



ERCI Innovation Awards 2018 – Regulations

Article 1: Purpose

The ERCI Innovation Awards 2018 are intended to promote innovations implemented by enterprises to meet the needs of the railway sector in Europe (freight and passengers).

The Awards are organized by ERCI (European Railway Clusters Initiative), the European network of Innovative Railway Cluster.

Two categories of enterprises will be awarded: one SME and one Large Enterprise.

After the determination of the winners in the SME and Large Enterprise categories, the jury may award one special prize “Coup de Coeur” among the remaining applicants.

Article 2: Rules to apply and criteria

(1) Rules to apply and eligibility criteria

Applications must present innovation developed and close to be commercialized or already commercialized (TRL >6).

Candidates for the Awards must send by email their applications filed in English to the cluster of the country or region in which their entity is located according to the regulations in that specific region or country.

Candidates must send the application form (maximum 2 pages in word format and 5 slides in ppt format) as well as additional documents to illustrate the innovation presented to the jury (photos, certification reports...) with reminder of the entrant's identity and the name given to the equipment presented.

The individual member clusters of ERCI will determine a maximum of three (3) nominees for the ERCI award out of the applications according to their local rules.

The individual member clusters of ERCI must send the applications of their nominees to the organizing cluster for the award, for 2018 this being Cluster Transport, Mobility and Logistics Berlin-Brandenburg, represented by Berlin Partner for Business and Technology. All applications must be sent by e-mail and are to be received by Berlin Partner no later than 11 June 2018, 24:00 CEST (Central European Summer Time). All applications must be directed to lutz.huebner@berlin-partner.de.



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(2) Selection criteria

Applications should provide as much detail as possible, bearing in particular on the following criteria.

Criteria	Weight	Explanations
Innovative level of the product/service with respect to the state of the art	3	The jury will assess the potential of these innovations to be appreciated in relation to their ability to raise new markets for the partners involved, and in terms of scientific and technical advances . The best project will bring a major innovation into the railway market. R & D will be provided corresponding to a market issue and the link with this issue will be highlighted.
Economic benefits produced	2	The jury will assess the economic benefits the innovation will bring to the buyer of the innovation.
Competitive advantage the Innovation brings/can bring to the enterprise	2	The jury will assess the competitive advantage the project will bring to the developer of the innovation: development of business activity, new markets opportunities , jobs created or to be created, R&D. In addition, the following are also positive indicators of impact: patenting, contribution to future standardization, creation of new businesses, structuring a research team...
Positive Societal impact the Innovation brings with respect to the Societal and Competitive Challenges defined at European and International level	1	The jury will make sure the project is developed in coherence with of the White Book for transport and other initiatives like Shift2Rail and ERRAC recommendations.
Creation of the Innovation by networking (with other enterprises or research bodies)	1	The jury will assess if the product developed is the result of a cooperation and the added value of the team work.
Effect scope (country, Europe, world – geographic aspects)	1	The jury will assess if the companies took into account, in its state of the art, European projects and even international projects if it is relevant to the targeted market. The jury will also assess if the project will affect the international strategy of the companies by creating new market opportunities



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According to the following system, each jury member will grade the application in each of the aforementioned sections:

Grade	Implied Points	Explanation / Quality assessment
A	6	Outstanding
B	5	Very Good
C	4	Good
D	3	Average
E	2	Below average
F	1	Poor

Implied points will be multiplied with the section weight and, thus, the total section result will be determined. The sum of all section results will determine the overall score.

The category winners will be determined according to the overall scoring. In the event of a tie, the Secretary of the Jury, will have a casting vote.

After the category winners have been determined, all jury members will be asked to nominate one applicant for the “Coup de Coeur” category out of the remaining candidates. This will be done by secured e-mail or telephone conference.

Article 3: Jury

A jury will be assembled to rank entries based on the criteria indicated above. The businesses to which the jury members belong undertake not to enter for the Awards.

Each ERCI member cluster has the right to nominate one jury member. The chairperson of the jury shall be nominated in 2018 by Berlin Partner according to the decision of the ERCI Steering Committee.

The jury members must be nominated with full names, title, function and contact details until 11 June 2018 by each ERCI partner cluster to the organising cluster management organisation Berlin Partner. Berlin Partner will contact the members after nomination and ask them to sign a brief confidentiality declaration.

Berlin Partner will provide all applications, the evaluation grid and manual to all jury members by 15 June 2018. All jury assessment must be returned to Berlin Partner until 29 June 2018. After determining the results of the jury for the prizes “Best SME” and “Best Large Enterprise”, the jury members will vote for the “Coup de Coeur” prize by e-mail or during a joint conference call until 16 July 2018.

Article 4: Decisions of the jury

The decisions of the jury are final and without appeal.

Article 5: Communication



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Entries entail candidates' consent to the use of the material they provide in communications related to ERCI or the clusters involved in the contest organisation.

Consent of jury member:

I agree with the above rules and declare that I will treat the content of all applications for the ERCI Innovation Awards 2018 confidentially. I will also treat the final result of the contest confidentially until the award ceremony on 19 September 2018.

Name of jury member:

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Date and signature