National Contest for Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2018

About the Contest

‘Innovative Enterprise of the Year’ national awards are given annually to Bulgarian enterprises and start-ups which have successfully developed and introduced innovations on national and global markets by demonstrating efficient business models and sustainable economic impacts.

The 14th edition of the Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2018 national contest is organized by the Applied Research and Communications Fund, ARC Consulting and Enterprise Europe Network – Bulgaria, with the support of DG GROWTH, EC, and in media partnership with the Bulgarian National Television, Economy Magazine, Economic.bg and Uspelite.bg portals.

The award ceremony of the contest’ 14th edition was featured during the National Innovation Forum on 6th December 2018.

The forum is organized under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria Mr. Rumen Radev who awarded the winners in the following categories according to the innovation’s impact.
High-quality label of ARC Fund on 'Excellence in Innovation'

'Excellence in Innovation' is the high-quality label of ARC Fund presented annually to awardees at the 'Innovative Enterprise of the Year' National Contest. It recognizes excellence, impact and efficiency of cutting-edge innovations developed by Bulgarian enterprises.

The label is provided for the use of enterprises that have successfully passed evaluation by ARC Fund experts and a jury of leading Bulgarian organizations and public institutions within the Contest. Criteria for acquiring the right to use the 'Excellence in Innovation' label include: high quality and originality of the innovation, impacts on national and global markets, environment and society, as well as efficiency of the business model.

Since 2018 the contest nominees receive ARC Fund’s new label ‘Excellence in Innovation’.

The award winners and the nominees are given the opportunity to outreach potential business partners from over 60 countries across the world through the Enterprise Europe Network – Bulgaria.
WINNERS for 2018:

Market Leadership award

Spesima Ltd

Spesima reengineers utilized universal robots from the automobile industry. The company uses the robot mechanic construction, and develops and equips it with new hardware and software, thus transforming its application to an entirely new one. The approach is ecological and energy-saving. The company sells successfully in over 35 countries all over the world.

Social innovation award

Comrade Cooperative

Comrade Cooperative develops innovative software products on the base of blockchain and artificial intelligence. It is founded by 16 cooperators. The company has created a blockchain-based infrastructure for management of decentralized autonomous organizations via smart contracts, called Wetonomy. It has also developed the Scynet platform for creation and training of artificial intelligence on the grounds of blockchain.
Innovative start-up enterprise award

**Micar Innovation Ltd**

*Micar Innovation* has created a platform for fast screening and discovery of new drug molecules for pre-clinical research for a large class of diseases. The company combines biotechnologies and information technologies by shortening the selection and molecule purification to less than a year. Micar’s portfolio thus far includes 5 molecules, ready for patenting.

Innovative start-up enterprise award

**Tinusaur Ltd**

*Tinusaur* has developed an educational platform and set of original tools for programming, robotics and electronics in open source. The training focuses on the engineering aspects of programming. The platform and robot sets are used in universities and schools in Bulgaria, Canada, USA, Germany and Mexico.
Innovation for quality of life award

**Printivo Ltd**

*Printivo* is specialized in 3D bioprinting of tissues. It has developed a bioprinter, 5 bio-inks and an original technology for 3D bioprinting of bone tissue. Printivo’s innovation is a world novelty with application in the medicine and dentistry.

Green Innovation award

**Biomyc Ltd**

*Biomyc* has developed a composite material, similar to plastic foam, based on crop waste and the root structure of mushrooms. It has created a fully biodegradable packaging and furniture fiberboard from that material. Once a waste, the latter degrades in natural conditions within 75 days.
Innovation Management award

Autoikonom Ltd

Autoikonom is the developer of an internet platform and a mobile app for interactive two-way connection between the car owner and the service providers – technical reviews, services, insurance and leasing companies. It offers special services for mothers and disabled people and is featured by a high-level innovation organization and culture.

