

# LEMELSON-MIT

*Celebrating invention, inspiring youth*

**\$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize**

**NOMINATION INFORMATION**

## Call for Nominations for the 2018 Lemelson-MIT Prize

### Initial Nomination Deadline: November 30, 2017

For a complete list of competition rules and eligibility and to submit a nomination, visit: <http://lemelson.mit.edu/prize>

The \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize is awarded annually to outstanding mid-career inventors who have developed a patented product or process of significant value to society, which has been adopted for practical use (or has a high probability of being adopted).

#### Eligibility

Candidates may be individuals or two collaborating inventors. Candidates must be:

- U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- mid-career - defined as having received a bachelor's degree no more than twenty-five years ago. A nominee for the 2018 \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize must have received their bachelor's degree in 1993 or later.
- be the primary inventor of two or more granted U.S. patents, one of which is a product or process that has been commercialized or has potential or realized adoption
- be an inspiration to young people, through their creativity, outreach or mentoring activities

#### How to Apply

Candidates must be nominated by a peer by November 30, 2017. Nominations are made online at <http://lemelson.mit.edu/prize>. Nominators may be assisted by another person and can consult with Lemelson-MIT staff if questions arise. Details regarding what is to be included in the nomination are on the website. The site asks for: 1) disclosure of the relationship between the nominator and nominee, 2) a brief statement summarizing the nominee's major technologically inventive accomplishments and why he/she is being nominated, 3) the nominee's CV (five pages maximum), and 4) patent abstracts (patent number, title, and authors) on at least two patents for which your nominee is the lead inventor.

#### Award Process and Timeline

A screening committee composed of MIT faculty and alumni review all initial nominations.

Nominators whose nominees pass the initial review will be notified in mid-December, 2017 and asked to complete a First Submission by January 19, 2018.

Nominators whose nominees pass the First Submission review will be notified by March 20, 2018 and will have an opportunity to develop a Final Submission that must be received by LMIT by April 27, 2018. The final award winner will be announced in mid-September, 2018.

**Contact:** Betsy Boyle, Finance and Administration Manager, Lemelson-MIT Program  
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## Detailed Instructions for Nominators for the 2018 Lemelson-MIT Prize

**Initial Nomination Deadline: November 30, 2017**

For a complete list of competition rules and eligibility and to start your application, visit: <http://lemelson.mit.edu/prize>

### **Overview**

There are three stages to the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize nomination process and your participation is critical at all stages if your nominee advances. The initial stage is a technical review to ensure compliance with prize rules. Nominations meeting minimal requirements go on to the First Submission round of judging. A small number of nominations will then progress to the Final Submission. Details about each stage appear below.

### **Initial Submission - Deadline: November 30, 2017**

The Initial Submission asks you to disclose your relationship to the nominee, for a brief statement that summarizes your nominee's major technologically inventive accomplishments and why he/she is being nominated for the prize, the nominee's CV (five pages maximum), and requires patent abstracts (patent number, title, and authors) on at least two patents for which your nominee is the lead inventor.

### **First Submission - Deadline: January 19, 2018**

Nominators whose nominees pass the Initial Submission review are asked to complete a First Submission. The First Submission includes a Nominee Biography, a Description of Technological Inventiveness, and a Statement of Commercialization or Potential/Realized Adoption of the Nominee's Inventions. Nominators whose nominees pass the First Submission review will be notified by March 20, 2018.

### **Final Submission - Deadline: April 27, 2018**

Nominators whose nominees pass the First Submission review are asked to develop a Final Submission. The Final Submission includes three letters of recommendation, of which one must be from the nominator. Nominators should identify and reach-out to potential letter of support writers early in the nomination process but not secure the letters unless their nominee is advanced to the Final Submission stage. A description of the nominee's Youth Outreach Interest and Experience, contact information for mentees, links to videos of recent public presentations of the nominee about his/her work, and materials that support the nominee's achievements, such as professional articles and press clippings are also included in the Final Submission. The submission is completed online. The final award winner from this stage will be announced in mid-September, 2018.

