

EERA Joint Programme on Photovoltaic Solar Energy

EERA JP PV Excellence in Photovoltaics Award 2026

Background

The transition towards a climate-neutral, resilient, and secure energy system is one of the defining challenges of our time. Photovoltaic solar energy plays a central role in this transition by providing a sustainable, scalable, and cost-effective source of renewable electricity. Continued research, innovation, and industrial deployment are essential to improve photovoltaic technologies, strengthen European competitiveness, and contribute to the achievement of the European Union's energy and climate goals.

The European Energy Research Alliance Joint Programme on Photovoltaic Solar Energy (EERA JP PV) brings together leading research organisations, universities, and innovation actors to align national and European research and development efforts in photovoltaics. Through cooperation across its Subprogrammes, the JP PV promotes scientific excellence, technological innovation, and knowledge exchange across the photovoltaic value chain.

To recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements within the JP PV community, EERA JP PV launches the first edition of the **EERA JP PV Excellence in Photovoltaics Award**.

The award aims to:

- Recognise excellence in photovoltaic research and innovation.
- Highlight impactful scientific, technological, and industrial achievements.
- Increase the visibility of outstanding researchers, teams, and projects within the JP PV community.
- Foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among JP PV members.
- Showcase contributions supporting the European PV sector and the objectives of EERA.

Through this initiative, EERA JP PV seeks to promote excellence, encourage innovation, and strengthen the visibility of the European photovoltaic research and innovation community.

The awards will be presented during the **EERA JP PV Workshop**, to be held in Rome, Italy, on **25 November 2026**.

For further details, visit the [EERA Joint Programme on Photovoltaic Solar Energy \(EERA JP PV\) website](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

Award Categories

The 2026 edition includes two award categories:

1. JP PV PhD Award

This award recognises outstanding doctoral research contributing to the advancement of photovoltaic science and technology.

2. JP PV Innovation & Impact Award

This award recognises outstanding innovations, technological developments, demonstrators, projects, or research results that contribute significantly to the advancement, industrialisation, and deployment of photovoltaic technologies.

Award Details

Type and Number of Awards

The following awards will be granted:

JP PV PhD Award

- One winner (€2,000 prize)
- Up to three finalists

JP PV Innovation & Impact Award

- One winner (€2,000 prize)
- Up to three finalists

All finalists will be invited to present their work during the award session in Rome.

The winners will be announced during the Award Ceremony.

Travel and accommodation expenses for finalists and winners will be reimbursed up to a maximum of **€500 per person**, in accordance with the applicable EERA JP PV reimbursement rules.

Eligibility Criteria – Call 2026

To be eligible, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Applicants must be affiliated with a JP PV member organisation.
- The applicant's organisation must have paid the 2026 JP PV membership fee.
- Applications may be submitted by individuals or teams.
- For the JP PV PhD Award, only individual applicants are eligible.
- Submitted work must have been published, completed, or publicly demonstrated from **1 January 2023 onwards**.
- Eligible submissions may include:
 - Scientific publications
 - Conference papers
 - Research projects
 - Demonstrators
 - Technological developments
 - Industrial innovations
- The submitted work must be relevant to at least one area of photovoltaic research, manufacturing, sustainability, circularity, system integration, innovation, or deployment.

Application Requirements

An application will be considered complete and eligible for evaluation only if it includes all the following elements.

For Both Award Categories

Written Proposal

Maximum 2 pages (A4).

The proposal should clearly describe:

- Context and motivation
- Objectives
- Main achievements and results
- Scientific excellence
- Innovation aspects (where applicable)
- Impact on the photovoltaic sector
- Relevance to JP PV and EERA
- Future potential and exploitation opportunities

Supporting Evidence

Applicants must provide supporting evidence through one or more of the following:

- Reference and link to the most relevant publication;
- Publicly available technical report;
- Publicly available project deliverable;
- Description and evidence of a demonstrator, prototype, or innovation outcome;
- Any other publicly shareable material supporting the application.

Letter of Support

A letter from the applicant's organisation confirming:

- The relevance of the submitted work;
- Its contribution to photovoltaic research and innovation;
- Its connection to the activities and objectives of EERA JP PV.

Additional Requirement for the JP PV PhD Award

Curriculum Vitae

Maximum 2 pages (A4), including:

- Education
- Current affiliation
- Publications related to the submitted work
- Relevant scientific achievements

Submission and Confidentiality

- Applications must be submitted through the dedicated [EERA JP PV application portal](#).
- Applicants must complete all required fields and upload all requested supporting documentation before the submission deadline.
- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
- All submitted materials will be treated in strict confidence and will only be accessible to members of the Evaluation Committee.
- Personal data and supporting documentation will be stored and processed in accordance with EERA data management and security standards.
- Information relating to selected finalists and winners may be used for communication, dissemination, and promotional activities related to EERA JP PV, subject to the applicant's consent where applicable.

- Members of the Evaluation Committee will be required to respect the confidentiality of all submitted applications and supporting materials.

Evaluation Criteria

JP PV PhD Award

All eligible applications will be assessed according to:

1. Scientific Excellence (0–5 points)
2. Impact (0–5 points)
3. Relevance to JP PV and EERA (0–5 points)

Maximum score: **15 points**

JP PV Innovation & Impact Award

All eligible applications will be assessed according to:

1. Innovation (0–5 points)
2. Impact (0–5 points)
3. Scalability and Industrialisation Potential (0–5 points)
4. Relevance to JP PV and EERA (0–5 points)

Maximum score: **20 points**

Timeline

- **15 July 2026** – Publication of the Call
- **15 September 2026** – Application submission deadline
- **September 2026** – Eligibility review and technical evaluation
- **End of September / Beginning of October 2026** – Notification of finalists
- **25 November 2026** – Finalist presentations and Award Ceremony in Rome

Award Process

Preliminary Phase – Eligibility Check

Applications will first undergo a formal review to verify compliance with the requirements outlined in the Application Requirements section.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria or fail to provide the required documentation will be excluded from further evaluation.

Technical Evaluation Phase

Eligible applications will be assessed by the **JP PV Award Evaluation Committee**, composed of the JP PV Coordinators and Subprogramme Coordinators.

Potential conflicts of interest will be identified and managed prior to the evaluation process.

Applications will be independently scored according to the approved evaluation criteria.

Final Selection Phase

Following the technical evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will review the ranking and establish a shortlist of finalists.

The Committee will select:

- Up to three finalists for the JP PV PhD Award
- Up to three finalists for the JP PV Innovation & Impact Award

Finalists will be invited to participate in the Rome event and present their work during the dedicated award session.

Notification of Results

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation process by email. Shortlisted finalists will be notified by the end of September or beginning of October 2026 to allow sufficient time for travel arrangements and preparation of their presentations. The winners will not be announced beforehand and will be revealed during the Award Ceremony in Rome.

Evaluation Committee

The applications will be evaluated by the **JP PV Award Evaluation Committee**, composed of the JP PV Coordinators and Subprogramme Coordinators. All members of the Evaluation Committee will declare any potential conflicts of interest prior to participating in the evaluation process.

Award Ceremony

The **EERA JP PV Excellence in Photovoltaics Award Ceremony** will take place on **25 November 2026** during the EERA JP PV Workshop in Rome.

Finalists will be invited to deliver a short presentation of their work before the announcement of the award recipients.

The ceremony aims to showcase excellence, innovation, and impact within the JP PV community while promoting visibility and collaboration across the European photovoltaic sector.

Questions

For any questions or additional information, please contact:

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