AWARD AND JUDGING REGULATIONS FOR THE "EnergyDecentral 2026 INNOVATION AWARD"

1. Aim and responsibilities

The Innovations Campaign was launched to spread the word about pioneering innovations that affect the entire sustainable energy production chain. EnergyDecentral plays a leading role in providing suppliers of locally generated energy a platform for meeting and showcasing their products.

The Innovations Campaign is organised by DLG e.V. ("DLG" - German Agricultural Association). The technical implementation is in the hands of an independent commission of recognised consultants, scientists and practitioners appointed by the DLG.

2. Participants

All companies qualified as exhibitors at EnergyDecentral 2026 and EuroTier 2026 and whose products fall within the categories listed below are eligible to participate in this competition. This also applies to joint applications. Participation is voluntary and involves no additional direct costs. The participant bears sole responsibility for adhering to all relevant statutory provisions and to these DLG award and judging regulations.

3. Product approval

Only products from the following subject areas are approved:

1. Biogas and biomethane - production and use
2. Solid biofuels – production and use
3. Liquid biofuels – production and use
4. Solar energy systems
5. Decentralised energy technology
6. Ventilation, exhaust-air and exhaust-gas purification
7. Recycling and disposal systems
8. Safety technology
9. Energy distribution and storage
10. Measuring, control and regulating technology

The following are excluded from participation:

- Products that do not fall within the categories listed above;
- Services;
- Products that were available on the market (i.e. available for purchase for practical use) more than 12 months prior to the start of EuroTier/EnergyDecentral 2026 and/or have been exhibited, presented or awarded a prize at another national or international trade fair.

4. Application procedure

Each innovation must be registered individually. Innovation submissions must be made exclusively via the Exhibitor Service Portal. Supporting documents and images can also be uploaded here. **Registration by post, fax or e-mail is not permitted and will not be accepted.** The application languages are German or English. The online application will be available until midnight on the day of the closing date. The closing date for entries is **31 July 2026**.
Joint applications may also be made. In this case, the application must be designated as a joint application and all partners must be named (see point 2). On the website and in the app, the innovation is referred to as a joint application involving all participating partners.

4.1 Clear explanation of the innovation and its benefits

The online form summarising the main facts should be completed carefully. **The innovative nature of the product should be clearly evident**. Therefore, the submission documents must clearly explain the innovative and beneficial aspects of the product. The innovative product features should be described plausibly and in an easy-to-understand way, supported where possible by independent test and/or research results.

4.2 Image material

For illustration purposes in the media and to help the commission reach its verdict, no more than 2 image files (jpg, tif with 300 dpi resolution) and one video or one animation (MP4, MOV, AVI) are to be submitted. All publication and reproduction rights to the images are thereby transferred to DLG for use without restriction in terms of time, space and content in the context of communication activities relating to the competition. The participant ensures that it has all necessary rights of use to the submitted images, videos and other media content, and that their use in connection with the EnergyDecentral Innovation Award does not infringe upon any third-party rights. The participant releases the DLG from any and all claims that third parties may bring against the DLG in connection with the use of the submitted media content. This includes, in particular, claims arising from infringements of copyright, ancillary copyright or personal rights.

The release also covers the necessary costs of providing the DLG with an adequate legal defence. The participant undertakes to provide the DLG immediately with all information required for the examination and defence, in full and truthfully.

4.3 Binding application deadline

All documents must be uploaded to the online database by the closing date stated. Any submissions received after this date or deemed incomplete or not in compliance with the requirements stated above will not be considered for the Innovations Campaign. The DLG undertakes to treat all documents submitted in the strictest confidence, except and unless these are necessary for description of the product in the innovation magazine. The commission's decision will be announced in consultation with DLG's Marketing Service Department.

5. Judging principles

For the purpose of judging the innovations, the DLG appoints an independent international commission made up of recognised experts, researchers and practitioners. The chairmanship of the commission will be determined within the framework of the appointment by the DLG Board of Directors.
In addition to the members of the commission, external experts may be consulted on specific issues where necessary. These are bound to strict confidentiality when consulted.

The members of the commission remain on the committee until a new commission is appointed by the DLG Board of Directors. The commission is subject to a code of ethics (compliance regulation) and meets the requirements of:

- Independence and neutrality
- Competence to evaluate proposals for innovations
- Practical orientation

On the basis of the submitted documents, the commission will make its assessment for the awarding of the gold and silver medals. There is no entitlement to the publication of the basis for the assessment.

5.1 Evaluation guidelines for gold medals

A product with a new concept for which the function has changed decisively and the use of which enables a new method or has considerably improved a known method, is awarded an Innovation gold medal. The importance in practice, the effects on operating and work management, the environment and the energy situation are decisive for the choice. The effects on simplifying work and on work safety are included in the evaluation.

