

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF INVENTION



**EUROPEAN
INVENTOR
AWARD 2016**

EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD — INNOVATION TAKES CENTRE STAGE

The European Inventor Award ceremony brings together some of the world's brightest innovators, along with key decision makers in business, politics, media, IP and the sciences. Join us on 9 June in Lisbon's MEO Arena for a prestigious ceremony to celebrate the spirit of invention and place innovation firmly centre stage.

EMERGENCY EXIT

EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD 20





HONOURING THE HEROES OF INNOVATION

Technological innovations make day-to-day life easier, create economic value and generate employment. They sometimes even save lives. The European Inventor Award is an opportunity to place the spotlight on innovation and honour the extraordinary individuals and teams behind some of the greatest inventions of our time.

This year's finalists and winners have been selected from almost 400 proposals. This impressive number bears testament to the flourishing state of innovation in Europe. Their inventions, which cover a wide array of scientific and technological fields and geographical areas, have generated significant economic and societal benefits.

The European economy is increasingly dependent on patents and innovation to remain competitive in today's globalised markets. This year's European Inventor Award holds a special significance for the European Patent Office, as 2016 is the year in which the unitary patent may finally become a reality. The introduction of the unitary patent and the establishment of the Unified Patent Court is a hugely significant occasion for the European patent system and will represent a major boost to the European economy.

We are very pleased that this year the 11th edition of the European Inventor Award will take place in Lisbon, a cosmopolitan city with a long history of discovery and exploration.

I hope you will join us at the Award ceremony on 9 June as we honour some outstanding inventors who are shaping our world with their inventions.

Benoît Battistelli *President*

ABOUT THE AWARD

Every year, the European Inventor Award pays tribute to men and women whose quest for new ideas not only drives technological progress and economic growth but also shapes society and improves our daily lives.

Launched by the European Patent Office in 2006, the Award gives inventors the recognition they deserve and encourages future innovation. It is one of the most prestigious competitions of its kind.

The European Inventor Award is presented in each of the following categories:

Industry:

to outstanding and successful inventors whose inventions have been patented by large European companies

Research:

to pioneering inventors working at universities or research institutes

SMEs:

to exceptional inventors at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Non-European Countries:

to outstanding inventors from outside Europe who have been granted a European patent

Popular Prize:

to the European Inventor Award finalist who receives the most votes from the public on the EPO website and Facebook in the run-up to the ceremony

Lifetime Achievement:

honouring the long-term contribution of a particular European inventor

The winners of this year's Award will be announced at a prestigious ceremony on 9 June in Lisbon.



THE TROPHY

Award winners are presented with a trophy in the shape of a sail. A lasting symbol of exploration and human ingenuity, the sail recalls how an inventive idea can propel humankind to uncharted shores and is particularly fitting this year, given Portugal's nautical history. The trophy was conceived by German industrial designer Miriam Irlé and is crafted with new materials every year. In 2016, it will be decorated in the 'azulejos' style – painted ceramic tilework which is a major feature of Portuguese architecture and traditionally chronicles historical and cultural events.

THE SAIL – A SYMBOL OF HUMAN INGENUITY

Franz Amtmann and Philippe Maugars celebrate winning the Industry category in 2015 for their invention of Near Field Communication (NFC) technology



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

The European Inventor Award puts innovation in the spotlight by showcasing the ground-breaking work being carried out in all areas of science and technology. With this Award the EPO honours some of the most talented inventors of our time who are contributing to society with their innovations.



Tian Lipu, former Commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office of China and EPO President, Benoît Battistelli, congratulate Ian Frazer and Xiao Yi Sun, widow of the late Jian Zhou, on winning the Popular Prize category



Laura van 't Veer, winner in the SMEs category

"LES NOUVELLES FRONTIÈRES DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE ET INTELLECTUELLE"

LES ECHOS

"INNOVATION IS AT THE CENTRE OF MOVING SOCIETY FORWARD, BUT ONLY WORKS IF IT'S TRANSLATED INTO PRACTICE"

IAN FRAZER
WINNER (WITH JIAN ZHOU†) OF THE POPULAR PRIZE CATEGORY IN 2015



Kornelis Schouhamer Immink, finalist in the Lifetime Achievement category, and an enthralled audience await the announcement of the winners



*Honouring innovation:
The 2015 finalists take to the stage*

"WE NEED THESE PATENTS, WE NEED THESE INVENTORS"

ANDREAS MANZ
WINNER OF THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORY IN 2015



Ivars Kalvins, finalist in the Lifetime Achievement category, congratulates Akira Koshio and Masako Yudasaka, winners of the Non-European Countries category



Andreas Manz, winner of the Lifetime Achievement category



EPO President Benoît Battistelli with European Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska

"INNOVATION IS AT THE HEART OF THE 21ST CENTURY ECONOMY. THIS IS WHY INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD ARE SO IMPORTANT."

