

EUROTECH RISING STARS AWARD 2026

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The **EuroTech Rising Stars Award**, formerly known as *EuroTech Future Award*, reflects this ambition. It recognises outstanding early-career researchers from across the EuroTech member universities whose excellent and original work shows strong potential for scientific, societal and economic impact. By highlighting the next generation of research and innovation talent, the award supports Europe's ambition to attract, connect and retain exceptional researchers.

RECOGNITION PACKAGE

The award is given by the EuroTech Universities Alliance members:

- Technical University of Denmark
- École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne
- Institut Polytechnique de Paris
- Technion - Israel Institute of Technology
- Eindhoven University of Technology
- Technical University of Munich

For each award recognition track, the offered prizes are:

- 1st place: €2,000
- 2nd place: €1,000
- 3rd place: €500

Beyond the financial reward, the award provides:

- **Formal recognition**, with framed certificates presented to first, second- and third-place winners in each recognition track.
- **Visibility and promotion** through EuroTech communication channels, including online profiles, Alliance-wide promotion and the **EuroTech Rising Stars Award Brochure**, featuring nominees and winners.
- **Showcasing opportunities**, including invitations for the first-place winners to present their research or spin-off ideas at the **EuroTech Summit in Brussels, on 28 October 2026**, and opportunities to showcase all winners' work in the Summit exhibition.
- **Networking and international exposure**, with selected nominees receiving tickets to **Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin, on 7-8 November 2026**, providing opportunities to connect with leading researchers, innovators and science stakeholders from across Europe and beyond.

ELIGIBILITY

The award is intended for **Rising Stars**, defined as **PhD candidates (in the finalisation phase of their PhD) and researchers who are no more than five years post-PhD by the call deadline, counted from the date of their PhD defence.**

Exceptions may apply in cases of documented career breaks, such as parental leave, illness, caring responsibilities, military service, clinical training or other duly justified interruptions.

Nominees must be based at a EuroTech partner institution at the time their nomination is submitted. Their research or innovation work may, however, have been initiated or partly developed at another institution before joining the EuroTech partner.

Former winners of the Award are not eligible.

SCOPE

Nominations may be submitted under one of **two recognition tracks**:

- **Rising Research Stars:** outstanding scientific discovery that significantly advances knowledge or understanding in a field, incl. excellent research with strong potential for scientific, technological, societal, environmental, health, industrial or policy impact
- **Rising Innovation Stars:** outstanding efforts to translate research into solutions with potential benefit for society, incl. early-stage venture ideas emerging from research, with strong potential for market uptake and economic impact

The award is **open to contributions from all research fields and disciplines**. It recognises the wide range of ways in which early-career researchers advance scientific knowledge, drive technological development, and address societal challenges.

Where relevant, **priority may be given to nominees with strong potential to remain engaged within the EuroTech universities ecosystem** in the coming years, in line with the Alliance's objective of supporting and retaining emerging talents.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- Each EuroTech member university may nominate up to:
 - two candidates for the Rising Research Stars category; and
 - two candidates for the Rising Innovation Stars category
- Applications may be submitted either through the **online application form** or using the attached **Word application form**, to be returned to brussels_team@eurotech-universities.eu. The form may be completed by the nominee or by a third party on their behalf, provided that all required information and approvals are included.
- The deadline for submitting nominations is **25 September 2026**.

- To help us monitor submissions and ensure that no nomination is missed, we would also appreciate receiving a short summary email from each university confirming the names and categories of its selected nominees by the deadline.
- Each university remains free to organise its internal selection process through the channels and governance arrangements it considers most appropriate.

Should you have questions about the internal selection process in each of the partner universities, please email us at brussels_team@eurotech-universities.eu and we will refer you to the relevant contact.

Only one submission per nominee is admissible. In the case of multiple submissions, only the latest submission received will be considered.

When applying online, a draft version can be saved and amendments made before submitting the application.

Submissions must be completed entirely in English.

TIMELINE

The timeline for the 2026 award is as follows:

31 July	University-level nomination and nominee applications open
25 September	Nomination and application process closes
By 16 October	Internal jury assessment
28 October	Award ceremony in Brussels
7-8 November	Selected nominees at Falling Walls in Berlin

SELECTION

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against three criteria. The emphasis of each criterion differs slightly depending on the award recognition track.

Recognition track – Rising Research Stars

Research excellence and originality (40%)

- The quality, originality and scientific merit of the research.
- The significance of the nominee's contribution relative to their career stage.

Impact potential (35%)

- The potential of the research to contribute to scientific, technological, societal, environmental, health, industrial or policy advancements.

European relevance and future potential (25%)

- The potential for the research to grow through collaboration, broader application or uptake, particularly within the European research and innovation landscape.

Recognition track - Rising Innovation Stars

Innovation excellence and novelty (40%)

- The originality, technical credibility and research basis of the innovation.

Market and societal potential (35%)

- The potential of the innovation to address a real need and create value for users, industry, society or the economy.

European growth potential (25%)

- The potential for the innovation to be developed, adopted or scaled across European markets, sectors or ecosystems.

Assessment process

Eligibility check

- All applications will be reviewed to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements and are complete.

EuroTech jury assessment

- Applications will be assessed by a EuroTech jury comprising Research VPs from six members universities. Applications will be evaluated against the assessment criteria for the relevant award recognition track.

Selection of winners

- Based on the jury's evaluation, first, second and third-place winners will be selected for each recognition track. The jury's decision is final.

Notification

- Nominees will be informed of the outcome by email. Winners may be asked to provide additional communication materials and confirm their availability to participate in the award ceremony and related promotional activities.

MISCELLANEOUS

Payment arrangements

The award money will be paid into the bank accounts designated by the winners after the award ceremony, provided all the requested documents have been submitted.

Compliance and GDPR

Submissions must comply with the highest ethical standards and must not be unlawful, misleading,

discriminatory, or fraudulent. They must not infringe or breach someone else's rights, including their intellectual property and privacy rights.

The nominee consents to the use of the information provided via the submission form on the channels of the EuroTech Universities Alliance and its six member universities for the purpose of communicating about this award. The nominees will always be credited when the submission is being used publicly. EuroTech will publish the names and affiliations of the winners.

Final clause

We reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the award, should we deem it necessary. All decisions are final.

For any questions, please write to brussels_team@eurotech-universities.eu.