

# MALTA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AWARDS

2019

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COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

## GUIDE LINES



Ministry for the Economy, Investment  
and Small Businesses

The Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses is once again organising the annual Malta Intellectual Property Awards. The scope of these guide lines is to provide assistance to Applicants<sup>1</sup> when applying to be considered for the Malta Intellectual Property Awards 2019.

## **The Malta Intellectual Property Awards 2019**

Through these Awards, Government is encouraging the development of innovative ideas and products which have potential and which are also unique and sustainable.

### **1. The Award Categories**

The Malta Intellectual Property Awards 2019 will be awarded as follows:

#### **A. Award for Creative Initiative**

The cultural and creative industries are significant to innovation because they are primarily based on innovative ideas which produce a multitude of new products and services.

Creative individuals and enterprises are at the heart of cultural and creative industries through the talent, skill, entrepreneurship and intellectual property they generate spurring new jobs and businesses or helping mature industries re-tool for the future.

The Award for Creative Initiative rewards **individuals** or **enterprises** operating in the cultural and creative sectors, which have an **excellent combination of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship**. The contribution can be a new product, an innovation of an existing process or a new way of working.

For the purposes of the Malta Intellectual Property Awards, submissions in this category shall relate to artistic or audio visual works or a combination thereof.

Artistic works include paintings, drawings, etchings, lithographs, engravings and works of sculpture.

Audio visual works includes any work that consists of a series of related images which impart the impression of motion, with or without accompanying sounds, which can be made visible and when accompanied by sound, can be made audible.

Projects should be tangible, concrete and well developed into either actual or very promising products or processes. Any concepts which are essentially based on abstract ideas and intentions are not considered to fall within the scope of the Awards.

#### **B. Award for Scientific Initiative**

The Award for Scientific Initiative owes its origin to science based research findings generated by **science students, academics** and **professionals**. The initiative could be a new product, a significant improvement of an existing product, a new use of an existing product or a new process.

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<sup>1</sup> Whenever used in the guide lines, the term “applicant” refers to either an individual, or a group of individuals / team, or a company, or a group of companies, or a partnership or a joint venture.

Projects should be tangible, concrete and well developed into either actual or very promising products or processes. Any concepts which are essentially based on abstract ideas and intentions are not considered to fall within the scope of the Awards.

### **C. Award for Technological Initiative**

The Award for Technological Initiative requires the development of new and innovative, or step-change improvements, with respect to problem solving of real commercial or societal challenges. The outcome should be an innovative technological process or an existing solution that is improved radically for application in a novel situation.

Projects should be tangible, concrete and well developed into either actual or very promising products or processes. Any concepts which are essentially based on abstract ideas and intentions are not considered to fall within the scope of the Awards.

### **D. Award for Emerging Innovation Initiative**

The **Award for Emerging Innovation Initiative** is intended to encourage projects that are not created by experienced creative, scientific or professional persons, but which nonetheless are still promising and innovative. **Eligible projects for this category must be the work of an individual or entity that is a newcomer to the field i.e. has been operating in the field for less than 5 years. Projects resulting from a group of individuals or other type of entity will also be deemed eligible provided that all the members of the group are also newcomers to the field. For this award one can apply either in the 16 to 30 age bracket, or in the 31 and over age bracket.**

Projects submitted under this category must fall under one of the previous 3 categories of either Creative, Scientific or Technological initiative. Applications for consideration under category D should clearly indicate on the front page of the application form that the application is being submitted as an Emerging Innovation Initiative, by ticking the 'Yes' box.

Projects should be tangible, concrete and well developed into either actual or very promising products or processes. Any concepts which are essentially based on abstract ideas and intentions are not considered to fall within the scope of the Awards.

## ***2. The Project Selection Criteria***

The selection stage is based on the amount of points gained by the project on the basis of the criteria below.

