



## **eurekAWARDS 2023**

### **Pitch competition rules**

#### **Article 1 - Purpose**

The eurekAWARDS seeks to boost synthetic biology innovation in Europe (including, UK, Monaco, and Israel, and Switzerland).

The 2023 eurekAWARDS will provide researchers/entrepreneurs with an opportunity to present their idea to eureKARE's panels of renowned scientific experts and industry leaders to compete for expert advice, in-kind start-up support and potential funding.

#### **Article 2 - Eligibility**

**To apply, applicants must be researchers/entrepreneurs with a disruptive idea and project plan that is ready to be built into a start-up company.** Level of academic training will not be taken into consideration, however, the project should demonstrate scientific excellence and applicants should be at a stage where they are ready to pursue the development of their project. Only applications from the field of synthetic biology<sup>1</sup> will be considered and only applicants based and active in Europe, Israel, Monaco, the UK, and Switzerland are invited to apply.

- The solution must address a clear, proven unmet need and add value to the following three categories:
  - **Green economy:** Technology or platforms that aim to reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities.
  - **Blue economy:** Technology or platforms that seek to conserve marine and freshwater environments while harnessing their value in sustainable ways to produce valuable resources like food and energy. We include technology or platforms that focus on atmosphere/air here as well.
  - **Sustainability:** Technologies and platforms that help us meet our own needs without compromising the wellbeing of future generations.

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<sup>1</sup> eureKARE's definition of synthetic biology is as follows: *Synthetic biology is a box of biological and computational tools that allows us to bioengineer living entities (like cells, microbes, systems and pathways) as if they were made of blocks, switches, gates and circuits. These modifications can enable enhanced functions in a broad variety of applications or even create completely new ones.*

- **Examples of products and technology that fit into these categories include but are not limited to:**
  - synthetic cell components to manufacture sustainable biopolymers, bio-engineered advanced carbon materials, synthetic biology agents to extract and recycle rare and precious elements from mine waste and discarded electronic equipment, enhanced carbon sinks, engineered microorganisms as water pollution biosensors, new biofuels, green hydrogen, engineered enzymes to speed up decomposition of plastic, bioremediation of ocean acidity, improvement of fog water capture, etc.

Qualified applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their proposal.

### **Article 3 - Application Form**

The application will be submitted online.

Incomplete applications or those found unreadable will not be considered. Applicants will be notified of the situation and given the opportunity to remit their application prior to the deadline.

### **Article 4 - Submission of applications**

Applications will be collected online exclusively via the link:  
<https://eurekare.eu/eurekawards-2023/>

The application form must be sent exclusively online via this site.

The opening date for the submission of application forms is June 15, 2023 (9:00 am CET) and the closing date will be October 6, 2023 (12:00 pm).

Any application sent to another electronic or postal address, or sent before or after the submission period or using another template will not be taken into account.

Information provided by the applicant via the application form will be considered as non-confidential. The applicant must be aware that the disclosed information will be shared with the eureKARE management team, the eureKARE Scientific Advisory Board and with the industry jury which will elect the winner of the eureKARE pitch competition. The applicant specifically authorizes eureKARE to share the disclosed information with any professional of its choice.

### **Article 5 – Selection process (step 1)**

Applicants will be required to submit their pitch online using a 6-slide format that covers the following information:

Slide one: name of applicant; name of project

Slide two: key problem/market need; description of offering/product

Slide three: scientific background and innovation/solution

Slide four: highlights on target market, potential competitors, and key differentiators

Slide five: status of project development/IP (if any), potential to scale, desired support and next steps

Slide six: team overview and other resources available to the project

The first selection phase will be performed by the eureKARE management team according to a set of criteria aimed at checking whether the proposed project addresses unmet needs concerning sustainability and green and blue economy-focused projects.

Economic relevance and financial coherence of the proposed project, together with the motivation of the applicant to develop the project toward the creation of a competitive startup company, will be key at this stage. Projects that are not ready to be moved towards start-up phase will not be considered.

The top ten applicants having successfully met the first selection phase will be qualified as semi-finalists. They will be notified of their status no later than October 30, 2023.

## **Article 6 – Selection process (step 2)**

The second selection phase will be performed by the eureKARE Scientific Advisory Board during which each semi-finalist will exchange with them during a virtual pitch session along with the eureKARE team under full confidentiality.

The format for this will be 6 minutes of presentation followed by 6 minutes of questions from the jury. We recommend contestants use the same slides as those submitted when applying, however, they are free to modify their presentations slightly in order to better address the “key” elements of this stage.

The date set for this is November 16, 2023.

Scientific foundations and technological originality, (potentially backed by publications and patents), scale-up feasibility of the approach as well as the competitive advantages that the anticipated product will offer to its final users and markets, will be key at this stage.

Semi-finalists having successfully passed the second selection phase will be qualified as finalists and they will be notified of their status no later than December 15, 2023.

