



PRESS RELEASE

Aachen, October 12, 2011

Open call for applications for the Innovation Award Laser Technology 2012 – closing date January 20, 2012

The Innovation Award Laser Technology is a European research prize provided with 10.000 Euro prize money and awarded at 2-yearly intervals jointly by the associations Arbeitskreis Lasertechnik e.V. and the European Laser Institute ELI in recognition of outstandingly innovative work in the field of laser technology. The call for proposals is open. Closing date for applications is January 20, 2012. Application forms can be downloaded at www.innovation-award-laser.org. The official presentation of the award will take place in Aachen's town hall on May 9, 2012 at the International Laser Technology Congress AKL'12 (www.lasercongress.org).

Objectives:

The award can be conferred on an individual researcher or on an entire project group. The scientific and technological projects in question must center on the use of laser light in materials processing and the methods of producing such light, and must furthermore be of demonstrable commercial value to industry.

Eligible applicants:

Applications are accepted from individuals, working in industry or at universities or independent research centers, who have successfully conceived and implemented an innovative idea relating to laser technology, following the project through from early-stage laboratory research to ultimate industrial application. The range of possible fields extends from the development of new laser beam sources and systems for use in laser materials processing to the qualification of innovative laser manufacturing processes for use in an industrial production environment.

Prize money and fellowship title:

The best 3 applicants will be awarded. The prize-winner will receive furthermore the sum of 10,000 euros, and be awarded the title of »AKL fellow« and »ELI fellow«.

Official presentation:

The official presentation of the award will take place at the International Laser Technology Congress Aachen AKL'12 on May 9, 2012 in Aachen, Germany.

Jury and selection procedure:

A shortlist of the best candidates will be compiled by an international jury consisting of 10 members recruited from industry and the research community. The prize-winner as well as the second and third placed are selected on the basis of merit. Any and all legal recourse is explicitly barred.

Conditions for entry:

The innovation must have been implemented no more than 3 years prior to application for the award. Applicants must work for universities, R&D centres or companies established in Europe.

Closing date for applications:

no later than January 20, 2012 (time of receipt)

Awarding Institutions:

a) Arbeitskreis Lasertechnik AKL e.V.

Arbeitskreis Lasertechnik AKL e.V. is a registered non-profit association formed in 1990 by a group of companies and private individuals aiming to pool their experience and conduct joint public-relations activities in order to spread the use of laser technology in industry and promote the sharing of scientific ideas. In 2010, around 100 laser experts and enthusiasts were signed up as active members of the AKL network. The association's activities include disseminating information on innovations in laser technology, organizing conferences and seminars, compiling educational material dealing with laser technology, stimulating the interest of future young scientists, and providing advice to industry and research scientists on questions relating to laser technology. More information: www.akl-ev.de

b) European Laser Institute ELI e.V.

Optical technology is taking an increasing hold on all domains of industry and science. The European Laser Institute (ELI) has created an efficient platform bringing together the necessary competence and knowledge on optical technologies. By promoting technology transfer within Europe, ELI aims to enhance the international lead of European industry and research in the field of laser technology and photonics. By working in close collaboration with existing national and international organizations, the ELI network of industrial and academic research institutions helps to influence R&D policy on a national and European level.

More information: www.europeanlaserinstitute.org

Application documents and further information:

www.innovation-award-laser.org

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