



2022
essencia
INNOVATION
Award

www.innovationaward.be

With record investments of 5.6 billion euros in R&D in 2020, no less than 422 patents granted, and more than 11,000 people working in an R&D-related activities or R&D departments, the chemical, plastics and life sciences sector is the **innovation champion** in Belgium.

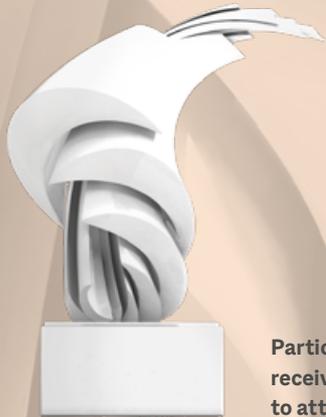
— To honor this innovation-oriented mindset and to highlight breakthrough technologies and products, essenscia is launching **the fifth edition of the Innovation Award**.

essenscia
INNOVATION
Award
5th EDITION

— Through this prestigious prize, **the most important prize for industrial innovation in Belgium**, we intend to put leading innovation projects in the spotlight. We also want to encourage Belgian companies and organizations to innovate even more, and to protect their intellectual assets.

Why participate?

The **essencia** Innovation Award ceremony will take place on October 18, 2022 in Square Brussels.



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

- The **essencia** Innovation Award is a unique opportunity for all participants to **gain visibility** within the broad **innovation network** of **essencia**, both at academic and industrial level.
- The nominees as well as the winner will benefit from an **extended media coverage**. Articles about their innovation projects will be featured in special **essencia** Innovation Award editions in leading media.
- Moreover a **video** dedicated to their innovations will be produced to highlight their projects during the **essencia** Innovation **Award ceremony**, in the presence of **Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid**.
- Participating start-ups and SMEs can benefit from the support of **the essencia Patent Cell** to define a strategy to protect their intellectual property
- The winner will be awarded a **prize of 30,000 euros**.

Wall of fame

2022 You?

2019

mithra
Women's Health

**New generation
contraceptive pill**

FINALISTS

Beaulieu, Eastman, Eurogentec,
Janssen Pharmaceutica and Kaneka

2016



**Candidate vaccine
against shingles**

FINALISTS

BASF, Evonik, IRE ELiT,
Mithra Pharmaceuticals and Qpinch

2014

AGFA 

**New generation
of low-migration inks**

FINALISTS

Airopack, Eurogentec, Proviron,
Recticel, Realco and Taminco

2012



&



**Breakthrough technology
in the field of polyisobutene**

FINALISTS

Nanocyl & Lippens Paints,
Promethera Biosciences,
Proviron and Total R&D Feluy

Presentation of the Jury

PRESIDENT

François Cornélis

MEMBERS

Véronique Halloin

Silvia Lenaerts

Piet Vandendriessche

Yves Verschueren



PRESIDENT

François Cornélis

President of the Innovation Fund for Chemistry & Life Sciences and former Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of Total

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.



MEMBER

Véronique Halloin

**Secretary-General of the Fund
for Scientific Research – FNRS**

— After obtaining a PhD in Applied Sciences and following a post-doctorate at the “Von Karman Institute for fluid dynamics”, Véronique Halloin joined the ULB where, in 2000, she became a full professor. From 2002 to 2006, she served as Vice-president and President of the Interfaculty School of Bioengineering before becoming Vice Rector of the ULB, responsible for research and development. In 2008 she was appointed Secretary-General of the Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS. She is a member of the Federal Council for Scientific Policy.



MEMBER

Silvia Lenaerts

**Professor and Vice-Rector Valorisation
& Development of University of Antwerp**

— After obtaining a PhD in Chemistry and gaining experience in the public, private sector and academic sector, Silvia Lenaerts became a professor at the University of Antwerp in 2006. She is the founder of the research group DuEL for sustainable energy, water and air technology, and a board member of several spin-off companies. In her capacity as Vice-Rector Valorisation & Development at the University of Antwerp, she is president of the board for innovation and industrial research fund (IOF).



MEMBER

Piet Vandendriessche

CEO of Deloitte Belgium

— Before becoming CEO of Deloitte Belgium in 2016, Piet Vandendriessche was a Managing Partner at Deloitte Tax & Legal Belgium. He was Indirect Tax Partner, and for five years, served as Deloitte Global Managing Director, Indirect Tax. From April 2013 to December 2015, he was EMEA Regional Tax and Legal Managing Director. Since 2014, Piet Vandendriessche has been a permanent lecturer on “Taxation of International Transactions” at KU Leuven. He is a member of the board of directors of Voka.



MEMBER

Yves Verschuieren

Managing Director of essenscia

— Yves Verschuieren was appointed Managing Director of essenscia in September 2007. After graduating in law and economics from the Catholic University of Leuven, Yves Verschuieren 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) and of Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council.

Participation Rules

1 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, and multi-partner innovation projects.

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

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

4 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.

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

6 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)

7 The proposals shall be submitted in English using the application form on the webpage www.innovationaward.be or by e-mail to innovationaward@essenscia.be.

8 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.

9 The composition of the Jury is: François Cornélis, Véronique Halloin, Silvia Lenaerts, Piet Vandendriessche 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 €.

The proposals must be submitted by June 15, 2022 at the latest.

The essenscia Patent Cell at your service



**To benefit from this support,
we invite you to submit your request
before February 15, 2022 to:
octrooi-brevet@essenscia.be**

— 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.

— For **SMEs 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.

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WITH SUPPORT OF



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

Bluepoint
Boulevard Auguste Reyerslaan 80
B-1030 Brussels
+ 32 2 238 97 11
www.essencia.be

