






**The Irish
Laboratory Awards
2021**



ENTRY GUIDE

**All available categories for the awards
are listed here**



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The Irish Laboratory Awards

Launched in 2013, The Irish Laboratory Awards recognise & celebrate excellence and innovation in Ireland's laboratories.

The Irish Laboratory Awards are the benchmark for those demonstrating excellence, best practice and innovation within Ireland's laboratories.

The Irish Laboratory Awards recognise the success and achievements of Ireland's internationally renowned scientists in areas including innovation, leadership and collaboration and focus on the ongoing work of Irish scientists to grow and develop a sustainable, globally competitive science research.

Gaining recognition through these Awards **attracts top talent** to your organisation. The awards programme also allows you to **benchmark your work**, and lets people know who the leaders are. It also allows laboratory teams to be recognised within their organisation for their team's effort.

Shortlisted entrants and winners will have their **national profiles raised**. And of course, there's the beautiful trophy which the successful entrants will take away at the awards ceremony.

As with previous years, there is **no charge to enter** the Awards so get your thinking cap on and start putting your entries together!

We wish all our entrants the best of luck and we look forward to receiving your entries.

Entering

Entries must be made online at www.labawards.ie.

There are **19 Categories to enter:**

Laboratory Scientist of the Year
 Laboratory Team of the Year
 Laboratory Staff Member of the Year
 Young Leader of the Year
 Pharmaceutical Laboratory of the Year
 Medical Laboratory of the Year
 Healthcare Laboratory of the Year
 Calibration or Testing Laboratory of the Year
 Bio Science Laboratory of the Year
 Chemical Laboratory of the Year
 Food Laboratory of the Year
 Agricultural Laboratory of the Year
 Engineering Laboratory of the Year
 Veterinary Laboratory of the Year
 Research Laboratory of the Year
 Education Laboratory of the Year
 Start-up Laboratory of the Year
 Innovation of the Year Award
 Collaboration Achievement

How to Enter

It is **free** to enter The Irish Laboratory Awards.

When completing your entry, please follow these rules:

- All activities cited in support of your entries must have been ongoing **within the past 12 months (unless stated otherwise in the criteria)** from the opening date of these awards.
- Please ensure your submission fits onto **no more than 5 A4 pages** in portrait PDF format including supporting materials such as pictures, graphs, tables etc.
- Please **answer each of the key criteria points** allocated to the category that you are entering. This is what the judges base their scores on. Back up your key points with other information such as tables, graphics, figures, pictures etc.
- You may enter as many categories as are relevant, however each entry must be **tailored to meet the category criteria**.
- The entering party does not have to be resident in the ROI or NI, but the projects that support their entry **must have taken place** in these areas.

You will need the following to complete your entry:

- Your **5 A4 page PDF** entry document.
- A **50 word summary** of your entry. This may be used in full in our Awards booklet or in our script. It must be relevant to the category you are entering: so, if you are entering a project, the summary must be about the project; if you are entering a person, it must be about that person.
- **2 high resolution landscape photos** (300 dpi) relevant to your entry and the category you are entering: so, if you are entering a project, the photos must be about the project; if you are entering a person, it must be of that person. No graphics/collages/logos/watermarks. These will be used as part of the Awards' AV presentation, so choose photos that you are proud to display.
- A **jpeg** version of your organisation **logo**.
- The **name** of the person who will **accept the trophy** on your behalf in the event you should win. This may be used in post Awards media coverage.
- **Please note:** All of the above items will be required in order to submit your entry, and **you will not be able to modify your entry once uploaded.**

Tips for Entering



1. Read the criteria and make sure you answer each point. The judges use the criteria points as a basis for their scores, so make sure you touch on each criteria point. You can use additional facts, figures and information to back up or add to these points. By following the criteria you stand a better chance of scoring highly and make the judge's job easier!

2. Enter the right categories. Some companies seem to enter certain categories, and then ignore the one that they would stand a much better chance of winning. To start, look through the categories carefully and choose the most relevant to you. This will give you a better chance of winning.

3. Facts are very powerful; and waffle or generalities cut very little ice with the judges. There are lots of ways of presenting data, and one may look a lot stronger than the others. We're not advocating you twist the truth; but we do feel it's within the rules for you to make the strongest possible case for your Organisation .

4. Don't write more than you've been asked to supply. There is a limit on the number of pages you can submit (5 A4 Pages). Don't go above this as the judges won't read reams of supporting information. In the same way don't do ultra-minimal entries and simply rely on your profile to get yourself noticed.

