

AWARDS INFORMATION



2015

**MIT
Technology
Review**

organised by:





Introduction

The MIT Technology Review Innovators Under 35 Awards is an initiative created by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) publication, which for over a decade has published a yearly list of the most brilliant young innovators under 35 years of age.

The objective of this initiative is to award innovation — the development of new technologies or the creative application of already existing ones in order to resolve current problems—, ingenuity, and advances toward addressing the world's most important challenges. MIT Technology Review hopes to find people who are capable of materializing the fascinating, inspiring and original ideas that will revolutionize the world of technology and business in the near future. Past United States winners of this competition include, for example, Sergey Brin (2002), one of the founders of Google, and Mark Zuckerberg (2007), the founder of Facebook.

MIT Technology Review has brought this search for talented youth to Spain, France, Turkey, Italy, Germany as well as in Latin America: Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Central America. In these regions each year, we find men and women under 35 who are the most promising in various technological areas.



We look for young people under 35 years of age whose accomplishments and personal qualities suggest a great promise to become highly influential through their contributions in the following areas:

- Biotechnology and medicine
- Computing and hardware
- Energy
- Internet and Web
- Nanotechnology and materials
- Software
- Telecommunications
- Transportation



Profiles of Candidates

Our objective is to recognize the development of new technologies or the creative application of existing ones in order to create new services and solutions for current problems. Candidates can stand out by having developed products that are already on the market, or by carrying out advanced research and promising planning, while their idea has yet to be materialized. We hope to reward creative and original work that benefits not only certain industries, but also society in general.

This call is open to people of all education and professional backgrounds. Candidates can come from universities, be founders of small businesses, employees in large companies or government institutions, or members of non-profit organizations.

The candidates must be under 35 years of age before December 31st of 2015. There is one exception: candidates may be women who are younger than 36 years old before that date, if they have had one or more children. The dates of winner selection and information about different categories of the awards may be accessed at our [web page](#).

The candidates must be nationals of the country they apply for and be in possession of a passport, birth certificate or National Identification Document.



Nomination of Candidates



Candidates may apply through the [form](#) available at the MIT Technology Review website or can be nominated by experts in their areas of expertise, or people in their academic or professional field. Candidates should fill out the sections of the form which refer to their personal information, and also describe briefly why they are suited to receive this recognition, and finally submit three references (name three people in their area who know their background).



In the days following the nomination period, the MIT Technology Review team will get in touch with nominees in order to verify information and request a description of their project and current resume. These documents should be 2 pages each at maximum, and should be written in English and in the country language. We also ask the three references to send us a letter in both languages in which they explain why the candidate is ideal for this award.



Characteristics of the Information



Our panel of judges will only consider the information included in the form and sent by the candidate and his/her references. The panel may request information from nominees if it is considered necessary. They must ensure that all information provided is truthful. Additionally, all candidates should renounce ownership of all materials and commercial information that comprises the documentation that they present. These can be used beyond the announcement of the winners in order to expand knowledge of the competition and the winners. The presentation of a candidate necessarily implies the accordance with these guidelines.



The areas of work previously mentioned (part 2) will be used to organize the evaluation process and to distribute information among the judges regarding the candidates who present projects that are most linked with their specialties. There is not a predetermined number or percentage of winners for each area. The right to select fewer than ten winners in total is reserved if it is determined that candidates do not fulfill the characteristics necessary to be selected. Similarly, up to two winners can be rewarded with an additional honorary mention if they exhibit extraordinary focus regarding social, entrepreneurial or innovative values.

Evaluation Process

MIT Technology Review relies on the assessments of a diverse committee of judges made up of experts such as technologists, inventors, directors, and entrepreneurs from the best universities and companies. The list of judges changes each year and is published along with the list of winners in the official awards page.

The members of the panel of judges will evaluate candidates based on their written description of their work, a current resume, and the letters of recommendation from their references. Additionally, following the evaluation of the general committee, MIT Technology Review can request the independent opinion of other professionals who specialize in certain areas in order to advance the selection process. The members of the jury cannot nominate a candidate whose evaluation they will complete.

Evaluation criteria

Although there is no mandatory methodology in place to evaluate the candidates, the judges have a series of considerations to guide their evaluations:

- **Impact:** We look for projects that can significantly change the life and work of people or the functioning of organizations; projects with a global impact and not just an impact within one area of research.
- **Ingenuity:** We take into account the way in which candidates confront problems and develop real solutions. We value the creativity and intrinsic imagination of entrepreneurs who are capable of observing and solving problems from a fresh perspective.
- **Audacity:** We look for audacious people with a history of feats, both lost and won, with a continuous spirit of perseverance.
- **Current:** We want to recognize innovators for the work they are doing today, not for projects they have led in the past.
- **Communication abilities:** We are aware that in order for ideas to be valued, they must be communicated and explained with success in order to reach funders, consumers and the general public. Because of this, we value the capacity of a candidate to convince us that a risky idea will be brilliant.

Awards for the winners

The MIT Innovators Under 35 Awards do not include a monetary provision for winners. They serve as recognition of the trajectory and potential of the top ten most promising young people in the area of emerging technologies. The great value of the awards lies in the visibility and international prestige which follows when winners are recognized by MIT Technology Review as innovative leaders in the areas of work.

The names and projects of the winners will be published throughout the world as a series of articles in the MIT Innovators under 35 local edition website in the months following the presentation of candidates.

Similarly, the young people who are awarded can present their projects before an audience specially comprised of investors, entrepreneurs, academics, technologists, and business leaders during an awards presentation ceremony that will take place in 2015.

Responsibilities of the winners

The winners of these awards must agree to participate in activities associated with Opinio and MIT Technology Review including debates, innovator meet-ups, technology conferences, and committees of future competitions and award presentations. Similarly, they should maintain in touch with the organization throughout the advancement of their projects in a periodic fashion.



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