ELŻBIETA BIEŃKOWSKA
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNAL MARKET,
INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMEs



John Elvesjö and Mårten Skogö, finalists in the SMEs category



MEO ARENA – AN EYE ON THE PAST AND A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

The MEO Arena was built in 1998 for the Lisbon World Exposition. The theme of the fair was ‘The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future’, to commemorate 500 years of Portuguese discoveries. Since then, this prestigious location has hosted world-class indoor sports competitions and events. The shape of the arena is reminiscent of a large flying-saucer or horseshoe crab. The roof, which sits atop a wooden grid, designed in the shape of a carrack, bears testament to Portugal’s seafaring heritage.



INTRODUCING LISBON – COASTAL, CULTURAL, COSMOPOLITAN

Lisbon is a coastal city known for its cafe culture and soulful Fado music. Spread over a string of seven hills north of the Rio Tejo (Tagus river) estuary, the city presents an intriguing variety of faces to visitors with a stunning mix of ancient sites and modern wonders.

The capital has experienced a renaissance in recent years, with a contemporary culture that is alive and thriving. Perched on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, Lisbon uses water as an element that defines the city.

The Award ceremony venue is located in the Parque das Nações, a business and leisure area renowned for its futuristic architecture.



Lisbon – old quarter near river Tagus



Mosteiro dos Jerónimos – a prominent example of Portuguese Gothic architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site

LISBON: STARTING POINT FOR DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

Continental Europe's westernmost capital city with a pioneering role in world exploration, Lisbon honours its past whilst focusing firmly on the future.

Lisbon is positioning itself as an Atlantic business hub and start-up city. In 2015 it was joint winner of the European Entrepreneurial Regions of the Year, voted by the European Union Committee of the Regions, for its strategy to promote entrepreneurship and spread innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises. A major departure point for the Age of Discovery, Lisbon's geographic location makes the city a gateway to the Americas, Africa and the EU.



1 – Pavilhão do Conhecimento (Interactive Science Museum)
2 – Fundação Champalimaud (Champalimaud Foundation), an advanced biomedical research centre
3 – Newly cut cork, Portugal
4 – António Velez Marques, Helena Pereira and team, finalists in the European Inventor Award 2013, Industry category. These Portuguese researchers developed an environmentally friendly method to boost the volume of cork and attain significantly greater yields from cork harvests. This is the first technique of its kind that does not require sophisticated machinery or use any harmful chemicals.
(Picture 1: Design by P-06 Atelier, Photo by Ricardo Gonçalves, picture 2: thinkstock editorial, picture 3: thinkstock, picture 4: EPO)

PORTUGUESE INVENTIONS

Herrmann Wall Phone

Created by the Portuguese inventor, Maximiliano Augusto Herrmann, in 1880. The pioneering use of buttons to activate the telephone played a fundamental role in the opening of public lines in the main cities of Portugal.

Coloradd

A sign code to help colour-blind people recognise colours, developed by Portuguese graphic designer and professor at the University of Minho, Miguel Neiva.

Square-rigged caravel

A sailing ship created by the Portuguese in the second half of the fifteenth century that played a notable role in Portuguese exploration during the Age of Discovery.

FROM WINE BOTTLES TO OUTER SPACE

Portugal accounts for about 50% of the world's cork production. Portuguese cork is used by leading brands such as Moët Chandon and Rolls Royce, by Airbus and NASA. In 2018, Portuguese cork will be present in the spacecraft used by the European Space Agency in the first European mission to Mars.



JURY MEMBERS



José Luís Arnaut (Chair)
Managing Partner of Portuguese law firm, CMS Rui Pena & Arnaut. Mr Arnaut served as Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal between 2002 and 2004 and has held numerous government positions.



António Campinos
Executive Director of the EU Intellectual Property Office (formerly OHIM). Mr Campinos also serves as President of the Administrative Council of the Centre d'Études Internationales de la Propriété Intellectuelle (CEIPI).



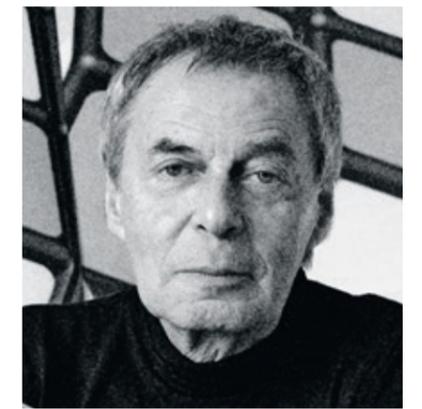
Mandy Haberman
Inventor and entrepreneur whose baby-feeding solutions have been used in hospitals worldwide for decades and have revolutionised the nursery market.