5. Put yourself in the judges' shoes. Think about what would really impress them? What makes you special and distinctive? Our judges are all senior people and you need to think about your entry from their perspective. In many cases we see entries prepared by junior members of the team who can miss key selling points. The best entries have input from someone at Board level.

6. Check everything carefully. Many entries include fundamental errors – mainly spelling or grammatical errors.

7. Phone a friend. The events team working on the awards are happy to talk through draft entries and are always willing to give guidance. So if you want to try something a bit different, and would like our thoughts on that before you submit your entry give us a call – we'll do our best to give you a sensible steer.

8. Good presentation pays dividends. You are not judged on how pretty your entry looks, but busy judges are inevitably attracted to easy-to-read, neatly laid out entries. Some of the better submissions include simple, summary bullet points. The best presented entries often incorporate a range of small photographs, clever charts or graphs and other visual material that make it very easy to absorb and digest.

9. Boast - don't be modest! Your positive opening words are crucial - so begin with the end! This is the hook which will encourage those judging to delve deeper. Don't ramble; get to the point, every word should count. Be proud of what you have done, this is one time when it is absolutely right to boast. Testimonials are very powerful too!

10. Promote your business It is not often you are given the chance to generate free publicity; so encourage and praise your team and you might be surprised to discover that you can win one of the most prestigious awards in the sector. And if you win, think of the huge marketing advantage that will give you.

Judges & Judging Process

An independent panel of recognised and expert judges will determine the winners of the Irish Laboratory Awards.

To view who will be judging this year's Awards, visit www.labawards.ie.

Shortlisting

- Once the entry deadline is reached all entries will be carefully examined and scored using the criteria by the shortlisting panel of experts.
- The highest scoring submissions will be selected to go forward to the shortlist for each category.
- You will receive an email from the Event Team letting you know if your entry was successful or not.
- The shortlist of finalists will be published in the national press and on the Awards website, www.labawards.ie.

Judging

- Judges are divided into panels, based on their expertise, to ensure any possible conflict is avoided.
- All judges score finalists based on the relevant category criteria.
- Scores are then collected by the event team and collated.
- Scores are sent to the judging coordinator who checks and verifies all scores.
- The highest scoring entrant is declared the winner of that category.

Categories & Criteria

Laboratory Scientist of the Year

This award will be given to an individual whose contribution to science has been outstanding in the last 24 months and is representative of their sustained contribution to science. It is open to any individual working in a science based laboratory from research assistants through to principal investigators and senior scientists.

Entrants can be nominated by themselves, their colleagues, supervisors or members of the public, but please ensure you have their permission to do so.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please provide a one page CV with details of their previous employment history.*
- *What has been their input into the development of new products, technologies and research and for growth through commercialisation of research? In an academic lab what has their input into innovating and developing research ideas, academic output and funding attained? Please include details of previous significant publications, patents and prizes.*
- *Applicants must demonstrate collaborative working and how they contribute to the development of others within the lab. How have they assisted others to reach training objectives, promotions or academic achievements? How do they show commitment to their own company or institutional community by sharing knowledge and learning?*
- *Do they demonstrate leadership behaviour and act as a role model to others? Through achievements and active participation in industry or academic networks they must demonstrate how they act as ambassadors for Irish science on a global scale and enhance our reputation and image as a world leader in science.*
- *Include any other statements or facts that support the entry, and a testimonial from the nominee's head of department or supervisor where possible.*

Laboratory Team of the Year

Do you have the perfect blend of individuals who represent the ideal definition of team work? This award is open to any laboratory or research group working in a commercial lab, at third level or research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service and health care facilities such as hospitals, contract research organisations, medical device companies and clinical research facilities.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please provide evidence of specific outcomes of team work: How many publications have been produced, products brought to market, invention disclosures, patents, licenses and spin outs have occurred? How much funding did you achieve? This can include investment from R & D entities, governmental support or funding achieved by outside agencies such as EU or commercial partners.*
- *What are the contributions made by the various team members? What is the scale of effort in terms of manpower, time and materials?*
- *Have there been any specific training objectives achieved by the team work? Please provide evidence of the number of trainees moving into industry or academia.*
- *Originality of the research/work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *What is the scientific depth of the project and level of innovation? What is the degree of innovation demonstrated specifically by the team-work, and does it have commercial potential?*
- *What is the potential impact of the technology/product/process to the sciences? Are there commercial market applications and implementations? What are the technical, societal, environmental or other benefits arising from the work? What are the opportunities potential for the technology or research?*

Laboratory Staff Member of the Year

Is there somebody in your lab who makes a difference every day? Nominees will be considered on the basis of experience, promoting of science activities and contributions to the advancement of all aspects of their field. The recipient for example can include scientists, facility manager, laboratory analyst lab technician, research assistants, post-doctoral scientist or graduate student.