5.2 Evaluation guidelines for silver medals

A product for which a known product has been developed further so that a considerable improvement in the function and the method is to be expected is awarded an innovation silver medal. Here the product does not completely meet the criteria for awarding an innovation gold medal. The economic importance in practice, the performance, the quality of work and the operating safety are decisive for the choice. Furthermore, positive effects on the environmental and energy situation must also be taken into account.

Products for which the degree of innovation is judged to be sufficient by the commission and which are therefore assessed as innovations, but which are not awarded a gold or silver medal, will be featured in the innovations magazine.

Award-winning products must be fully functional at the time of the exhibition and available on the market by EnergyDecentral 2028 at the latest. The exhibitor is obligated to provide self-disclosure regarding market availability. This takes place in two steps:

1. One year after the award, the exhibitor must provide information on the market availability of the award-winning innovation.
2. Shortly before the next EnergyDecentral, the exhibitors' second statement is made as to whether the award-winning product is available on the market.

6. Awarding the medals

Within the framework of the Innovation Award EnergyDecentral competition, the award decision is made by the commission in accordance with the **evaluation guidelines for gold and silver medals**. The jury's decision is final; legal action against the assessment procedure is excluded, unless required by mandatory statutory provisions.

If a participant is not awarded a prize, the commission is not obliged to provide the exhibitor with the reasons for the rejection. Complaints are to be addressed to the chairperson of the commission exclusively via the supervising employee from the DLG main office. All documents submitted will not be returned.
The award winners will be presented with a certificate and a medal for each winning product. In the case of joint submissions, each of the companies involved will receive a certificate and a medal.

6.1 Publication

The award-winners and their winning innovations will be published by the DLG on the EnergyDecentral website and in the EuroTier app.

- The commission's decision will be announced to the producers in conjunction with the DLG Marketing Service Department.
- In addition, the national and international trade and business press will be informed about the award ceremony and the award-winning companies and innovations approximately six weeks before EnergyDecentral opens.
- All award-winning innovations will be published along with an image, product information and a summary of the commission's verdict. If video or image material is to be presented as part of the award ceremony, the DLG reserves the right to edit the material provided to it.
- All registered products that are assessed as innovations by the commission are published in a separate list on the Internet.

6.2 Awarding of medals

During "EnergyDecentral", the gold and silver medals as well as the certificates will be awarded in a highly publicised manner. The appropriate setting for the award ceremony will be determined by the organiser in advance of the event.

7. Advertising with award-winning products

Advertising is voluntary and permissible:

- with the certificate
- with the medal (in colour or black-and-white)
- with text references to the award (e.g. in press releases, advertisements or online)
- as well as with other campaign logos or communication materials defined in advance by DLG and approved for advertising.

7.1 Permitted types of use

- Certificates and medals may be reproduced in all sizes, but the ratio of width to height must remain the same. Changes to the medals (e.g. text, colours) are not permitted.
- The production of duplicates of the certificate and the medal is not permitted.
- The award marks and other design materials defined by the DLG can be retrieved from the DLG as a data set in the form of a four-colour or b/w illustration.

7.2 Advertising regulations Uniqueness

Advertising with the award symbols and textual references to the award "Innovation Award EnergyDecentral" is only permitted in close connection with the naming of the award-winning product(s). It must be clearly visible at which exhibition and on the basis of which outstanding characteristics the product received the award. The year of the award shall be indicated.

7.3 Exclusivity

Only the award-winning product with the features presented for testing may be advertised. Corporate or image advertising detached from the product is not permitted

7.4 Specification of sender

The award winner must be visible.

7.5 Advertising duration

The advertising period is left up to the manufacturer, stating the year of the award and in connection with the award-winning product.

7.6 Ban on misleading information

In advertising measures, care must be taken to avoid anything that could give rise to misleading perceptions (e.g. extending the use of the award in advertising to other products offered by the company). All information must comply with competition law. The responsibility for this lies solely with the participant or its legal successor.

8. Revocation of medals

The DLG reserves the right to withdraw the awarded gold or silver medal if the award winner has not made statements regarding the awarded innovation that correspond to the facts or if there have been serious violations of the advertising regulations (see item 7). The same applies if the information on market availability (see point 5) is not received in time.

9. Liability

The DLG shall be liable without limitation for damages resulting from injury to life, limb or health, as well as for damages arising from wilful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the DLG, its legal representatives or vicarious agents.

In the event of a breach of fundamental contractual obligations (cardinal obligations), the DLG shall also be liable in cases of slight negligence, but only for foreseeable, typically occurring damage. Essential contractual obligations are those that enable the proper performance of the competition in the first place and upon whose fulfilment the participant may reasonably rely. Furthermore, the DLG shall not be liable for slight negligence.

10. Final provision

The award and judging regulations and any annexes thereto become legally binding on the participant on submission of its product to the innovations database. The German text is binding.