

WIPO GLOBAL AWARDS 2023 FOR SME USE OF IP FOR COMMERCIALIZATION RULES

By entering this Awards Program, each Participant accepts the present Rules and agree to be bound by them.

1. **Introduction**

Intellectual property (IP) in its different forms, ranging from patents and trademarks to industrial designs and copyright, is of immense significance for the economic, social and cultural development of society.

The United Nations (UN) recognizes small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make up a large share of economies, whether in developed or less developed countries, and are a critical source of innovation and creativity across all sectors, markets and aspects of life.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) takes into the account the exclusive role of SMEs to use IP systems to deploy innovative and creative activities that have the potential to contribute economically, socially or culturally to society.

Through this Awards Program, WIPO undertakes to celebrate SMEs that have used IP rights to commercialize innovative and creative products/services beyond their home country.

2. **Eligibility**

The Awards Program is open to any SMEs worldwide. Pursuant to the definition of the World Bank, SMEs are those “*enterprises that encompasses up to 300 employees and up to 15 US\$ millions of total annual sales*”.

3. **Submission Process**

3.1 All entries to the Awards Program must be submitted in one of the six UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish) via the online application form available at

<https://login2.wipo.int/am/saml2/jsp/idpSSOInit.jsp?metaAlias=/external/idp&spEntityID=https://global-awards.wipo.int/saml/metadata> .

3.2 In this form, participants will be requested, in particular, to provide information about how they are using IP rights to commercialize their product/services at the regional or international level, and to describe its potential/existing contribution to economic, social or cultural development.

3.3. WIPO reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any submission which does not comply with the present Rules or which, in its opinion, has been entered fraudulently, in an abusive manner, or which may be contrary to the reputation or good name of WIPO.

3.4 WIPO is committed to ensuring the highest level of protection of personal data. All Participants' personal information will be used by WIPO under its Privacy Policy available at: https://www.wipo.int/tools/en/privacy_policy.html

4. **Evaluation Process**

4.1 WIPO Secretariat, through its internal Awards Program, will draw up a short list of up to **20 nominees** among all submissions received in time. Nominees will be notified by email at least a week in advance of the Announcement of the winners.

4.2 An international jury composed of up to seven individuals with extensive expertise in the fields of innovation, creativity and IP, and reflecting geographical, gender, age, cultural and language diversity, will select up to **seven (7) winners** from among the shortlisted nominees. The winners will be notified by email at least a week in advance of the Awards Ceremony.

4.3 The selection criteria that the WIPO Secretariat and the international jury will use for the evaluation of the submissions consist primarily of:

- a. Understanding and ability to use IP rights (or a combination of such rights) to protect, manage, and commercialize IP assets, as well as other intangible assets such as data, to achieve business and/or corporate objectives;
- (b) Existing/potential positive contribution in more than one country, or at the regional or global level to one or more different development areas.

4.4 The jury will follow an approach that upholds inclusiveness and diversity.

4.5 All decisions of the WIPO Secretariat and the international jury are final and not subject to any appeal.

5. **Awards Program Calendar**

- a. Period for submissions (10 weeks): 16 January to 31st March 2023
- b. Announcement of nominees: Third week of May 2023.
- c. Announcement of the result to winners: Second week of June 2023.
- d. Awards Ceremony and special events in Geneva: Second week of July 2023.

6. **Awards**

6.1 Winners will receive:

- a. Travel to Geneva to attend the Awards Ceremony and special events,
- b. A WIPO Trophy specifically designed for this Program,
- c. Customized IP mentorship opportunities (considering, on a case-by-case basis, the business background and specific needs of the winners).

6.2 In addition, winners will be offered promotion, visibility and recognition through an Awards ceremony, special WIPO Awards webpage, WIPO media, and other external IP related media.

7. Intellectual Property

7.1 Participants shall retain all intellectual property rights on the contents of their submission and/or derived from their business activities. Participants do not transfer any ownership rights by entering the Awards Program.

7.2 By entering the Awards Program, each participant grants WIPO a non-exclusive, worldwide and royalty-free license to use, reproduce, communicate, make available for public display and distribute the content of its submission for promotional, informational and educational purposes, via printed or digital form, including WIPO's website.

7.3 By entering the Awards, each Participant agrees to release and hold WIPO harmless from and against all claims, expenses and liability, relating to persons and property, infringement of trademark, copyright, patents or other intellectual property rights arising out of their participation in the Awards Program and the contents of their submissions

8. Final Provisions

8.1 No Participant is allowed to use the WIPO name or logo on material produced by them, without the prior written permission of WIPO.

8.2 The Organizer shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to modify these terms and conditions and to suspend or cancel the Awards Program without any future obligation. Any such change, suspension or cancellation will be communicated on the [WIPO Awards webpage](#) or via e-mail to the Participant's e-mail address indicated in the online application form.

8.3 Any dispute relating to the Awards Program shall be referred to and finally determined by arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Rules, then in force. The appointing authority shall be the Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The place of arbitration shall be Geneva.

8.4 Nothing in or relating to these Rules shall be deemed or interpreted as a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities accorded to WIPO as international organization and specialized agency of the United Nations.