Entrants can be nominated by themselves, their colleagues, supervisors or members of the public, but please ensure you have their permission to do so.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; candidates should provide evidence of excellence relating to one or more of the following criteria listed below.

- *Please provide a one page CV with details of their previous employment history.*
- *Have they undertaken work in your laboratory that has successfully improved research or technology in your lab? Have they added to the development of new or use of existing technology or equipment to enhance working experience in the lab? What impact has their work had? Please quantify the impact where possible.*
- *Have they improved working practices by introducing new methods that provide more accurate or speedier results?*
- *Do they demonstrate innovative skills to enhance lab performance or research?*
- *Do they have outstanding administrative or finance skills? Has the use of new approaches improved administrative procedures or reduced costs?*
- *Have they spearheaded an initiative to gain laboratory accreditation?*

Laboratory Staff Member of the Year

(continued)

- *Have they resolved a challenging scientific problem? Do they have excellent problem solving skills and, if so, how have they developed solutions to particularly tricky problems?*
- *Have they proved to be an indispensable member of the laboratory team?*
- *Have they undertaken training of colleagues to enhance their laboratory skills or understanding of science? Have they developed learning materials or systems to support the training experience?*
- *Have they shown excellent interpersonal and communication skill? Have they actively communicated their work by publications, awards presentations or activities?*
- *Include any other statements or facts that support the entry, and a testimonial from the nominee's head of department or supervisor where possible.*

Young Leader of the Year

This award recognises a young lab leader that has demonstrated potential to make a significant contribution to science in Ireland and is no older than 35 years old as of January 31st 2019. It is open to any individual leading a science based laboratory, typically principal investigators and senior scientists, from any sector.

Entrants can be nominated by themselves, their colleagues, supervisors or members of the public, but please ensure you have their permission to do so.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please provide a one page CV with details of their previous employment history.*
- *What has been their contribution to the success of the lab in the last 3 years? In a commercial setting this can be measured by growth in market share, turnover, deals done, collaborations established, investments to date, specific investment, launch of product or expansion. In a research lab this can be measured by academic output and funding attained. Please include details of previous significant publications, patents and prizes.*
- *What has been the individuals' strategic contribution to the labs performance, communication and vision? Can they demonstrate innovation and clear commercial or expansion promise?*
- *What has been their contribution to their sciences sector/ community, or influence within the specific industry? How have they contributed to the development of others, how influential have they been in fostering the scientists and lab workers of the future?*
- *Independence: Has the individual demonstrated career independence from an early stage?*
- *Include any other statements or facts that support the entry, and a testimonial from the nominee's head of department or supervisor where possible.*

Pharmaceutical Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group engaging in both basic and applied Pharmaceutical research in a commercial lab, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service and healthcare facilities such as hospitals.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to Pharmaceutical research, or industry, its market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? Is it something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Medical Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any health care facility, medical device company or clinical research facility working in the development of medical knowledge or technology.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation /employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to the Medical Sciences, or market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? Is it something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Healthcare Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group engaging in both basic and applied Healthcare research in a commercial lab, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service and health care facilities such as hospitals.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation /employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to the Healthcare industry, its market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? Is it something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Calibration or Testing Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group engaging in the testing or calibration industry. This includes industrial or commercial labs or those at third level institutes or research institutions. It also includes laboratories working in the public service and health care facilities.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation /employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work, process or service compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to the market, and market applications and implementation?*
- *Quality of service and relationship with clients: How do you live up to industry standards for delivery of service excellence and operational standards? What is your hit rate and how efficient are you?*

Bio Science Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group engaging in both basic and applied Biosciences in a commercial lab, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab, show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders, or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to the Bio Sciences, or market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? Is it something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Chemical Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group engaging in both basic and applied Chemical research in a commercial lab, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to Chemical research, or industry, its market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? Is it something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Food Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group working in the Food industry, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab, show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product/process or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to food sciences, or market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? Is it something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Agricultural Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group working in the Agriculture industry, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab, show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product/process or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to the Agriculture industry, or market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? Is it something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Engineering Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to a laboratory or research group working in any discipline of the Engineering industry, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation /employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab, show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product/process or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to the Engineering industry, or market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? Is it something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Veterinary Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group working in the Veterinary sector, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab, show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product/process or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to the Veterinary industry, or market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work?*

