



essencia

INNOVATION
Award

2019



100 ANS
JAAR
YEARS

A HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE

“

On the occasion of its 100TH anniversary in 2019, the Belgian chemical and life sciences industry will celebrate a century of scientific research, technological ingenuity and visionary entrepreneurship. By writing about its past, it becomes clear that this rich history opens up the gateway towards a sustainable future for the planet.

From that perspective, the essencia's Innovation Award offers a great opportunity to highlight the innovative strength and creativity of all those companies working at the molecules of the future.”

KENNETH BERTRAMS & GEERDT MAGIELS

Authors of the book “100 years chemistry and life sciences in Belgium”

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The essenscia Innovation Award



2019 will be an exceptional year for the chemical, plastics and life sciences industry as it will be celebrating 100 years of activity in Belgium. On this occasion, essenscia, the Belgian federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences, is launching the fourth edition of the essenscia Innovation Award.

Through this prestigious biennial prize, essenscia intends to put a leading innovation project in the spotlight. essenscia also wishes to encourage Belgian companies to innovate even more and to protect their intellectual assets.

This essenscia Innovation Award 2019 is a unique opportunity for participants to gain visibility as the nominees as well as the winner will benefit from an extended media coverage. Articles about their innovation projects will be featured in special essenscia Innovation Award editions in leading media. Moreover a video dedicated to their innovations will be produced and highlight their projects during the essenscia Innovation Award ceremony. The winner will be awarded a prize of 30.000 euros.



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**The essenscia
Innovation Award
ceremony
will take place
on 2nd April 2019**

in the Paleis der Academiën/
Palais des Académies,
rue Ducale/Hertogstraat 1
in Brussels.

Participating companies
will receive a personal
invitation to attend
the award ceremony.

**Chemicals and
life sciences,
the R&D champion
of Belgium**

In Belgium, the chemistry and life sciences industries play a leading role in the field of research and development. The sector invests more than 4 billion euros a year in R&D. This represents more than half of all private-sector R&D in Belgium.

In recent years, several initiatives were launched to support sustainable innovation in chemicals and life sciences in order to anchor the future of this industrial sector in our country.

The protection of innovation is a key factor to the successful development and commercialization of an innovation project. The patent cell created in 2011 by essenscia in partnership with the Federal Public Service Economy is therefore closely related to the essenscia Innovation Award as it intends to boost the protection of intellectual assets in the sector.

Presentation of the jury



François Cornélis

PRESIDENT OF THE INNOVATION
FUND FOR CHEMISTRY & LIFE SCIENCES
FORMER VICE-CHAIRMAN
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF TOTAL AND PRESIDENT OF CHEMICALS

Holder of a master degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Louvain, **François Cornélis** started his career at PetroFina. In 1983, he became the Vice-President of American PetroFina in Dallas and was appointed CEO and Managing Director of PetroFina in 1990. From April 2000 to December 2011, François Cornélis served as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of Total (originally known as Totalfinaelf). In 2015, he created the Innovation Fund for Chemistry and Life Sciences. He is the Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club of Belgium and was awarded the Légion d'honneur.

PRESIDENT

François Cornélis

MEMBERS

Prof. Dr. Ir. Koenraad Debackere

Prof. Benoît Gailly

Guido Vandervorst

Yves Verschuere



Koenraad Debackere

MANAGING DIRECTOR
OF KU LEUVEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Prof. Dr. Ir. **Koenraad Debackere** is the General Manager of the KU Leuven and Managing Director of KU Leuven Research & Development. He is a holder of a PhD in Management with an ICM-fellowship from the University of Ghent and was a Fulbright-Hays postdoctoral fellow at MIT. In his quality of professor at KU Leuven, Koenraad Debackere teaches Technology and Innovation Management. He is the chairman of Leuven.Inc, the innovation network of Leuven high-tech entrepreneurs.



Benoît Gailly

PROFESSOR
IN INNOVATION MANAGEMENT, UCL

Prof. **Benoît Gailly** has a PhD in Applied Sciences from the Université catholique de Louvain, a European Master in Society, Science & Technology from Roskilde University and an MBA from INSEAD. He teaches Innovation Management and Strategy at master and executive level in the Louvain School of Management. His research focuses on innovation-based strategies and innovation and entrepreneurship support systems. He is a former manager at McKinsey, board member and advisor for several companies and author of the book “Developing Innovative Organizations”.



Guido Vandervorst

MANAGING PARTNER INNOVATION,
DELOITTE BELGIUM

As Managing Partner Innovation for Deloitte Belgium and EMEA and North West Europe Risk Advisory Innovation Leader, Guido has over 25 years of experience providing advice to various companies in Innovation, Risk- Process- and Organisation areas. Over the last years, he supported a large number of organisations with the set-up of innovation and change processes. Within the Deloitte Innovation Centre launched in 2014, Guido helps to bring Belgian start-ups in the technology scene to the Champions League. Furthermore, Guido is an active member of the essenscia Innovation Circle dedicated to support young chemical and life sciences companies in their innovation’s strategies and business projects.



Yves Verschueren

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ESSENSCIA

Yves Verschueren was appointed Managing Director of essenscia in September 2007. After graduating in law and economics from the Catholic University of Leuven, Yves Verschueren led a successful and international career at Unilever. Before becoming Chairman of Unilever Belgium, he acted in Belgium, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, Italy and for Unilever Europe as Senior Vice President Home Care. As Managing Director of essenscia, he is also a member of the Board of the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (VBO/FEB).

Participation Rules

01 Access to the competition is open to all industrial companies operating in Belgium including member and non-member companies of *essenscia*. The competition is also open to start-ups.

02 The proposed innovation project must have a clear link with chemistry, life sciences or materials.

03 The proposed innovation project must demonstrate its contribution towards sustainable development. It must address a societal challenge and be future-oriented.

04 The proposed innovation project should demonstrate its fit within a strategy for intellectual property management. Patent filing, trademark registration, brand protection, confidentiality agreement will be considered during the assessment of the projects.

05 The proposed innovation project should preferably have an industrial application in Belgium or be able to demonstrate its value generation towards the Belgian economy.

For SME's without a well-defined IP strategy for their innovation projects, the *essenscia* Patent Cell offers support under the form of free consultancy in collaboration with an external partner. This offer is based on a first come, first served basis and is limited to the 10 first applicants.

To benefit from this support, we invite you to submit your request before 1st September 2018 to:

innovationaward@essenscia.be

06 **The proposals shall be submitted in English only and sent by post or by e-mail to :**
Yves Verschueren | Managing Director *essenscia*
BluePoint | Boulevard Auguste Reyerslaan 80 | 1030 Brussels
innovationaward@essenscia.be

07 The proposal must contain the following information in a maximum of 5 pages:

- an abstract
- a description of the innovation, its unique character and its proof of concept
- its contribution towards sustainable development
- its intellectual property strategy
- its contribution to the Belgian economy (investment, employment, know-how)

08 The Jury will consider all valid applications and run a selection process on a confidential basis. No information will be shared with the outside world without the explicit consent of the submitters.

09 The composition of the Jury is :
François Cornélis, Prof. Dr. Ir. *Koenraad Debackere*, Prof. *Benoît Gailly*, *Guido Vandervorst* and *Yves Verschueren*.
The deliberations of the Jury will be secret and held confidential.
The decisions of the Jury are not open for discussion.

10 The winning project will be awarded a lump sum of 30.000 euros.

The proposals must be submitted by Monday 5th November 2018 at the latest.



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**Belgian Federation for Chemistry
and Life Sciences Industries**

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