



AWARD AND JUDGING REGULATIONS FOR THE ENERGYDECENTRAL INNOVATIONS CAMPAIGN 2024



1. Aim and responsibilities

The Innovations Campaign was launched to spread the word about pioneering innovations that affect the entire sustainable energy production chain. EnergyDecentral plays a leading role in providing suppliers of locally generated energy a platform to meet and showcase their products. The Innovations Campaign is organised by DLG e.V. ("DLG"). The competition is judged by an independent international commission of recognised consultants, scientists and practitioners appointed by the DLG.

2. Participation

All companies qualifying as exhibitors at EnergyDecentral 2024 and EuroTier 2024 and whose products fall within the categories listed below are eligible to participate in this competition. Joint submissions may also be made. Participation is voluntary and involves no extra costs. The participating company bears sole responsibility for adhering to all relevant statutory provisions and to these DLG award and judging regulations.

3. Product categories

Products in the following categories may be entered:

1. Biogas and biomethane – production and use
2. Solid biofuels – production and use
3. Liquid biofuels – production and use
4. Solar energy systems
5. Decentralized energy technology
6. Airing and ventilation, waste air and exhaust gas cleaning
7. Recycling and waste disposal systems
8. Safety engineering
9. Energy distribution and storage
10. Measuring, control and instrumentation technology

Exclusions

- Products that do not fall within the categories listed above;
- Services;
- Products that have already won an award at another exhibition;
- Products that were available on the market more than 12 months prior to the commencement of EnergyDecentral 2024 and/or were exhibited, launched or demonstrated at another national or international event.

Products that fulfil the conditions for inclusion but which were exhibited, launched or demonstrated at another national or international event since the 17th November 2023 may be entered for the Innovations Campaign with the proviso that they cannot qualify for a gold or silver medal. If they are judged to be innovative, however, they will nonetheless qualify for inclusion in the EnergyDecentral Innovation Award magazine.

4. Submission procedure

Every innovation must be submitted individually. Submissions are made online and only via the exhibitor service portal where you may also upload all supporting documents and image material along with all supporting documents and image material. **Submissions by post, fax or email will not be accepted.** Submissions may be made in either German or English. Submissions can be made online by midnight on the closing date for submissions (31 July 2024).

Joint submissions are accepted. In this case, the submission must be identified as a joint submission and all parties involved must be named (see point 2). The innovation will be published in the EnergyDecentral Innovation Award magazine as a joint submission with the details of all parties involved.

Clear explanation of the innovation and its benefits

The online form summarising the main facts should be completed carefully. **The innovative nature of the product should be clearly evident.** Therefore, the submission documents must clearly explain the innovative and beneficial aspects of the product. The innovative product features should be described plausibly and in an easy-to-understand way, supported where possible by independent test results.

Image material

For illustration purposes in the media and to help the commission reach their verdict, please provide no more than two image files (jpg, tif with 300 dpi resolution). All the publication and reproduction rights for the images are transferred to the DLG for unconditional use in terms of time, space and content.

Closing date for submissions

All documents must be uploaded to the online database by the closing date stated. Any submissions received after this date or deemed incomplete or not in compliance with the requirements stated above will not be considered for the Innovations Campaign. Exhibitors should ensure that any copyrights relating to the products submitted are protected and any relevant patents are registered. The DLG undertakes to treat all documents submitted in the strictest confidence, except and unless these are necessary for description of the product in the EnergyDecentral Innovation Award magazine.

5. Judging principles

For the purpose of judging the innovations, the DLG appoints an independent international commission made up of recognised experts, researchers and practitioners. The chair of the commission is designated by the DLG Executive Board at the time of its appointment.

The commission abides by a Code of Ethics (compliance system) and will meet the following criteria:

- Independence and impartiality
- Competence to judge the innovations submitted
- Pertinent experience in the industry

The commission will award the gold and silver medals on the basis of the documentary evidence submitted.

Guidelines for the award of gold medals

To win a gold medal for innovation, a product must represent a new concept in which the function has changed significantly and which facilitates a new process or substantially improves an already familiar method. Decisive in its selection will be its practical significance, the impact on operating affordability and efficiency, on the environment and on energy consumption. Its impact on labour saving and health and safety at work will also be considered.