Ivars Kalvins
Chairman of the Scientific Board of the Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis. He is one of the world's most prolific inventors in the field of medicinal chemistry and was a finalist in the European Inventor Award 2015 in the Lifetime Achievement category.



Mario Moretti Polegato
Inventor of the breathable shoe, founder and Chairman of the Geox Group, and recipient of several major awards for his innovations. Mr Moretti Polegato was a finalist in the European Inventor Award 2012 in the Lifetime Achievement category.



Ernő Rubik
Architect, designer, university professor and inventor of the Rubik's Cube and Managing Director of Rubik Studio Ltd.



Wolfgang M. Heckl
Director General of the Deutsches Museum, and professor of experimental physics and nanotechnology at the Technical University in Munich.



Ingeborg Hochmair
CEO of MED-EL Medical Electronics Corporation and recipient of two honorary degrees in medicine for her pioneering scientific work. Ms Hochmair was a finalist in the European Inventor Award 2014 in the Lifetime Achievement category.



Richard L. Hudson
CEO and Editor of Science|Business, a media company dedicated to European innovation strategy.



Laura van 't Veer
Co-founder and Chief Research Officer of Agendia, a company offering molecular cancer diagnostics. Her achievements in breast cancer research have earned her numerous accolades, including the European Inventor Award 2015 in the SMEs category.



Cecilia Wikström
Member of the European Parliament, representing the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. Between 2002 and 2009, she was a member of the Swedish Parliament for the Liberal People's Party.

The independent jury that judges proposals for the European Inventor Award consists of international authorities in the fields of intellectual property, business, politics, academia, research and innovation.

WINNERS' WAY TO LISBON

The selection process for the European Inventor Award relies on detailed investigations by EPO experts and tough decisions by the independent international jury. The jurors evaluate the inventors not only on their technological advances but also on their social and economic impact.

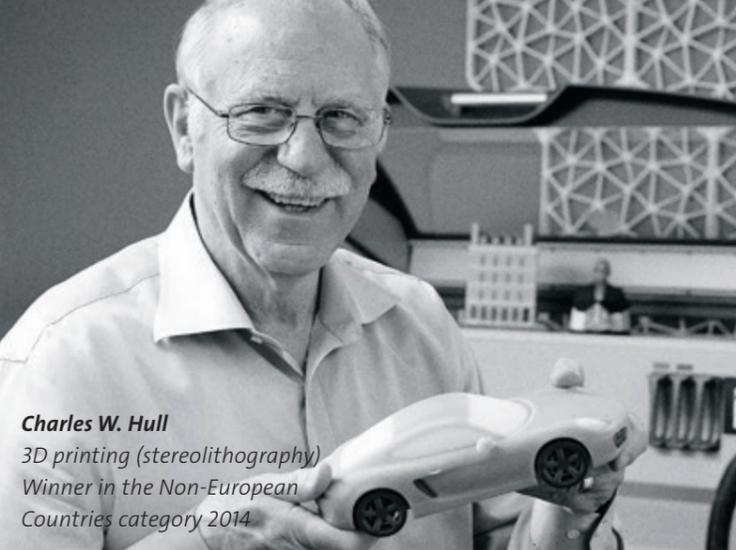
	<p>1. CALL FOR PROPOSALS Nominations from any technical field are invited from the general public, national patent offices and EPO staff. The open call for proposals runs from April until October each year.</p>
	<p>2. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS A panel of EPO experts rigorously evaluates the proposals to ensure they fulfil all legal requirements and represent significant inventions. A shortlist of 40-50 candidates is submitted to an independent jury, including detailed reports on the technical, societal and economic merits of their inventions and biographical information on each candidate.</p>
	<p>3. JURY DECISION At a meeting each juror carefully reviews the shortlisted candidates and allocates points for their first, second and third choices in the five categories. After voting and discussions, three finalists (including one winner) remain in each category.</p>
	<p>4. FINALISTS ANNOUNCEMENT The EPO officially announces the names of the fifteen finalists to the public in April. Hundreds of news outlets begin reporting and speculating on who the winners might be.</p>
	<p>5. POPULAR PRIZE VOTING In parallel to the finalists announcement, the public are also invited to vote for their own favourites in the "Popular Prize". An additional prize is awarded to the finalist who receives the most votes on the EPO website and social media in the run-up to ceremony.</p>
	<p>6. WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT The winners in the five categories and the Popular Prize are announced at the Award ceremony in June.</p>

AND THE FINALISTS ARE ...

