



Rules of Contest & Frequently Asked Questions

V 1.0



TABLE OF CONTENT

1. ABOUT.....	3
2. CATEGORIES.....	3
3. WHO SHOULD APPLY.....	3
4. ADMISSIBILITY.....	5
5. ELIGIBILITY.....	6
6. EXCLUSION.....	6
7. ETHICS AND VALUES.....	6
8. AWARD CRITERIA.....	7
9. EVALUATION AND TIMETABLE.....	7
10. WINNERS AND AWARD CEREMONY.....	8
11. WHAT DO THE WINNERS RECEIVE ?.....	8
12. DATA PROTECTION & COPYRIGHT.....	8
13. CONTACT INFORMATION.....	10



1. ABOUT

The Mission Innovation Net-Zero Industries Award 2023 honors the world's best innovations for industrial decarbonization.

As energy intensive industries are responsible for around 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, RD&D over the next decade will be critical to develop and validate innovative industrial processes and technologies that enable radical emissions reductions at lowest costs. There is a need to accelerate the development of key technologies to become commercially available no later than 2030, to ensure that they can be taken up in the market in time for the next 25-year refurbishment cycle. Therefore, we have created these awards for "Innovations in Net-Zero Industries".

2. CATEGORIES

The 2023 MI NZI Award recognizes the extraordinary efforts made by individuals and organizations in three distinct categories.

The first category is **Outstanding Projects**. We are seeking projects that revolutionize industries, disrupt the status quo, and set new benchmarks for decarbonisation in energy intensive industries.

The second category is **Female Innovators**. Women play a pivotal role in shaping our society and have an immense potential to lead the change towards a net-zero future. We want to honor exemplary women who have broken barriers, shattered glass ceilings, and are driving change in industries. Your contributions are invaluable, and this is your moment to be acknowledged for your remarkable achievements.

Last but certainly not least, we have the **Young Talents** category. We firmly believe that the power to drive change lies within our young minds, brimming with fresh ideas and unwavering determination. We want to celebrate the young trailblazers, the visionaries of tomorrow, who are already making remarkable strides towards a sustainable world. If you are a young professional or a student, this is your opportunity to be recognized as a driving force in the fight for industrial deep decarbonization.

3. WHO SHOULD APPLY

Submissions in all categories must address the decarbonisation of heavy industry in the iron & steel, cement & lime, chemical & refining or other energy-intensive and hard-to-abate sectors.

Submitted projects should present solutions for the following questions:



- How can the industrial sectors be put on a pathway to net zero emissions by 2050?
- Can net zero industrial production be economically efficient and be designed environmentally sound?
- What can industrial clusters do to organize themselves climate friendly?
- Which definitions, methodologies and reporting guidelines do we need to assess net-zero industrial production?

We are specifically looking for submissions on the following topics:

- Process optimisation and energy efficiency e.g., additive manufacturing; sensors; measurement and control technology.
- Process optimisation and energy efficiency e.g., additive manufacturing; sensors; measurement and control technology.
- Electrification of end use activities e.g., iron ore electrolysis; electrification of kilns; sintering and ovens
- Carbon capture utilisation & storage (CCUS) including energy-efficient separation; O₂-generation and (in-plant) use of greenhouse gas emissions
- Digitalization & flexibilization e, g. process control and automation; temperature upgrade of excess heat
- Circular economy and sector coupling including industrial symbiosis; demand-side response; chemical recycling
- Definitions, methodologies, and reporting guidelines to assess net-zero industrial production
- Roadmaps for infrastructure transition (including clean hydrogen, green electricity and CO₂ transport and storage) enabling decarbonisation of industry.

In the **Outstanding Projects** category, we accept submissions from companies, research institutes, universities, and project consortia on implemented projects and projects with secured funding, inspiring pilot projects and research work. This includes all technology readiness levels, from initial lab tests to prototypes to demonstrations and solutions available to consumers.

The **Female Innovators** category is open to women in all their diversity. We accept submissions from individuals. It is about their performance, not that of their employer or company. The award recognises women working on breakthrough innovations to decarbonise heavy industry and it celebrates those women innovators who are making a difference through their work, whether in research, corporate leadership, public administration, or an international initiative.