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## **2018 Lemelson-MIT Prize: Frequently Asked Questions**

For a complete list of competition rules and eligibility and to start your application, visit: <http://lemelson.mit.edu/prize>

### ***What is the Lemelson-MIT Program's definition of Technological Invention?***

Technological invention is the process of devising and producing — by independent investigation, experimentation, and mental activity — something that is useful and that was not previously known or existing.

Technological invention involves advances in the art and science of creatively applying knowledge for use in non-routine problem solving or new opportunity creation. This form of invention results in a wide range of outputs (i.e., new technological products or processes) that can have a positive impact upon human development. Invention is the "wellspring" of innovation; the latter often serves as a conduit for inventions to achieve social benefit.

Technological invention often involves crossing boundaries or past practice and convention, tying together academic disciplines in unexpected ways, redefining not only means but also often the problem itself, and challenging entrenched beliefs about the limits of the possible.

Macro-inventions are [technological] inventions of sufficient import that change the way we live and spawn many improvement inventions, micro-inventions. The Lemelson-MIT Program seeks to recognize the importance and impact of both macro- and micro-technological inventions and evaluates them within their respective economic, social and cultural contexts.

### ***How does the Lemelson-MIT Program define someone as "mid-career"?***

The Lemelson-MIT Program defines mid-career as someone who is no more than twenty-five years ago. A nominee for the 2018 \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize must have graduated in 1993 or later.

### ***Who qualifies as a nominator for the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize?***

Nominators for the national awards are people with experience in engineering, science, medicine, academia, or business. Nominators may be inventors, venture capitalists, engineers, or other influential professionals. Nominators may step forward on behalf of a candidate to submit a nomination. The Lemelson-MIT Program may identify and contact potential nominators of worthy candidates.

### ***Who can apply for the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize?***

Candidates for the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize are identified by nomination only. Individuals seeking to be nominated are welcome to approach a relevant professional organization (science, engineering, medical or business) and/or regional inventors' groups to secure and support a nomination.

### ***Can nominators nominate two candidates for the same award?***

Yes, nominators may nominate a team of two inventors for the Prize.

### ***How long are nominations for the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize?***

Nominations are active for two years.

***May candidates be re-nominated in subsequent years?***

Yes, candidates may be re-nominated in subsequent years, if they have not won.

Who can nominators contact regarding questions during the application process or to review materials for the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize?

Nominators can contact the Lemelson-MIT Program at [awards-lemelson@mit.edu](mailto:awards-lemelson@mit.edu) if they have questions about the process or would like their application materials reviewed prior to the deadline.

***How are the Lemelson-MIT Prize winners chosen?***

The winner of the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize are chosen by two independent screening committees composed of MIT faculty review the nominations and select finalists for the prize. A national jury of experts from science, engineering, medicine, technology and business then select the winner from both finalist pools.

***Does the Lemelson family participate in the selection of the winner?***

No, the Lemelson family does not participate in the selection processes.

***How will the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize winner be notified?***

The Lemelson-MIT Faculty Director notifies the winner of the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize by telephone after final deliberations are completed.

***When will the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize winner be notified and when will the winner be announced?***

The Lemelson-MIT Faculty Director notifies the winner and nominator in the late spring of the awarding year and the winner is announced in the early fall of the awarding year. The winner will also be recognized and invited to speak at EmTech MIT of the awarding year.

***Are there requirements about how the Lemelson-MIT Prize money must be spent?***

There are no requirements as to how the Lemelson-MIT Prize winner must allocate their award money. The award is intended to recognize exceptional inventors and the profound impact their inventions have on the world.

***How will the winner be announced/celebrated and what are the expectations of the winner?***

The winner will be announced through a national media campaign, which will require their participation in the development of media materials including a press release, photos and video and a willingness to be interviewed and speak about their work, invention, and winning the Prize. The winner will be recognized and invited to speak at EmTech MIT and encouraged to participate in Lemelson-MIT Program activities

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