Innovation powered by talent award

Web Services Ltd

Web Services has developed an original technology for multicultural learning – “Umni dechica” (“Smart kids”) for kindergartens and infant-schools. The learning process is supervised by a teacher or a parent and happens in an easy and funny way via multimedia games and tests, text, audio and illustrations. It is used in over 150 kindergartens. The training is possible in any type of electronic environment – computer, mobile phone, tablet and interactive whiteboard.
Innovation in creative industry award

Elius Bo Ltd

Elius Bo has developed its own Cablecam system and software for movement of cameras and objects with payload up to 200 kg in the 3D space. The solution offers the best opportunities in the branch for shooting dynamic scenes and cascades via programmed targeting. A few world-known movies were made using this technology.

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All the companies awarded in the National Contest for Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2018
NOMINATIONS in the National Contest for Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2018 (in alphabetical order)

A Data Pro Ltd

A Data Pro has developed a platform for optimization of the gathering and independent processing of big information array through automatic recognition of “persons of specific interest” involved in criminal activity.

Antipodes Ltd

Antipodes has developed the first for Bulgaria high-class ERP system as a cloud solution, localized in six languages, at prices reasonable for the SMEs.

Bio Way Ltd

Bio Way has developed a business model for production of Shiitake mushrooms in Bulgarian rural regions by setting up bio-farms, owned by individuals and/or legal entities, who work under the same brand and follow identical standards.

Center of integrated medicine Ltd

Center of Integrated medicine developed a protocol and a program for treatment of oncological diseases based on insulin potentiated therapy and biomagnetic therapy.

ConnectedBin Ltd

ConnectedBin have developed a solution for “smart” waste collection, integrating configurable IoT sensors with a software platform for real-time monitoring and management of container networks for waste collection.

15BG Ltd

15BG has developed 15toGO – an application for a new way of identifying, booking and organizing shared travels through direct connection with the travel agencies.

Imperia Online Ltd

Imperia Online has developed and released on the market the multiplatform Imperial Hero roleplay in a version designed for the Russian speaking markets.

Make Bulgaria Ltd

Make Bulgaria offers a patented technology for a mobile system and composite panels for thermal insulation of residential buildings and industrial installations.
**Microweber CMS Ltd**

Microweber CMS offers an online platform with an open source code for the creation of websites, online shops and blogs via a drag-and-drop technology.

**Mobile Systems Ltd**

Mobile Systems (under the brand MobiSystems) developed the ‘OfficeSuite Now’ - a cross-platform office for companies and end customers with integrated mail-client and PDF editor.

**Musala Soft JSC**

Musala Soft is a leading software company, which has created the training format ‘Learn from the Masters’ for individuals with basic or no experience, who plan to follow an IT career.

**Phyre JSC**

Phyre has developed the mobile PHYRE portfolio – an independent fin-tech product enabling contactless payment via smartphone, transfers among subscribers and digitalization of discount cards.

**Ride Share Bulgaria JSC**

Ride Share Bulgaria (Spark) offers a free-flow service for shared mobility via electric cars. The service is new for the markets of Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania.

**TechRoom Ltd**

TechRoom develops strategies and innovative tools for devising digital standards in the construction industry, specific for individual geographical locations.

**Telerik Academy Ltd**

Telerik Academy is an educational organization offering curricula for building skills and acquiring knowledge by both pupils and experts for the IT industry.

**Volontime Ltd**

Volontime has created, maintains and develops the Volontime social network for good deeds, where one can find information and become part of any initiative, related to good deeds.
ABOUT the Contest

The Contest is open for participation of active Bulgarian companies that have successfully developed and implemented innovation in the last three years.

Launched in 2004, the Contest has the mission to support innovation activities of Bulgarian enterprises and to promote their successful innovation to wider public. So far, nearly 100 companies have been honored for their achievements.

The Contest is recognized by the European Commission as the best national practice for promoting innovative development.

The innovation performance of companies is evaluated by an independent jury on the grounds of data provided by the companies and in-depth technology reviews of the applicants.