Guidelines for the award of silver medals

To win a silver medal for Innovation, a product must represent an advance on an existing product such that a significant improvement in functionality and process is achieved. It will be a product that does not fully meet the criteria for the award of an Innovation Gold Medal. Decisive in its selection will be its practical significance in terms of cost, its performance and quality under working conditions and its functional safety. Further factors taken into consideration include impact on the environment and energy consumption.

Products which have a level of innovation assessed as adequate by the Commission and are therefore rated as innovative but falling short of gold or silver medal standard, may nonetheless subsequently feature in the Innovations Magazine.

Award-winning products must be fully functional at the time of the exhibition and ready for market launch and available on the market at the latest by EnergyDecentral 2026. Exhibitors themselves are obliged to provide information about the market availability. This is done in two steps.

1. One year after the award the exhibitor must provide information about the market availability of the award-winning innovation.
2. Shortly before the next EnergyDecentral the exhibitor must provide a second statement about whether the award-winning product is available on the market.

6. Award of medals

The decision as to which products will win an EnergyDecentral Innovation Award medal is made by the Innovations commission meeting in accordance with the **Guidelines for the Award of Gold and Silver Medals**. The commission's decision is final. Any recourse to a court of law is excluded.

For products that are not awarded a medal, the commission is under no obligation to inform the exhibitor of its reasons for not awarding a medal. Complaints should be addressed to the commission chair via the responsible employee at the DLG head office only.

The award-winners will be presented with a certificate and a medal for each winning product. In the case of joint submissions, each of the companies involved will receive a certificate and a medal.

Publication

The award-winners and their winning innovations will be published on the EnergyDecentral website and in the digital Energy Decentral Innovation Award magazine (in German and English).

- The commission's decision will be announced to the producers in conjunction with the DLG Marketing division.
- In addition, the national and international trade and business press will be informed about the award ceremony and the award-winning companies and innovations approximately six weeks before EnergyDecentral opens.
- All submitted products judged by the commission as being innovative will be published in a separate list. If video or image material is to be presented as part of the award ceremony, the DLG reserves the right to edit the material provided.
- All award-winning innovations will be published along with an image, product information and a summary of the commission's verdict in the internet and in an Innovation Award magazine.

Award ceremony

Gold and silver medals and certificates will be awarded at a public award ceremony at EnergyDecentral. The organizer will decide on an appropriate setting for the award ceremony in advance of the event.

7. Advertising award-winning products

The award may be used in all product advertising, including:

- the certificate
- the medal (in colour or black-and-white)
- a text reference to the award (e.g. in media releases, advertisements or online)
- and along with any other campaign logos or publicity materials defined by the DLG in advance and approved by the DLG for advertising purposes.

Permitted forms of use

- Certificates and medals may be depicted in any size, providing the width/height ratio is maintained. No changes may be made to the medals (e.g. wording or colour).
- Duplicates of the certificate and the medal may not be made.
- The award logos and other design materials defined by the DLG can be downloaded from the DLG website in the form of a four-colour or b/w image file.

Advertising rules

Advertising with award logos and textual references to the EnergyDecentral Innovation Award is only permitted in connection with a clear reference to the award-winning product(s). It must be clearly stated at which exhibition and for which innovative features the product won the award. The year of the award must also be stated.

Exclusivity

The award-winning product may only be advertised as such with the features submitted for judging. It may not be used for advertising the company or for corporate image purposes in isolation from the product.

Submitter's details

The name of the award-winner must be stated.

Duration of advertising

There is no restriction on the length of time an award-winning product may be advertised in association with the year of the award; this is up to the manufacturer.

Prohibition on misleading statements

In all advertising, care should be taken to avoid any statements that may give a misleading impression. All information provided must be in compliance with competition law. Responsibility for this rests solely with the participant or its legal successor(s).

8. Withdrawal of medals

The DLG reserves the right to withdraw an awarded gold or silver medal if the award-winner makes false statements concerning the award-winning innovation or grossly contravenes the advertising rules (see point 7). The same applies if the information regarding market availability (see point 5) is not received on time.

9. Compensation claims

No compensation claims will be entertained unless they are based on wilful or grossly negligent acts. This exclusion does not apply to circumstances in which injury to life, limb or health has been caused by ordinary negligence or breach of so-called cardinal obligations.

10. Final provision

The award and judging regulations and any annexes thereto become legally binding on the participant on submission of their product to the innovations database.