In the **Young Talents** category, we accept submissions of scientific works (e.g. thesis, dissertation, journal article, scientific publication) with thematic relevance for the above-mentioned sectors. Participation is limited to individuals who are not older than 35 years (=the age of 36 must not be reached by 31st of December 2023).



4. ADMISSIBILITY

Eligible applications must be submitted before the call deadline. (see timetable and deadlines under Section 9).

The application must be written in English.

Applications must be submitted electronically via the submission [link](#). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Applications must contain all the required information and supporting documents:

- **Online user account** – administrative information about the applicant to be filled in directly online in the [online submission portal](#)
- **Application Form** – technical description of the submission. Differs for every category. To be downloaded from the [award website](#), completed and re-uploaded to the online submission portal
 - The number of characters given at the end of the questions in the application forms must not be exceeded. Evaluators will not consider any additional text.
- **Annexes** – Applicants can/must support their application with additional documents to be uploaded in the submission portal
 - For the **Outstanding projects** category there are no obligatory annexes, except for the application form, optional ones are Brochures, pictures, short videos etc.
 - For the **Female Innovators** category, obligatory attachments are the Application Form; Curriculum Vitae including publication list of the candidate (in total max. 3 pages); Copy of the document related to the applicant's highest academic title received
 - For the **Young Talents** category, obligatory attachments are the Application Form; Curriculum Vitae including publication list of the candidate (in total max. 3 pages); Copy of the document related to the applicant's highest academic title received
 - **Please note:** The max. number of documents that can be uploaded is 3. If more than three documents shall be attached, they must be combined into a file (e.g. pdf) or compressed into a zip file before upload. The maximum file size of all uploads must not exceed 230 MB

Your application must be readable, accessible, printable (not applicable for videos).

In case of ambiguity, the organisers may contact a submitter to request necessary confirmations. (e.g. documents showing legal status and origin).



5. ELIGIBILITY

Submissions from all countries of the world are eligible. But national winners are will only be awarded for the member countries of the Net-Zero Industries Mission (Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the UK and the US)

There is an age limit to apply for the Young Talents category, candidates. The candidates should not be older than 35 years and may be asked to show valid legitimation as proof.

There is no age limit to apply for the Female Innovators category and in the Outstanding Projects category.

Individuals may submit two applications, one of which must be in the Outstanding Projects category and the second of which may be in either the Female Innovators or Young Talents category. Individuals who are eligible for the Female Innovators or Young Talents categories may only apply for one of the two categories.

6. EXCLUSION

The following circumstances lead to an exclusion from the Award:

- The absence of parts of the documents or papers listed under points 4
- Late submissions of documents, after the Submission deadline mentioned under 9
- Any other disqualifications noted in the Application Form and Rules of Contest
- If it turns out that during the award procedure applicants misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- If it turns out that applicants were previously personally involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

7. ETHICS AND VALUES

Activities must comply with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles. Moreover, they must respect basic values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).



8. AWARD CRITERIA

Eligible applications will be evaluated against the following award criteria:

- **Breakthrough innovation** – the project/solution or work of the applicant is pioneering a breakthrough and disruptive innovation for the decarbonization of heavy industries.
- **Impact** – the submission addresses a real need or challenge and contributes to enabling radical emissions reduction in heavy industries at lowest costs.
- **Scientific excellence** and overall quality of content
- **Inspiration**– the application/ the applicant is a role model and or frontrunner, who inspires others [only applicable for the category Female Innovators]

9. EVALUATION AND TIMETABLE

Timetable and Deadlines (all activities taking place in the year 2023)	
Call opening	July 21
Deadline for submissions	September 30 (24:00, CET)
Evaluation period	Oct. 1 – Oct. 18
Jury Meetings	October 23 - 24
Notification on evaluation results /awards	October 30, 2023
Awarding Ceremony	During COP 28, date tbd

Eligible applications will be subject to a formal evaluation by a jury composed of independent experts.

If there are more than 100 applications in either category, there will be a pre-selection to select the best 100 to pass to jury review. Otherwise, all applications will pass directly to jury review.

The pre-selection panel and jury usually have a different composition, but jury members may participate in the pre-selection panel. The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the award criteria.

After the evaluation, all applicants will be notified about their result. Participating projects will be offered the opportunity to be presented in the MI NZI Knowledge Management Platform.

