



Patrons

Professor Gerhard Ertl, Nobel Laureate
Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Laureate

The European Sustainable Chemistry Award

A EuCheMS initiative

EuCheMS (the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences), with the encouragement of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the support of SusChem (European Platform for Sustainable Chemistry) and CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Association), is launching the European Sustainable Chemistry Award.

The first Award, a prize of €10,000, will be presented during the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, on 29 August – 2 September 2010 in Nürnberg, Germany.

Rationale

The European Sustainable Chemistry Award is designed to

- recognise individuals or small research groups which make an outstanding contribution to sustainable development by applying green and sustainable chemistry.
- promote innovation in chemistry and chemicals that will deliver clear improvements in the sustainable production and use of chemicals and chemical products.
- demonstrate that chemistry and chemicals can play a central role in delivering society's needs, while minimizing and solving environmental problems.

Successful national green and sustainable chemistry award schemes have been in place for some years in several European countries and outside Europe and a recent study by the Economist Intelligence Unit points to the value of awards as demand side solutions as a key element in pushing the EU further up the global innovation rankings. The new European Sustainable Chemistry Award is intended to be a prestigious scheme which will raise the profile of sustainable chemistry and be a spur to innovation and competitiveness.

What is Sustainable Chemistry?

Sustainable chemistry is concerned with the development of environmentally benign chemical reactions and products. It produces more efficient chemical processes, technologies and product designs that conserve resources, generate less waste and less hazardous emissions and deliver a sustainable, cleaner and healthier environment.

The Award will be a key focus for research, innovation and competitiveness in Europe, in support of its sustainability objectives.

The European Award for Sustainable Chemistry – a EuCheMS initiative

Scientific Focus

The Award will cover innovations in Sustainable Chemistry, including:

- the use of alternative synthetic pathways, that increase resource efficiency and selectivity e.g. with the help of catalysis or natural processes
- the use of alternative feedstocks which are safer and/or renewable e.g. based on biomass
- the use of alternative reactor design and reaction conditions, such as use of solvents which deliver health and environmental benefits, or increased yield and reduced waste and emissions
- the design and use of chemicals and chemical products that are, for example, less environmentally harmful than current alternatives, or inherently safer with regard to hazardous concerns

Eligibility

The Award is open to individuals or teams of up to three persons.

Self-nomination for the Award is encouraged.

The work cited in the nomination must have been carried out in an institution in a country where there is a EuCheMS member society.

Requirements for the substantiating documentation will be available on the Award website.

An independent panel will be appointed to consider the nominations.

Further information

A Project Planning Team is overseeing the development of the nominations procedure:

Professor Luis Oro, EuCheMS President
Dr Reto Battaglia, Swiss Chemical Society
Professor Luigi Campanella, Societa Chimica Italiana
Professor Michael Dröscher, Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker
Dr Ray Elliott, Royal Society of Chemistry
Dr Igor Tkatchenko, Société Chimique de France
Professor Rodney Townsend, SusChem
Ms Evelyn McEwan, EuCheMS General Secretary

EuCheMS (European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences) is a non-profit-making organisation, having 50 member societies which represent some 150,000 individual chemists in academia, industry and government in over 35 countries across Europe. Its object is to promote co-operation in Europe between non-profit-making scientific and technical societies in the field of chemistry and molecular sciences. EuCheMS provides a powerful single voice for chemists and the chemical sciences in Europe through its activities and development of policy.

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