



Staatspreis Innovation

Austrian National Innovation Award

Innovative companies strengthen the competitiveness of the Austrian economy, create jobs and secure prosperity. The development and supply of new innovative products and services with not only economic but also sociopolitical and environmental aspects is beneficial for the economy as a whole.

Therefore, the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy awards the outstanding innovations and achievements of Austrian companies each year. The Austrian National Innovation Award (“Staatspreis Innovation”) is the highest award of the Republic of Austria for an Austrian company and its employees, that - through their innovative inventions and solutions - significantly contributes to the sustainable economic development of the country. It aims to honor and promote successful innovations and the people working to enable them. The award highlights innovations, which have a positive impact on the international competitiveness of the Austrian companies, and encourages companies to engage in innovation.

All Austrian companies developing or launching innovative products, processes or services can participate in this competition. The implementation of the innovation should already be completed for the most part and first data on the innovation’s impact should be available.

The jury assesses the innovative achievements of the participating companies according to the following criteria:

- Innovation: novelty of the project, degree of innovation, originality and ingenuity
- Business performance: entrepreneurial risk, development costs of the innovation, measures to promote an innovation-friendly business climate
- Impact of the innovation: market opportunities, benefits for customers and the public, ecological and environmental effects, cooperation and economic effects

The [Austrian National Innovation Award](#) is organized by the Austrian promotional bank, [Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH](#), on behalf of the [Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy](#). The [Austrian Federal Economic Chamber](#) and [VERBUND AG](#) are sponsors of the special awards [ECONOVIUS](#) and [VERENA](#).

Austrian National Innovation Award / Staatspreis Innovation:

The National Innovation Award is a yearly two-stage competition. In each of the nine Austrian federal states, regional partners organize regional competitions. The jury of each regional competition decides which company is awarded and whether it is sent to the National Innovation Award as representative of the respective federal state.

Each federal state can appoint up to three companies for the Austrian National Innovation Award. An expert jury then chooses up to six nominees including the winner of the National Innovation Award from these maximum 27 candidates.

Therefore, it is not possible to apply for the National Innovation Award directly, but the company has to participate in the regional competition of the particular federal state. For further information on the application offices of the federal states, please visit the following [link](#) (in German only).

All companies nominated for the Austrian National Innovation Award receive a certificate, media presence as well as a video clip about their innovative project, which is also shown at the festive award ceremony and published on the official website of the National Innovation Award (www.staatspreis.at). The Federal Minister of Economy appoints the winning company by handing over the official certificate and an artistically valuable trophy, designed by the University of Applied Arts.

Special Award ECONOVIUS:

The ECONOVIUS, a special award of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (Wirtschaftskammer Österreich - WKÖ), is given to a small or medium-sized company for its innovative achievements.

Each regional partner can appoint one small or medium-sized company as a representative of the particular federal state in the regional competition. The jury of the National Innovation Award then chooses up to six nominees including the winner of the ECONOVIUS out of these maximum nine companies. A company can be appointed for both the National Innovation Award and the ECONOVIUS.

The winner of the ECONOVIUS receives a prize money of EUR 12,000 provided by the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. In addition, the company receives access to MIT's database and technology contacts. The profiles of all nominees are published on www.advantageaustria.org for 12 months in a country of their choice.

Special Award VERENA:

The VERENA is a special award powered by VERBUND AG. It is given to a company for an innovative project cooperation with universities, technical colleges or non-university research institutions in the fields of electricity and energy systems, energy efficiency / management, security of supply, grid stability and smart grids, e-mobility and the use of renewable energies.

Each regional partner can appoint one company and its co-operation partner as a representative of the particular federal state in the regional competition. The jury of the National Innovation Award then chooses up to three nominees including the winner of the VERENA out of these maximum nine companies. A company can be appointed for both the National Innovation Award and the VERENA.

The winner of the VERENA receives a prize money of EUR 12,000 provided by VERBUND AG.

For further information on the Austrian National Innovation Award, please visit the official website www.staatspreis.at (in German only).