



Call for Applications: AGS Innovation Award 2020

Innovative responses (products or services) to Corona challenges

AGS, the association of self-employed and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the SPD, once again honours entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises with its "AGS Award for Innovation". This Award is given annually to innovative, successful and socially responsible companies or organisations that actively participate in their respective markets. Each year, the prize has a different theme. In this remarkable year of the Corona Pandemic, our AGS award shall go to one or more individuals or companies that create socially productive innovations responsive to the Corona restrictions.

The Corona Pandemic is challenging for all citizens of all countries in the world, and of course for companies of all sizes and structures, too. Self-employed and SMEs in particular are responding quickly and innovatively to the rapid changes brought about by the pandemic. They are adapting their companies and business models, their products and services to the demands of the times. This requires sometimes dramatically new solutions, also in the European context and in cooperation across national borders. Only together will Europe have the chance, at a time when large nations either look inward or try to conquer the world, to implement its own concepts.

AGS is inviting innovative companies to demonstrate how they are helping to strengthen the ideal of a united, social and peaceful Europe in the context of the pandemic. By awarding the prize, AGS aims to revive an economically dynamic, democratic and social Europe that focuses on people and their needs. It pays tribute to companies that meet these requirements responsibly and exceptionally, thereby reviving a common European understanding and leading to greater cooperation.

On 23 October 2020, the AGS Innovation Award will be presented for the fourth time at an international business conference of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Berlin. Due to the Corona situation this can still be changed.

The award ceremony will be accompanied by political decision makers, associations and companies. The winners will receive a certificate and a decorative prize statue.

In case there are still travel restrictions in October, we will organize a Video award ceremony. Technical details will be communicated in due course.

Only the winners will be informed by 30 September at the latest, so that they still have time to make their travel and accommodation arrangements (if this is possible again). The FES in Berlin will reserve a certain contingent of hotel rooms near the Willy Brandt House; however, we apologize that only for a few participants an overnight stay will be paid for by the FES; all other participants will have to cover their costs themselves. This also applies to extra nights for invited participants.

Criteria for the AGS Innovation Award

The theme for 2020 is Innovative responses (products or services) to Corona challenges.

Conditions for participation:

Formalities:

Participate may self-employed persons or small to medium companies from all EU member states.

They must be proposed by a member association of SE4DS:

AGS (D), CNE (F), Rode Ondernemers (NL), SVW (A), TFM (SWE), UPTA (ESP).

Criteria for the Innovation:

It must be an innovation idea exclusively developed or rolled out during the Corona crisis. That could be a software, a product, a service, whatever.

Not considered will be e.g. tailors switching to mask-making, cafe's or restaurants etc. serving "to-go", 3D-printing of parts for respirators etc.

The innovation must be successful on the market, i.e. at least cost-covering.

It may not serve to limit individual freedom.

Examples for eligible propositions may be

digital solutions to ease the Corona-burdens of persons or businesses;

innovative business ideas by creative industries, the arts, cultural institutions;

changes in supply chains due to Corona-induced problems;

small innovative changes in health-care;

innovations for handicapped persons;

etc.

For the careful selection of the winners of the prize, it is of the utmost importance that they have demonstrated innovative strength in their management approach and shown creativity in relation to their products or services. Entrepreneurial drive and sustainable ecological working and production methods, social awareness, and sustainable and substantial employment are also important factors for the nomination and winning the prize.

Other criteria in connection with the current motto for the award are:

- economic persistence of the business model (actual market success over a long period of time),
- environmental sustainability of the business model (compliance with environmental and legal standards as well as clear and visible efforts to save resources in production),
- social sustainability, compliance with the demands for good work (compliance with legal health and safety standards, payment of adequate wages, implementation of innovative flexible working time models, creation of vocational training opportunities, active employee participation in company matters, a.s.f.).

The prize is awarded by a jury whose decision is final and cannot be challenged.

Application form for the AGS Innovation Award 2020

(If more space is needed, please use additional pages)

a.) Contact details

Company: _____

Address: _____

Contact person: _____

Telephone, Fax, Email: _____

Web-Address: _____

b.) Business model

Short description of the enterprise or company and its field of business:

c.) Key figures

Founding year: _____

Number of employees: _____

Employee representation Yes/No: _____

Collective wage agreement Yes / No: _____ If yes, which one: _____

d.) Special achievements in the spirit of the announcement (Justification why your company should win the award):

Please add extra page, photos, graphs etc.

Deadline: September 10, 2020

Please address your complete application (one Pdf-File, (max. 10 MB incl. photos) to

**SPD-Parteivorstand
Willy-Brandt-Haus
Referat Gremien und Planung
Wilhelmstraße 141
10963 Berlin
Germany**

Or submit it by Email: ags@spd.de

Thank you!