



HOUSKA PRIZE | 2024

SUBMISSION CRITERIA FOR THE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN SMEs CATEGORY

The B&C Private Foundation’s Houska Prize for Research & Development in SMEs is awarded in recognition of exceptionally innovation achievements by Austrian companies. The submitted innovation must already be established on the market.

THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS ARE INVITED TO ENTER SUBMISSIONS / INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

- Companies whose headquarters and their main research activities are in Austria.
- Companies which are not B&C Group investments.
- Companies that meet the European Commission’s definition of an SME:
 - with up to 249 employees
 - with annual revenue ≤ EUR 50 million
 and which also meet the FFG definition of an SME.
- That were established two years ago (entry into company register before 31 December 2021)
- Generating turnovers in the market

PRIZE MONEY

The R&D in SMEs Research category of the 2024 Houska Prize has a **total prize fund of €250,000**, to be divided between five nominees.

1st prize	€150,000
2nd prize.....	€60,000
3rd prize	€20,000
2 nominees	each 10,000

There are **no restrictions** on the way in which prize money is used. Prize money will only be paid out to higher education research institutions (no payment can be made to private persons). In the event of a KESSt obligation, this is withheld and transferred by the B&C Private Foundation to the tax office.

There are no further benefits or beneficiary rights from the B&C Private Foundation beyond the one-off payment of the Houska Prize money.

SUBMISSION PERIOD

1 September 2023 – 30 November 2023

TIMELINE

01 Dec 2023–20 Feb 2024	Evaluation of submissions by the Advisory Committee and the expert jury
21 Feb 2024	Announcement of nominees
25 Apr 2024	2024 Houska Prize award ceremony

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submission by the company, **in German only**
- Innovation must be reflected in economic success
- Specify the project manager
- Brief project description (max. 2,000 characters)
 - particularly innovative research performance
 - Presentation of innovation content
 - Explanation of the business model
- Presentation of the economic success already achieved (project-related revenue, licenses, etc.)
- Presentation of the special significance for the sustainable development of the company itself (securing/expanding the location, jobs, etc.)
- Presentation of the essential progress of the project in case of repeated submission of the project
- Exclusion of max. two reviewers (for competitive reasons) possible (short justification)
- Sworn declaration regarding the SME status

Submission can only be made in one category (no double submissions!).

Submissions can only be made electronically at www.houskapreis.at.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The personal data provided will only be passed on to the members of the Advisory Committee and the expert jury for the purpose of assessment and for communication to our PR agency.

See [privacy policy](#).

The jury’s decision is final.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact B&C Privatstiftung.
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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR THE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN SMEs CATEGORY

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR THE <u>RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN SMEs</u> CATEGORY OF THE HOUSKA PRIZE		WEIGHTING
ECONOMY	Previous economic success directly attributable to the innovation, sales achieved (except fundings) (national, international), license revenues, etc.	30 %
	Economic relevance for Austria as a business location (securing and creating jobs, maintaining corporate headquarters in Austria, spin-offs created, market potential, etc.)	25 %
	SUBTOTAL, ECONOMY	55 %
INNOVATION	Innovation content of the project	20 %
	Unique selling point of the project	10 %
	SUBTOTAL, INNOVATION	30%
RESEARCH	Research content of the project	5 %
	Patents, trademark rights, lectures, technical articles, scientific papers (theses or dissertations) etc. resulting from the project	10 %
	SUBTOTAL, RESEARCH	20 %
	TOTAL	100 %
EVALUATION PROCESS	<p>A positive assessment must be achieved for both science and business and innovation.</p> <p>The percentages denote the weighting applied to each point in the final assessment.</p> <p>There is a two-stage selection process. The advisory committee makes use of external assessors to provide a sound basis for evaluating the submissions. It proposes an initial ranking of the submissions, which is finally decided upon by the expert jury.</p>	
RATING SYSTEM	From 0 (not applicable) to 10 (excellent)	