

Stanisław Lem European Research Prize

#LemPrize

Call for applications 2026



Idea

Lem Prize has been established to commemorate the 100th birthday of the great Polish visionary and science fiction novelist, Stanisław Lem, awarded doctorate honoris causa of the Wrocław University of Science and Technology in 1981.

Lem Prize is awarded annually to one young researcher whose creative work in science or engineering has potential for positive impact on the future of civilization increasingly filled with technology.

Candidates

Lem Prize is addressed to young scientists (under 40 years of age; in 2026 edition: born in 1986 or later), affiliated with an academic or research institution in Europe (EU member state, an associated country participating in Horizon Europe, Switzerland), regardless of nationality or country of origin.

Achievement

Lem Prize is awarded for a recent discovery or major achievement (made within last 3 years; in 2026 edition: documented in 2023 or later) in broadly understood fields of science & engineering, with strong elements of technology, interdisciplinarity, creativity, and vision.

The applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- excellence of the conducted research and originality of the idea or method
- immediate and long-term impact on the particular discipline or research field or beyond, benefits to the global society, and relevance to the major current civilizational challenges
- scientific, technological, and interdisciplinary aspects of the research or discovery

Procedure

Applications should be submitted electronically at lemprize@pwr.edu.pl by 30 September 2026 and must include the following documents:

- application form
- up to 3 publications confirming the discovery or achievement
- 2 or 3 recommendation letters, including maximum one by a person affiliated in the same country

The winner will be announced on 15 November 2026 during the annual anniversary celebrations of the Wrocław University of Science and Technology.

Reward

The winner will receive a reward of 100,000 PLN (~23,000 EUR).

The winner will be invited to Wrocław to present a lecture about the discovery or achievement and to meet with young scientists from the Wrocław University of Science and Technology.

During the stay, an official ceremony of awarding Lem Prize will be held.



Wrocław University
of Science and Technology

Detailed information about the call for applications is available at
lemprize.pwr.edu.pl

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