (Sweden) for his invention and development of a titanium fixture and anchoring device for dental implants.

Blanka Říhová (Czech Republic) for her research and development of synthetic polymeric drugs to combat cancer.

Emmanuel Desurvire (France) for his invention of the erbium-doped fibre amplifier (EDFA) to enable quick and reliable transmission of data over longer distances.

"Osseointegration has become a revolutionizing process of implantology whereby anchoring a prosthesis in a person's bone tissue is used all over the world in reconstructive surgery to replace parts and functions of the human body. The reconstruction of bone tissue in human beings who have been suffering from tumours, an accident or congenital defects has given thousands and even millions of invalids a better quality of life".

PER-INGVAR BRANEMARK

CELEBRATING INNOVATION

The European Inventor Award recognises outstanding inventors from all over the world, from all technical fields and backgrounds, including the public, private, academic and non-profit sectors. Due to the cooperation with the rotating EU Council Presidency, the award takes place annually in the country that holds the Presidency. Past event venues included Madrid, Prague, Ljubljana, Munich and Brussels. This year's event will take place at the historic Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary, organised by the European Patent Office in co-operation with the Hungarian EU Council Presidency, the European Commission and Hungarian Intellectual Property Office.

Moreover, innovation is the fuel of the 21st century and as such the European Inventor Award 2011 represents a celebration of innovation as well as the spirit of invention. It honours the creativity of all inventors who, in applying their technical, scientific and intellectual skills, make a major contribution to technical and economic progress, growth and benefit to society in Europe – and the rest of the world.

THE SAIL AS A SYMBOL OF UNHARNESSED POTENTIAL FOR SHAPING THE FUTURE

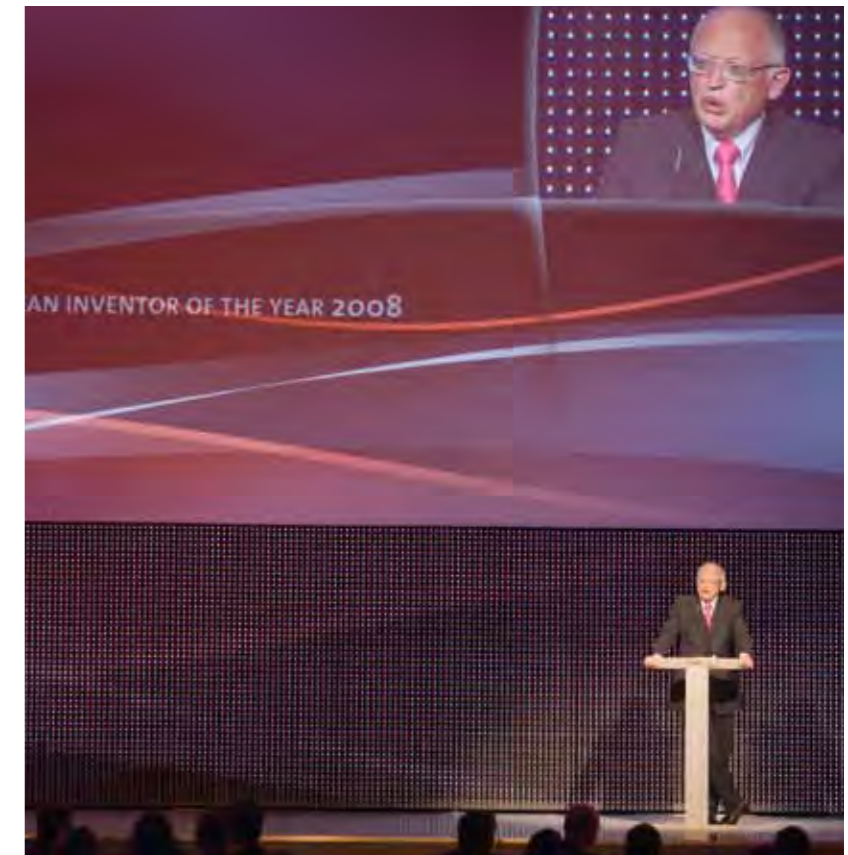
Designed by Miriam Irle, the trophy pays tribute to one of the world's oldest inventions: the sail. A symbol of dynamism, the sail is a simple technological idea that has harnessed natural forces to move man across oceans for thousands of years.

Each year a different material is used to make the trophy. In the past, the awards have been made out of aluminium, porcelain, synthetic resin and glass, and fibreC – a type of fibre-glass concrete. In 2011, the trophy will be fashioned from arboform – the renewable "liquid wood" invented by Jürgen Pfitzer and Helmut Nägele, winners of last year's SME prize.



AWARD CEREMONY IMPRESSIONS 2006–2010

Distinguished high-level international guests who attended previous award ceremonies included Their Royal Highnesses Prince Felipe and Princess Letizia of Asturias, Vice-President of the European Commission Günter Verheugen, President of the Republic of Slovenia Danilo Türk, President of the Czech Parliament Miloslav Vlček, and past EPO Presidents Alain Pompidou and Alison Brimelow.



WINNERS IN MEDIA



"Eine einfache Idee: Helmut Nägele und Jürgen Pfitzer haben einen Holzstoff entwickelt, der wie Plastik verarbeitet werden kann. Luxusdesigner reagieren begeistert."

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

"Inventors of liquid wood and electrochemical fuel cells win awards from EPO: The European Patent Office EPO and the European Commission today honoured the winners of the European Inventor Award 2010 at a gala ceremony in Madrid under the presidency of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Felipe and Princess Letizia of Asturias."

WWW.SOLOBREAKER.COM;
WWW.AZOM.COM

"Leica Geosystems-Mitarbeiter mit European Inventor Award 2010 ausgezeichnet. Europäische Auszeichnung geht nach Unterentfelden."

WWW.technica-online.ch



"Il premio Inventore europeo 2010: vinceno ecologia e carburanti innovativi. Il riconoscimento a fullereni, nuovi materiali a base di carbonie, e Arboform, la plastiche "verde" biodegradabile."

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

"Der Herr der Fussballmoleküle: Der Physiker Wolfgang Krätschmer erhielt die höchste europäische Auszeichnung für Erfinder."

RHEIN-NECKAR ZEITUNG

"Kohli wins European Inventor Award."

THE TIMES OF INDIA



"Alemania arresa en los Premios Inventor Europeo. Los fullerenos, la tecnología de GPS, las pilas de combustible y los escáner en tres dimensiones, entre los avances galardonados."

EL PAÍS

"El Premio al Inventor Europea 2010 galardona la invención de las pilas de combustible de hidrógeno."

ECOMOVE

PROGRAMME

19 MAY 2011

EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD

EXPERIENCE EUROPE'S BRIGHTEST MINDS UP CLOSE

10.00 Meet and Greet

11.00 Award Ceremony

The nominees and winners will be presented in five categories:

- Industry
- Non-European Countries
- SMEs
- Research
- Lifetime Achievement

12.45 Reception and Buffet Lunch

REGISTRATION

Please register by **29 April 2011**, using the enclosed registration form.

Fax +49 (0)89 2399-1835

E-mail: european-inventor@epo.org

To register online: www.epo.org/european-inventor

HUNGARIAN EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE ON IP

Prior to the European Inventor Award, the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office will host a conference on industrial property. The conference will take place on 17–18 May at the Castle of Vajdahunyad, organised in co-operation with the World Intellectual Property Organization and the European Patent Office.