### **2A – Criteria for the Creative Initiative Award:**

The following Set of Criteria shall apply for project evaluation purposes for this Category:

- i. Knowledge (15 points)**  
Knowledge, skill and talent contributing to the creative product or process.
- ii. Impact (15 points)**  
The impact of the product or process on the sector, industry or society.
- iii. Technology (15 points)**

Creation of new technology; use of, interaction with or adaptability of technology in the development of the creative product or process.

**iv. Cooperation (15 points)**

The level of networking and cooperation with other creative individuals, organisations or other industries.

**v. R&D (15 points)**

Artistic or creative experimentation and research methods used to explore the idea or develop the product or process. The conceptual and aesthetic principles adopted to develop the idea and/or the efficiency and performance of the product or process.

**vi. Plan (25 points)**

Each submission has to be accompanied by a Development Plan outlining what development has taken place to date and explaining how the project can be further developed. The Plan should go into detail on how the applicant is taking the current project forward. Depending on the current stage of the project, the development plan can vary from developing the project idea into a tangible one, its commercialisation or its internationalisation. The applicant is also required to provide information and evidence as to the stage of development that the project has reached.

Information on potential or already formed collaborations with other partners and end customers should also be included.

Information should also be provided on any Intellectual Property Rights that have been protected or are in the process of obtaining protection in relation to the project being submitted.

The Development Plan should also include realistic time frames and approximate costs.

**2B – Criteria for the Scientific Initiative and Technological Initiative Awards**

The following Set of Criteria shall apply for project evaluation purposes for these two (2) Categories:

**i. Knowledge (15 points)**

Knowledge, skill and talent contributing to the scientific or technological product or process.

**ii. Impact (15 points)**

The impact of the product or process on the sector, industry or society.

**iii. Inventiveness (15 points)**

Applicants must indicate if the project submitted is a new concept or a variation/improvement of an existing product or process. In the case of scientific initiative the research based findings must be well defined. In the case of technological initiative the technological process must be clearly explained. In both cases the applicant should state if the project constitutes an inventive step to the prior art in the field and that is not obvious to the skilled person in the field.

**iv. Applicability (15 points)**

Whether this Initiative is specific to one region or country, or whether it could be applied internationally along with the cost-effective viability in the application of the initiative.

**vi. R&D (15 points)**

Scientific or technological experimentation and research methods used to explore the idea or develop the product or process. The conceptual and aesthetic principles adopted to develop the idea and/or the efficiency and performance of the product or process.

**v. Plan (25 points)**

Each submission has to be accompanied by a Development Plan outlining the development that has taken place to date and explaining how the project can be further developed. The Plan should go into detail on how the applicant is taking the current project a step forward. Depending on the current stage of the project, the development plan can vary from developing the project idea into a tangible one, commercialising the product or its internationalisation. The applicant is also required to provide information and evidence as to the stage of development that the project has reached.

Information on potential or already formed collaborations with other partners and end customers should also be included.

Information should also be provided on any Intellectual Property Rights that have been protected or are in the process of obtaining protection in relation to the project being submitted.

The Development Plan should also include realistic time frames, and approximate costs.

## **2C –Criteria for the Emerging Innovation Initiative Award**

The selection criteria for this award will be those applicable in 2A and 2B according to the category for which the emerging innovation has applied.

### **3. The Application Process**

All applications must be made on the respective project application form which can be downloaded from the Commerce Department website [commerce.gov.mt](http://commerce.gov.mt) by following the link: **Malta Intellectual Property Awards**

All applications must be completed in full, signed, dated and submitted by the Applicant as follows:

#### Original

One (1) Application Form signed and stamped in paper format. All supporting documentation and annexes in paper format. Application Form, supporting documentation and all annexes in PDF format on 1 pen drive (pen drive clearly marked on the outside, with the applicant's name).

#### Copies

Six (6) Application Forms signed and stamped in paper format. Application Form, all supporting documentation and all annexes in PDF format on 6 pen drives (pen drives clearly marked on the outside, with the applicant's name).

Applications are to be received **only by hand** at the **Reception**, Commerce Department, Lascaris Bastion, Dahlet Gnien is-Sultan, Valletta by not later than **30 June 2019 at noon (12:00)**. Applications received after this deadline **WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application prior to the deadline.

