

BLUE SKY YOUNG RESEARCHERS INNOVATION AWARD FOR THE GLOBAL FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

1. The idea

By using the angle of innovation, we aim to stimulate competition between students and young researchers carrying out projects in a wide range of activities relevant to forest-based science, products using forest-based raw materials, process improvements or other innovations throughout the value chain. The Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Award will take place every two years and grant up to three awards to the most attractive submissions during each global CEO Roundtable promoted by the International Council of Forests and Paper Associations (ICFPA). The first award will be awarded in May 2017 in Berlin.

The award is not only about research and development; it is about innovation and about being inspirational, interesting and green.

2. The International Reward

After a transparent and objective selection process, the winning submissions will have the opportunity to present their project in front of an audience of global forest products industries CEOs at the occasion of the CEO Roundtable. Travel expenses to Berlin and accommodation will also be sponsored by the Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Award. Only tree students will be selected to the international reward. Each country will nominate up to three candidates to compete internationally after going through the national selection. Final applicants will be requested to submit a short video describing their projects.

3. Eligibility

Young researchers: students or other researchers under age 30. Carrying out research and innovation projects relevant for forestry, forest products processing technologies and forest products in an academia, public or private research center, company research and innovation department.

4. Theme

“Game Changing Technologies for the Forest and Paper Industry — Unfolding the Potentials of Forest, Paper and Wood-Based Products”. The theme includes 2 sub areas, but not limited to:

a) Future Generation Forestry

- Forest tree breeding and biotechnology
- Precision forestry
- Measurements and inventory

Innovation in the Wood-Based Industry

- Analysis and properties of pulp and paper
- Facilities, instrument and process control
- Bioproducts and wood chemistry
- Recycling, deinking and environment
- Timber for construction
- Material substitution with wood

5. Schedule

PERIOD	ACTION
Jan-Mar 2017	Global pre-selection
Mar-Apr 2017	Global Final Selection
May 2017	Presentations and international reward

6. Application

Applicants are invited to submit their application containing the following documents:

- Short CV (maximum one page)
- Statement of purpose, including:
 - 500 words; double spacing; font Calibri 12

- Objectives
- Description of the project
- Summary of Methodology
- Expected results
- Why is it relevant for the forest products industries
- What makes it innovative
- How is it fitting with the selected theme
- Additional Requirements:
 - Advanced English Skills (writing, listening and speaking)
 - Young adults, both researchers and students, candidates must be under age 30
- Letter of Support

Applications should be submitted by xxx to xxx. Application after the deadline will not be accepted.