We are keeping the identity of our 2016 finalists under wraps for just a little while longer. The names of the 15 inventors and inventor teams, who will emerge as finalists for the Award in five categories, will be announced to the public in April 2016. After this, all details including photos and videos of the inventors and their inventions, will be available on our dedicated website, www.epo.org/european-inventor, and the public will be invited to vote for their favourite in the Popular Prize.

Meanwhile, we can already tell you that the finalists are from twelve different countries, namely, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom, India and the United States. Their inventions cover a wide range of technological fields including food, telecommunications, medical technologies, medical diagnostics, the automotive industry, biotechnology, mechanics, electronics and chemistry.





Artur Fischer†
*Wall plug, synchronised flash and many more
Winner in the Lifetime Achievement category 2014*

Charles W. Hull
*3D printing (stereolithography)
Winner in the Non-European Countries category 2014*

HONOURING GENIUS

Over the past ten years, the European Inventor Award has honoured the work of outstanding scientists and engineers who are changing our world. This internationally recognised prize for innovation is an opportunity to give these inventors the recognition that is so rarely sought, but so richly deserved.



Sophie Wilson
*Low-power processors perfect for smartphones
Finalist in the Lifetime Achievement category 2013*



Patrick Couvreur and team
*Nano-capsules for targeted delivery of anti-cancer drugs
Winner in the Research category 2013*



Ann Lambrechts
*Steel wire element to improve strength and stability of reinforced concrete
Winner in the Industry category 2011*

PROGRAMME

ORGANISATION DETAILS

9 JUNE 2016
EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD CEREMONY

AWARD CEREMONY VENUE
MEO Arena
Rossio dos Olivais, Lote 2.13.01A
1990-231 Lisbon
Portugal

10.00 Meet and Greet

11.00 Award Ceremony

The awards will be presented to winners in the following categories:

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

ACCOMMODATION

For recommended hotels, please visit www.epo.org/european-inventor.

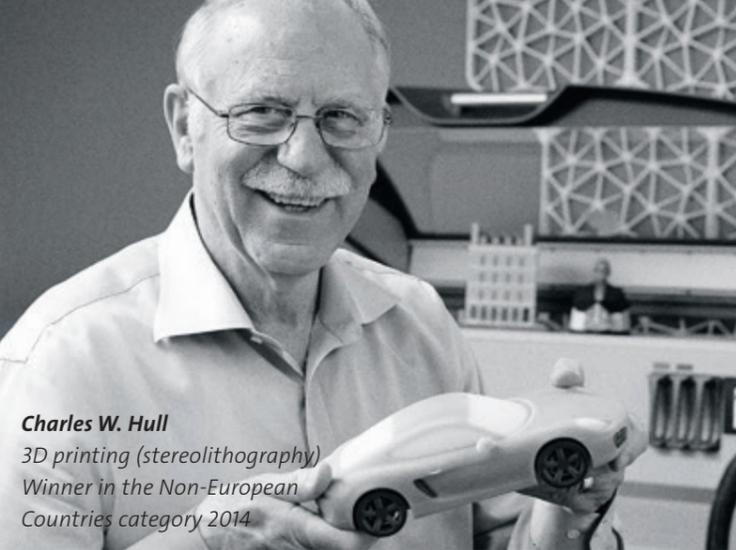
FURTHER INFORMATION

Hotline + 49 89 2399 1830
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E-mail: european-inventor@epo.org
www.epo.org/european-inventor

13.00 Reception and Buffet Lunch

PLEASE REGISTER BY 23 MAY 2016
WWW.EPO.ORG/REGISTER-AWARD





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PROGRAMME

8 JUNE 2016
VIP RECEPTION

19.30 - 23.00
The reception will take place at
the Jerónimos Monastery

9 JUNE 2016
EUROPEAN INVENTOR
AWARD CEREMONY

10.00 Meet and Greet

11.00 Award Ceremony
The awards will be presented to
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- Research
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- Lifetime Achievement

13.00 Reception and Buffet Lunch

ORGANISATION DETAILS

VIP RECEPTION VENUE

Jerónimos Monastery
(Mosteiro dos Jerónimos)
Praça do Império
1400-206 Lisbon
Portugal

AWARD CEREMONY VENUE

MEO Arena
Rossio dos Olivais, Lote 2.13.01A
1990-231 Lisbon
Portugal

ACCOMMODATION

For recommended hotels, please visit
www.epo.org/european-inventor.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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PLEASE REGISTER BY 23 MAY 2016
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