



# HOUSKA PRIZE 2025

## 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 innovative research achievements by Austrian companies. The submitted innovation must already be established on the market.

### THE FOLLOWING AUSTRIAN INSTITUTIONS ARE INVITED TO ENTER SUBMISSOINS

- 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 2022)
- Project innovation already generates revenue 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 KEST obligation, this is withheld and transferred by the B&C Private Foundation to the tax office.

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

### SUBMISSION PERIOD

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

**1 September – 31 October 2024**

### TIMELINE

<b>1 Nov 2024 – 10 Feb 2025</b>	Evaluation of submissions by the Advisory Committee and the expert jury
<b>11 Feb 2025</b>	Announcement of nominees
<b>Wednesday, 09 Apr 2025</b>	<b>2025 Houska Prize award ceremony</b>

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Maturity level of project: The project is completed and the economic implementation has already taken place**
- Mandatory contents of the concise project description:
  - Description of the research performance and the level of innovation
  - Explanation of the business model
  - Mandatory presentation of the economic success already achieved (except for grants) (project related revenue, licenses, etc.)
  - Presentation of the special significance for the sustainable development of the company itself or of the business branch as such (securing/expanding the location, jobs, etc.)
  - Description of the contribution to the SDGs
- Presentation of 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](http://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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## SUBMISSION CRITERIA FOR THE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN SMEs CATEGORY

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR THE <u>RESEARCH &amp; DEVELOPMENT IN SMEs</u> CATEGORY OF THE HOUSKA PRIZE		WEIGHTING
<b>ECONOMY</b>	Previous economic success directly attributable to the innovation, sales achieved (national, international), license revenues, etc. (except for grants)	30 %
	Economic relevance for Austria as a business location and for the business branch as such (securing and creating jobs, maintaining corporate headquarters in Austria, spin-offs created, market potential, etc.)	25 %
	<b>SUBTOTAL, ECONOMY</b>	<b>55 %</b>
<b>INNOVATION</b>	Innovation content and unique selling point of the project	30 %
	Patents, trademark rights resulting from the project	5 %
	<b>SUBTOTAL, INNOVATION</b>	<b>35 %</b>
<b>RESEARCH</b>	Research content of the project	5 %
	Lectures, technical articles, scientific papers (theses or dissertations) etc. resulting from the project	5 %
	<b>SUBTOTAL, RESEARCH</b>	<b>10 %</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>EVALUATION PROCESS</b>	<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>	
<b>RATING SYSTEM</b>	From 0 (= not applicable) to 10 (excellent)	