JURY of the National Contest for Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2017

Prof. Bistra Boeva – Department ”International Economy and Business“, University of National and World Economy

Valentina Taneva – Adviser on Education, Science and Innovation of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Ventseslav Kozarev – Programme Coordinator „Science, Technology and Innovation Policy“, Applied Research and Communications Fund

Ventseslava Yanchovska – Manager for Bulgaria, Innovation Norway

Daniela Tchonkova – National Coordinator of Enterprise Europe Network – Bulgaria

Dimitar Shakev - Elektrosfera – Antelope Audio (winner at the 12th National Contest for Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2016)

Prof. Marin Petrov, Expert Council on Innovations at the Applied Research and Communications Fund

Nedyalko Dervenkov – Vice Chairman, BESCO – The Bulgarian Start-up Association

Plamen Petkov – Member of Executive Board, Executive Director, Fund of Funds

D-r Ralitsa Angelova – Executive Director, BalBok Engineering JSC (winner at the 12th National Contest for Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2016)

Ruslan Stefanov – Director of Economic Programme, Center for the Study of Democracy

Svetlin Rangelov – Executive Director, Association of Business Clusters
Stamen Yanev – Executive Director, Bulgarian Investment Agency

Prof. Stefan Hadzhitodorov – Director, Center for National Security and Defense Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Assoc. Prof. Teodor Sedlarski - Dean, Faculty of Economics, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Prof. Teodora Georgieva – Deputy Rector, International Business School, Botevgrad, Chief Expert, Applied Research and Communications Fund

Assoc. Prof. Todor Yalamov – Department of Business Administration, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Applicants are evaluated by a specific methodology in categories such as:

- Market Leadership
- Innovation for quality of life
- Green Innovation
- Innovation Management
- Social Innovation
- Innovation in creative industries
- Innovative start-up enterprise (up to three years from establishment)
- Innovation empowering talents

Winners in the Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2017 national contest.
Winners in the Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2016 national contest.

All editions of the National Contest for Innovative Enterprise of the Year

TESTIMONIALS:

"The Innovative Enterprise of the Year Contest was an interesting opportunity to see the novelties created in Bulgaria and to give extra courage to enterprising and innovative people. "Elektrosfera" is now part of this community. The award has confirmed that we have sympathizers in our understanding of how to develop innovative business in Bulgaria."

Igor Levin, Founder of Elektrosfera Ltd, winner of Market Leadership award at the Contest in 2016

"It was a great honor for us to be awarded the Social Innovation prize in support of our goal - to look for new ways to overcome social barriers. We believe that education leads to change in society, and any contribution in that direction, matters."

Veronika Ratcheva, Head of Educational programme, Proznanie Academy Ltd, winner of Social Innovation award at the Contest in 2016
"BalBok Engineering JSC was winner of Green Innovation award at the National Contest for Innovative Enterprise of Year 2014. This honorable prize contributed to the confidence of our entire team and to our market positions in the country and abroad. We thanks also for the services provided by ARC Consulting in the field of evaluation and analysis of the public policy in the field of Green Innovation. Proof of this is the financial support we received in 2015 by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 - 2014 for the implementation of our project "Eco-innovative waste management system for wastes of unknown composition and origin in Bulgaria".

Dr. Lidiya Zhelyazkova, Executive Director, BalBok Engineering JSC, winner of Green Innovation award at the Contest 2014

"Following our participation in the 10th edition of the Innovative Enterprise of the Year Contest, we succeeded in consolidating our position on the Bulgarian and European markets. The award gave us the courage to grow our business boldly in the direction we chose. We have built young and ambitious team, inspired by our quest for change. We have also been acknowledged by the President of Bulgaria, who has mentioned us in an interview for a German daily newspaper as the young Bulgarian and innovative company he is proud of. We will continue to promote our innovative approach that is extremely important for the positive change in our country."

Kalin Klasanov, Co-founder, Roo Brands Ltd, winner of Innovation for Quality of Life award at the Contest 2014
National Contest – Innovative Enterprise of the Year 2018, BULGARIA
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