#### 4. The Eligibility Requirements

- i An applicant may submit only one project application per category for consideration.
- ii The Project being submitted must be an original piece of work attested by a Declaration of Originality as requested in the application form.
- iii The Project being submitted must have been developed within the last five years.
- iv Applications must be signed by an authorised signatory (i.e. an official representative in case of a group of individuals, company or partnership or joint venture) or the individual in the case where the application is being submitted by one person only. Applications bearing no signature or that of an un-authorised signatory may be rejected at evaluation stage.
- v. Applications submitted under the 'Emerging Innovation Initiative' Award need to be accompanied by a copy of an identification document belonging to the authorised signatory and the other applicants.
- vi. All Applicants must be Maltese nationals, or a group of Maltese individuals or enterprises that have their principal place of business in Malta.

##### Persons not eligible to participate

- i. Employees of the Commerce Department;
- ii. Foreign nationals or entities;
- iii. Members of the Selection Board and their family members\*;

\*For the purpose of these awards, *family members* shall mean parents, siblings, children and spouses including those in a civil union.

##### Prize Money

There shall be eight prizes in total:

- A **first** and a **second** prize in each of the following Awards (a total of six prizes) - the **Award for Creative Initiative**; the **Award for Scientific Initiative**; and the **Award for Technological Initiative**. Under each Award the winner shall receive **€8,000** while the **second placed shall receive €4,000**.
- There shall be two prizes under the Emerging Innovation Initiative Award, of **€2,000 each**. One of the prizes shall be awarded to individuals **in the 16 to 30 age bracket**. The other prize also for **€2,000** shall be awarded to individuals **aged 31 and over**.<sup>2</sup>

##### WIPO Recognition

Eligible projects will also be considered for recognition by the World Intellectual Property Organization and any selected projects may also receive an award from this Organisation.

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<sup>2</sup> In case of a team/company application, such an application shall be considered to fall within the age classification pertaining to the eldest person within that team/company. By way of example, a team composed of 2 persons aged 26 and 35, would be considered as pertaining to the 'aged 31 and over' category.

In order for a project to be eligible for WIPO recognition, **sufficient information must be provided as to intellectual property rights, such as patents, designs, trademarks** that have been obtained or are in the process of being obtained in relation to the project that has been submitted.

### **Project Presentation**

Shortlisted applicants may be requested to explain their project to the Evaluation Committee through a fifteen minute presentation.

### **Additional Notes**

1. The Board reserves the right to refrain from selecting any of the applications for the awards if the required level is not achieved;
2. Applicants are encouraged to include detailed diagrams/drawings/photographs which will demonstrate clearly the creativity/scientific/ technological contribution of the project as well as its uniqueness;
3. The information submitted must also clearly highlight the implementation stages undertaken for the results achieved or which are expected to be achieved;
4. In the eventuality that the applicant has filed or been granted intellectual property rights (IPRs) such as a trademark, patent or design in relation to the project being submitted, then evidence of the IPRs, such as registration certificates and search results, is to be submitted with the application;
5. Applications are to be delivered **By Hand**, to the Commerce Department, at the address below. They must be type-written, signed and dated using the application form provided. Applications submitted by e-mail or post shall not be considered as a valid entry for participation in the awards;
6. The pass mark is 50 (fifty) points, out of a total of 100 (hundred) points;
7. The decision of the Board is final;
8. Any queries are to be sent by email at [ipoffice@gov.mt](mailto:ipoffice@gov.mt) indicating clearly the subject/matter/reference of the call for participation;
9. An acknowledgement will be given to all applicants upon registration at **Reception**, Commerce Department, Lascaris Bastion, Dahlet Gnien is-Sultan, Valletta. **Reception opening hours are 8 am to 12 noon during the months of June to September.**
10. The closing date for submissions is **30 June 2019 at noon (12:00)**. **Applications received after this deadline will be refused.**