Research Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group engaging in both basic and applied research at a third level (university, technological institute or college of education) or research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service and health care facilities.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes.*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *Outline your research program and how you have achieved it: Detail significant milestones achieved. What is the impact of the research to current developments in your field?*
- *Training: What is the training program in your lab? How many students do you have? Have past lab members achieved positions within research or industry?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? It is something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Education Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any individual, team or educational facility (both second level and third level) who has taught, developed and sustained an excellent science laboratory based course. Students must experience a broad range of experiments in various areas of interest. Special consideration will be given to experiments that reflect current research.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please provide details of the course syllabi and materials, photos of experiments, reports and presentations, student/alumni evaluations and publications.*
- *Impact on students and their subsequent careers: How has the course affected student development? Judges will consider this in terms of subsequent employment or acceptance and performance of students in both undergraduate and graduate third level institutions.*
- *Dissemination of the lab work to the broader community: This can include publications, workshops and student awards or details of any competitions entered and prizes attained.*
- *Exposure of the students to the wider scientific community: This can include listings of invited speakers, details of site visits to research or industrial labs or other scientific institutions. Special consideration will be given to including experiments that reflect current research.*
- *How did the course prepare the students for research within a lab environment?*
- *Include any other statements or facts that support the entry, and a testimonial from the entrant's head of department or supervisor where possible.*

Start-up Laboratory of the Year

This award is open to any laboratory or research group established within the last 3 years working in industry, at third level institutes or at research institutions. This includes laboratories working in the public service.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the organisation where the work is carried out. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *Innovation: The lab must have a track record of innovation. They must demonstrate the degree of innovation of products, services or in research and their commercial potential.*
- *Quality of publications and/or patents/ or software or growth of commercial success: The lab must submit details of previous relevant publications, patents or prizes. Or in a commercial lab, show significant activity that has contributed to growth (specific investment, launch of product or expansion).*
- *Professional Standing and accreditation: What are the qualifications of the lab leaders, or accreditations achieved by the lab?*
- *What is the impact of the research, technology or process to the sciences, or market applications and implementation?*
- *What is the societal significance of the work? It is something that will benefit people's lives for the better? For example, will it improve the standard of living for large numbers of people, save lives, promote good health or clean up the environment?*

Innovation of the Year Award

Does your lab think outside of the box? Do you ensure that not only is research, service or product delivered to the highest standard, but through distinctly innovative processes that help you stand out from your competitors? This award is open to any commercial or academic lab from any discipline who has conceived a new product, process, or research breakthrough within the last 3 years.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Is the product or research an improvement on existing technology and, if so, how much of an improvement?*
- *What are the innovative or unique aspects of this technology or research? How was the idea developed from concept to market fruition, or experimental design and completion?*
- *What is the wow factor? We are looking for products or ideas that leapfrog technology and provide simple and elegant solutions to long standing technical or practical problems.*
- *How competitive is the research or product, and what are its benefits?*
- *What is the potential impact of the technology/product/process or research to the sciences worldwide?*

Collaboration Achievement

This award is open to collaboration partners either between labs working in academia or industry or cross collaborations between commercial and academic labs. This includes labs working in all disciplines across the sciences.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Please outline the size and nature of the collaborating partner's organisations. This includes the turnover or level of funding; level of job creation/ employment/ training or number of students hosted.*
- *Originality of the research/ work carried out in the lab: How does your work compare to everybody else's? How competitive is your product, service or research?*
- *What is the scientific depth of the project and level of innovation? What is the degree of innovation demonstrated specifically by the collaborative work and does it have commercial potential?*
- *Please provide evidence of specific outcomes of the collaboration. How many publications have been produced both publicly and privately, products brought to market, invention disclosures, patents, licenses and spin outs have occurred. How attractive is the collaboration? How much joint funding did they achieve? This can include investment from R & D entities, governmental support or funding achieved by outside agencies e.g. EU or commercial partners*
- *What are the contributions made by the various team members? What is the scale of effort in terms of manpower, time and materials? What is the nature of the collaboration and activity undertaken across the partners? Are the partners located at sites in Ireland? Is there an International component to the collaboration? Is there potential for the development of long term partnerships.*
- *Have there been any specific training objectives achieved by the collaboration? Please provide evidence of the number of trainees moving into industry or academia.*
- *What is the potential impact of the technology/ product/process to the sciences? Are there commercial market applications and implementation. What are the technical, societal, environmental or other benefits arising from the work?*

Sample Entry Template

Introduction

Organisation Background

Summary of Project Team

Submission Overview — Aims & Objectives

Main Body of Entry

Address the Category Criteria Points:

- *Point 1*
- *Point 2*
- *Point 3*
- *Point 4*
- *Point 5*

Supporting Materials

Graphs, Tables, Pictures, Screenshots,
Testimonials etc. that supports the entry

Summary

Main Outcomes & Achievements
of Submission