## **Article 7 – Selection process – (step 3)**

Each finalist will be invited to pitch their project to a jury composed of top professionals selected by eureKARE from its network of industrial partners and expert advisors in the field of synthetic biology, sustainability and green and blue economy.

Key criteria for the jury will be mostly business-oriented, with strategic parameters like cost of manufacturing, market penetration and user adoption as important elements for consideration.

The date for this is yet to be set. It will be in March 2024. Please note that accommodations can be made to organize a virtual pitch for those that cannot attend the live event in March.

The format for this will be 6 minutes of presentation followed by 6 minutes of questions from the jury. We recommend contestants use the same slides as those submitted when applying, however, they are free to modify their presentations slightly in order to better address the “key” elements of this stage.

All finalists, whether virtual or live, may be considered for, but are not guaranteed funding from eureKARE.

the **SynBEE – Entrepreneurship for Synthetic Biology** event in March of 2024 will include an opportunity for the top pitch competition finalists to present their projects to a live audience and receive live feedback from the experts present that day.

The winner of the eureKARE pitch competition will be announced during this event.

As part of eureKARE’s offer to the top finalists of the pitch contest, each will get a chance to improve and practice their non-confidential presentation with the help of the eureKARE team during a dedicated online workshop. The date for this is January 31, 2024.

## **Article 8 - The prize**

The winner of the eureKAWARDS will receive:

- Exposure to and feedback from the expert advisors brought together by eureKARE. This could include investors, media outlets and other key players in the synthetic biology field.
- Potential funding – eureKARE may decide to make an investment proposition to one or more of the pitch contests participants. This support would go towards the development of the proof of concept (or other key milestone, depending on the status of the project). eureKARE reserves the right not to put forward any investment proposition should no project correspond eureKARE’s selection criteria or investment priorities.
- Winner's package furnished from our sponsors

## **Article 9 - Commitments of the applicants**

Applicants undertake on their honor to guarantee the sincerity and truthfulness of the information they provide. Any inaccuracy or omission likely to introduce an erroneous judgement will result in the cancellation of their application.

Any incomplete file or file containing false information regarding identity or address will be considered null and void.

In the event of a proven irregularity, eureKARE reserves the right to withdraw the prize awarded.

Participation in the competition implies full acceptance of the contest rules.

The absence of the person(s) responsible for the selected and awarded projects, without real and serious justification, will lead to the disqualification of the project.

By accepting the prize, the winners expressly authorize eureKARE to use their family name, first name, image, as well as the indication of their location, in the context of any advertising message or promotional communication, on any medium, as well as on eureKARE and affiliates websites or social media platforms, for a period of one year, without this use being able to open up any rights other than the prize awarded.

## **Article 10 – Final decision**

The jury is independent and sovereign and the results cannot be contested in any way.

Following the presentation of the pitches, the jury reserves the right to award none or only part of the prize if it considers that the projects do not sufficiently meet the criteria defined.

## **Article 11 - Participation fee**

Access to the eurekAWARDS competition is free.

The costs incurred by the applicant during the preparation and presentation of their application are the responsibility of the candidates and winners and no reimbursement will be made by eureKARE.

## **Article 12 - Property**

Each candidate declares that they legitimately hold the intellectual and industrial property rights relating to the projects carried out within the framework of the competition and thus guarantee eureKARE against any recourse.

Applicants are encouraged to file an I-Depot (or similar) at their own initiative and cost in order to obtain a legal proof bearing an anteriority date stamp proving that their idea, concept or plan existed before entering the eureKAWARDS contest.

## **Article 13 - Responsibility of the organizers**

### **13.1 eureKAWARDS competition**

The organizers cannot be held responsible for any temporary or permanent interruption of the operation, for any reason whatsoever. The candidates are not allowed to raise any claim or request for compensation on this subject.

The organizers reserve the right to modify, if necessary, the announced dates according to certain events.

### **13.2 Communication**

The contact information of all eureKAWARDS candidates will be used in accordance with the provisions of the French law "Informatique et Libertés" of January 6, 1978 or any other law that may be substituted for it. Each candidate has the right to access, rectify or delete information concerning them.

### **13.3 Liability**

The organizers shall not be held liable in any way whatsoever for the services actually provided to the winner by the partner organizations.

## **Article 14 - Miscellaneous**

In the event of any breach by a candidate, the organizers reserve the right to exclude the latter's participation as of right, without the latter being able to claim anything whatsoever.

The present rules apply by right to all candidates who have submitted their project.

## **Article 15 - Schedule**

June 15 , 2023: Online application form available

October 6, 2023: Online application form closed

November 16, 2023: Date for semi-finalists virtual pitches to eureKARE's Scientific Advisory Board

January 31, 2024: Date for "perfecting the pitch" training session for all finalists

March TBC, 2024: SynBEE Day with live project presentation session and announcement of eurekaAWARDS 2023 winner