

TARAS award

The TARAS award is given for the most fruitful collaboration between the scientific-research sphere and the business enterprise sector in the field of innovation, development and technology.

About the award

The award aims to stimulate collaboration between the research&development organisations, groups or individuals on one side, and the industrial companies and the wider business enterprise sector on the other side. The subject of the call for award is a product, solution or service which has been developed in full or in a significant part through collaboration between a development partner and a client from the business enterprise sector. A nominated product, solution or service must be developed to a phase where it is ready for market launch, use or licensing.

The nominations are not limited to a single economic activity or technology field, however priority will be given to products, solutions and services which are aligned with the topics covered by the IRT Industrial Forum and IRT3000 magazine.

The main applicant must be a company (not a public institution) which ordered the project for the development of said product, solution or service. The second applicant i.e. the development partner can be a research or development group from the scientific-research sphere, industry or business enterprise sector, as well as a private institution or a sole trader, registered for research and development. The main applicant and the development partner cannot be members of the same organisation. The method and the sources of financing are not important.

TARAS 2018 award:

- TARAS sculpture for the main applicant and TARAS sculpture for the development partner,
- publication of a professional article in the IRT3000 magazine, prepared by the editorial office, including the presentation of collaborating partners involved with the applied product, solution or services,
- invited lecture in the introductory session of next IRT Industrial Forum,

- special exhibiting space for the presentation of TARAS award winners at the IRT Industrial Forum.

Selection procedure

The TARAS award call organisers are IRT Industrial Forum and IRT3000 magazine.

The selection is a two-part process. In the first part, the members of the IRT Industrial Forum programme committee select the best among full nominations according to the selection criteria. The executive board then selects the finalists. Depending on the number of nominations, the executive board may decide to pick all full nominations for the list of finalists. In the second part, the expert commission evaluates the finalist nominations according to the selection criteria. Additional clarifications may be requested from the finalists at this point. The executive board determines the award winner based on the expert commission's evaluations and opinions.

Constitution and tasks of the executive board

The executive board is appointed by the TARAS award organiser.

Tasks and competence of the executive board:

- The board prepares the call for TARAS award with the instructions for nominations, selection criteria and deadline for the submission of nominations.
- The board reviews the received nominations, eliminates any incomplete nominations and forwards the remaining nominations to the members of the programme commission for selection of the best nominations.
- The board appoints the expert commission consisting of the members of IRT Industrial Forum program committee and IRT3000 editorial board to evaluate the selected nominations and determine the winner. The selected nominations are evaluated by a five-member commission.
- The board assembles the expert commission so that the members have no conflict of interest with regard to the selected award nominations.
- The board selects the best among the selected nominations according to the evaluations of the expert commission and proposes it for confirmation to the expert commission. The best nomination is the one collecting the best summary score from three evaluations. The best and the worst score given by the expert commission are discarded from the total score.

- The executive board and the expert commission can agree to invite the applicants of selected nominations to make a short presentation to be considered in evaluating and scoring the best nomination.
- In case several nominations share the first place with the same score, the executive board shall determine the winner at its discretion and according to the selection criteria. In case several nominations share the same score or if there are large deviations of scores from the selection criteria and recommendations, the executive board retains the right to return a nomination to other members of the commission for re-evaluation, or to provide its own evaluation. The summary score for a nomination may only include one score, which was given by the executive board exercising its discretionary power.
- The board shall present the TARAS award at the IRT Industrial Forum.
- The board assumes no responsibility for any legal consequences of the award. Its decision is final and there is no appeal.

Selection criteria

The programme committee and the five-member expert commission shall evaluate and select the nominations using the following criteria:

- technical achievement and technical grade of product, solution or service (max. 20 points),
- innovation grade (grade of novelty, creativity and originality of idea and execution) of nominated product, solution or service (max. 20 points),
- market success of product, solution and service and general benefits for the company (max. 25 points),
- ecological and energy aspects of product, solution or service (max. 5 points),
- the share and significance of development partner's work for the development and success of product, solution or service (max. 20 points),
- the complexity of knowledge, experience and research&development methodologies and tools used in the development of product, solution or service (max. 10 points).

The members of the IRT Industrial Forum programme committee select proposals for the TARAS award winners among the nominations and submit them to the executive board. The executive board submits the nominations that won the greatest number of proposals to the expert commission for evaluation.

The members of the expert commission prepare separate assessments of nominations for the executive board, which evaluates the nominations and selects the best nomination according to the scoring.

The expert commission receives from the executive board a list of nominations, ordered by the summary score. The first nomination in the list is the one that was proposed by the executive board to be the winner.

The expert commission accepts the award winner proposed by the executive board or rejects it with a considered opinion. The argument for rejection can only be proposal for a better pick, i.e. the next nomination in the list ordered by the summary score, whereby its summary score must not deviate from the proposed winner's score by more than 10 percent.

The expert commission may also decide that none of the received nominations has reached the necessary threshold for the award.

The expert commission takes decision by a majority of its members. The expert commission's decisions are final.

The expert commission shall prepare an expert opinion about the award winner, which is going to be presented at the award ceremony by the executive board.

General provisions

The evaluation and selection process will take place if at least two nominations are received in time. In case only one nomination is received until the deadline, the executive board can announce and confirm the winner of the award by itself, but this has to be mentioned explicitly during the public award ceremony.

If the organiser receives no nominations until the deadline, or if the expert commission takes the view that none of the nominations are suitable for the award, the executive board retains the right to select one of the papers presented at the IRT Industrial Forum and published in the proceedings which fits the rules and criteria for the TARAS award best. After receiving consent from the authors of the paper, the project client and the development partner, the executive board retains the right to present

the award even if the project has not been nominated in the call. The executive board will mention this explicitly during the award ceremony.

The main applicant and the development partner can only receive the TARAS award once for a single product, solution or service.

Presentation of nominations and the award ceremony

All full nominations will be presented in a selected spot at the IRT Industrial Forum and in the proceedings.

The finalists of the TARAS award will do a short presentation during the public award ceremony.

The winners of TARAS award will be revealed at the public award ceremony during the IRT Industrial Forum.

During the award ceremony, the executive board shall describe the selection procedure, shortly present the expert commission, name the nomination count, announce the winner and read the commission's expert opinion.

After both TARAS sculptures are handed to them, a representative of the main applicant and the head of development partner will make an award acceptance speech.

Nomination procedure for the TARAS award

The nomination is filled and submitted by the main applicant in agreement with the development partner. The electronic form available at <http://www.forum-irt.si/priznanje-taras/prijava-na-priznanje/> must be filled and submitted until the call deadline. Further, a printed and signed copy of application form must be sent to the organiser by mail. The nomination is deemed to be successfully submitted only if the organiser receives both the electronic form and the signed paper form until the deadline.

Ljubljana, 26 January 2018

TARAS award executive board