The national winners (applicable to member countries of the Net-Zero Industries Mission: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the UK and the US) will also be selected by the expert jury. If there are no submissions from a country or if



they do not meet a threshold set by the jury, the jury may reserve the right not to select a national winner for a country.

10. WINNERS AND AWARD CEREMONY

The winners in each category of the 2023 Net-Zero Industries Award will be announced in a ceremony at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). The final date of the awarding ceremony is tbd. but it will be between 30 Nov – 12 Dec 2023 at the Expo City Dubai. Winners will be notified by e-mail at the latest 3-4 weeks before the beginning of COP28 to prepare for the in person awarding ceremony where the winners will be announced and presented their awards. Video acceptance will be possible if a winner is unable to travel. At this time, winners will be asked to send a mailing address where they can receive their physical award, should they not be attending in person.

National winners: The best project submission of each MI Net-Zero Industries Member State will be awarded: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the UK and the US. MI Net-Zero Industries wants to give as many as possible the opportunity to present their outstanding innovations in their country. BUT: National winners will not be invited to the in person awarding ceremony.

11. WHAT DO THE WINNERS RECEIVE ?

Winners in each category will receive a high quality, professionally finished award and a certificate bearing their name resp. the project title, the name of the accolade they've received, and Net-Zero Industries Mission's insignia. Travel costs of winners to the awarding ceremony will be covered. Winners will also be interviewed (by phone), which may be featured in publications on the website and social media platforms of the Net-Zero Industries Mission.

National winners will receive a certificate bearing their name resp. the project title, the name of the accolade they've received, and the Net-Zero Industries Mission's insignia. They will not be invited to the in person awarding ceremony but will be featured as national winners on the website and social media platforms of the Net-Zero Industries Mission.

12. DATA PROTECTION & COPYRIGHT

During the online Application process, applicants will be asked to accept the following Data protection and copyright agreements:



- Data Privacy Agreement:
 - In order to use the ConfTool system, you will create a user account with your personal details. Your user data, your actions and the results of your actions will be stored within the system.
 - Use and Disclosure of Personal Data: Information stored in the ConfTool system will exclusively be used in relation to this event or a subsequent event. Your personal data will only be passed on to third parties if this is necessary for the organization of the event, for billing purposes or for legal reasons (e. g. in the case of an external audit), but it will not be distributed or sold to other parties for other purposes.
 - Right to Information: Upon request, the organisers of this event will provide you, in writing, with all personal data they have stored about you. You can inquire where the data were collected, to whom they are disclosed and the purposes for which they have been stored.
 - Privacy Statement: By accepting the privacy agreement you also confirm that you read the privacy statement of the operators of this ConfTool installation.

- Copyright Agreement:
 - The undersigned (name will be filled in automatically) hereby assigns the organizers of 2023 Net-Zero Industries Award all rights under copyright that may exist in and to the above work, including the rights to use, distribute, publish, record, broadcast, reproduce and archive the work.
 - The undersigned warrants that the work and his/her presentation are original and that he/she is the author of the work and the presentation. To the extent the work and the presentation incorporate text passages, figures, data or other material from other authors, the undersigned has obtained all necessary permissions to grant the license above.
 - Furthermore, the undersigned grants the organizers of 2023 Net-Zero Industries Award the permission to use, distribute, publish, record, broadcast, reproduce and archive, his/her presentation and comments at the award ceremony in any format or medium.
 - Finally, the undersigned confirms that he/she has the power and authority to make and execute this form. For jointly authored works the signing author signs as authorized agent for the others.



13. CONTACT INFORMATION

Net-Zero Industries Mission
Mission Secretariat
Catrin Haider
T +43 50550-6095
netzeroindustriesaward@ait.ac.at

Net-Zero Industries Mission
MI NZI Award – Contact for Applicants
Anna Lackner
netzeroindustriesaward@ait.ac.at

Net-Zero Industries Mission
MI NZI Award – Contact for Applicants
Elisabeth Mrakotsky-Kolm
T +43 50550 6620
netzeroindustriesaward@ait.ac.at

Net Zero Industries Mission

Mission Director



Elvira Lutter, Program Manager at the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund

Net Zero Industries Mission

Global Mission Coordinator



Dr. Alan Monaghan, Senior Vice President – Technology and Expert Solutions at Worley