



ENTRY CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

1. RUSHLIGHT SOLAR AWARD

Award

Awarded to the entrant who can demonstrate that they have made the most significant contribution towards harnessing the sun's light or heat, thereby making solar a viable and effective energy source

Background

The International Energy Agency has predicted that solar energy will provide 25% of the world's energy needs by 2050. It is therefore one of the most important natural sources of energy. However, in order for solar to compete with fossil-fuelled alternatives and achieve grid parity for producing electricity, there needs to be further technological developments covering the energy efficiency of the panels, installation, monitoring systems, cleaning systems and the inverters. This category can cover everything from the multinational projects, such as Desertec, and solar desalination, through to the domestic use of solar PV, solar thermal, solar lighting and other solar gadgets, such as for drinking water cleansing and cooking. It is solar's versatility and reliability as an energy source that makes it so attractive.

Entrants

This category is designed to include any device that harnesses the light or heat from the sun. Entrants are invited from solar thermal heating, photovoltaic and other electric systems, natural lighting devices, desalination systems using solar, solar cookers and other solar gadgets. One of the key aspects of solar is that it can be used across a broad range of scale from a utility photovoltaic solar farm to a handheld device.

Purpose of the award

The award is designed to celebrate and publicise the significant achievements in developing the technology and innovation behind the use of solar energy. The original concepts and technology have been in existence for a while but it is only relatively recently that it is starting to be recognized as a major source of energy. This award can inform the consumer what is happening and what is available and so encourage the further development of the technology so that the decision to switch to solar-sourced energy can be both an environmental and an economic one.

Specific criteria

The key criteria that the judges will be focusing on are:

1. The importance and novelty of the innovation in addressing a specific issue (/20)
2. The “cleverness” of the innovation, which may include either its simplicity or its complexity (/20)
3. The evaluation of the innovation: the bigger the problem that has been solved or the greater the technology advancement that has been made the better (/15)
4. Whether and how the innovation can be replicated, sold or multiplied to increase the beneficial effect for society (/15)
5. Evidence of the efficacy or effect of the innovation (/10)
6. The holistic impact of the innovation on the environment. (/20)

Entry form

The Entry Form has the following sections to be completed:

- **Summary:** This is where you set out a synopsis of what the programme, process or technology is and does. This summary will be used as the descriptor should you be shortlisted
- **Project status:** This is where you explain the stage that the project, innovation or technology has reached.
- **Description:** Please set out under this heading as much detail as you can to make the technology development, innovation or process understood. You can include confidential and commercially sensitive information here and it will be treated as such, provided you mark it as being sensitive.
- **Innovative aspect:** This is where you explain the really clever bit. How have you addressed the problem or avoided the issue or organized the process? Again, please mark “commercially sensitive” or “confidential information” accordingly.
- **Benefits:** This is where the evaluation of the concept will be made. Please include in here as much evaluated detail of the benefits as possible. Examples include some sense of financial benefit, cost savings, price adjustments, expected or achieved sales effects, greenhouse gas emission reductions or other directly attributable benefits of the process or technology. Third party verified data is especially valuable.
- **IP ownership:** Set out here who owns what patents associated with the technology and clarify precisely the development that has been achieved by the applicant organization(s).
- **Additional information:** No form can cater for all eventualities and so this provides space for further explanation or details.

Lastly, if the form does not provide enough space or the questions are not directly relevant, then please send further material as an attachment to your entry email. Up to two attachments can be sent, each one no more than 5Mb in size.