

Conditions of Participation

1. Organizer of the eco://award

The organizer of the eco://award is eco – Association of the Internet Industry, Lichtstr. 43h, 50825 Cologne (hereafter referred to as “organizer”).

2. Application

The Application phase for the eco://award 2019 begins on March 21, 2019, and ends on September 2, 2019. Applications can be submitted via email at awards@eco.de. Applying is free of charge for eco member companies. The required participation fee for non-members is €299 per category and is payable immediately after submission. In the unlikely event that the participation fee has not been paid, the expert jury cannot consider the application for evaluation.

3. Conditions of Participation

The competition is open to companies, initiatives and projects that have developed innovative and market-ready products, services and processes based on the Internet, or using the Internet as an intelligent extension. Applications can be submitted for several categories, provided that the solution has a tangible relation to the respective category, which is discussed individually by the jury.

The jury will only evaluate fully completed applications. The decision of the jury is final. The organizer is not liable for flawed or undispliable applications.

Decisive criteria for the expert jury are:

- **Uniqueness:** What makes your solution unique on the market? Can the unique selling points be used as sales arguments?
- **Innovation:** To what extent is your solution truly innovative or even revolutionary?
- **Competitive environment:** Who does something comparable – why is your solution better?
- **Specific benefits:** For whom is your solution important, and what needs are being addressed?
- **Features:** Is your solution convincing in terms of quality, security, flexibility and usability?
- **Reach:** Who are the (potential) customers and users?
- **Significance:** What are the wider implications of your solution for the economy, society or the environment?

Further information on each criteria can be found in the respective category.

Category: ISP/Interconnection

In addition to the general criteria, the following aspects are especially important for the jury's evaluation:

- Usability
 - How well is the service or product explained for the customer?
 - How easy is it for the customer to complete the purchase process?
 - How fast and how well are customers helped when they have problems?
- Quality aspects
 - How stable is your product?
 - What seals of quality/ certificates/ audits does the product or the service have?

Category: Datacenter Infrastructure

Participation is open to companies whose business models range from micro and edge data centers to HPC, hosting & housing, colocation, and shell & core. The application can focus on areas that include power supply, climate control/cooling, automation (DCIM)/ process optimization, access security and network cabling. Operators of data centers can also apply in cooperation with a planning office, technology partner, or customer.

In addition to the general criteria, the following aspects are especially important for the jury's evaluation:

- Usability
 - How well is the service or product explained to the customer?
 - How easy is it for the customer to complete the purchase process?
 - How fast and how well are customers helped when they have problems?
- Quality
 - How stable is your product?
 - Are there seals of quality/certificate/audits for your product or service?

Category: Hosting

In addition to the general criteria, the following aspects are especially important for the jury's evaluation:

- Usability/ customer friendliness
- Diverse and out-of-the-ordinary services/package offers
- Clearly defined added-value services
- Flexible rates/contract terms
- Proof of quality (e.g. seals of quality, certification, attestation, etc.)
- Special security features (e.g. data security, backup, etc.)
- Number of users/companies (if there are figures)
- Customer references
- Innovation factor

Category: Security

Companies/ initiatives can apply if

- the service/ product is clearly outlined and the scope of service is publicly verifiable.
- the service/ product is available on the market and can be booked/ordered.
- the target group is well-defined (horizontally and vertically → segment).
- there is at least one documented customer reference.

In addition to the general criteria, the following aspects are especially important for the jury's evaluation:

- Can the service/ product be categorized
- Is there proof of quality for the service/product (e.g. seals of quality, certifications, attestation, etc.)
- Is the service/ product distinguished by a particularly effective protection factor (e.g. DDoS capacity, encryption level, detection rates, etc.)
- Process relevance of the service/product
- Number of users/companies
- Customer references
- Innovation factor

Category: Domains

Participation is open to companies that are active as registries, registry backend operators, registrars, resellers, consultants, or enablers in the domain industry, or are active in the secondary market. The prerequisite is that your business model is based on new services in which domains play a central role or that you carry out innovative marketing with creative domains.

In addition to the general criteria, the following aspects are especially important for the jury's evaluation:

- Is it a new business model based on domains or TLDs?
- Is it a new service based on domains?
- Is it a remarkable achievement that benefits the entire market?
- Is it an innovative concept for the marketing of domains?

Category: Cloud

Participation is open to companies with an IT service offering in the field of cloud computing. The solution to be evaluated is offered “as a service” and can be aligned horizontally or vertically. The functional model can be from areas such as infrastructure, platform or software, but also from special areas (e.g. security). The cloud service needs to fulfil the following five criteria (based on the NIST definition):

1. **On-Demand Self-Service:** Provisioning of resources (e.g. computer power or storage) runs automatically without any interaction with the service provider.

2. **Broad Network Access:** The services are available through standard mechanisms via the Internet, and are not bound to a specific client.
3. **Resource Pooling:** The resources of the provider are available in a pool and can be accessed by many users (multi-tenant model). Although users do not know the exact resource location, it is possible to specify contractually the storage location (e.g. specific region, country or data center).
4. **Rapid Elasticity:** The services are made available quickly and flexibly, and in some cases automatically. Thus, from the user's point of view, the resources seem to be infinite.
5. **Measured Services:** The use of resources can be measured, monitored and made available, according to the corresponding dimensioning, to cloud users.

In addition to the general criteria, the following aspects are especially important for the jury's evaluation:

- Can the service function be categorized?
- Is there any proof of quality for the service (e.g. seal of quality, certification, attestation. etc.)?
- Is the service distinguished through special security features (e.g. DDoS prevention, etc.)?
- Are there any certificates (e.g. Star Audit, Code of Conduct, C5, etc.) which prove that your service is GDPR compliant?
- Is the service notable for the purpose of market exploitation (e.g. numbers of users/customers, increase in revenues, partners/eco system)?
- Is the service multinational (e.g. localization, language, legal framework, etc.)?
- Can it be connected to other systems/services via interfaces?
- How open is the architecture? Is the service interoperable and portable?
- How process-relevant is the service?
- Are there significant customer-references?

Category: Innovation/Digital Business Models

Participation is open to companies, initiatives, research and educational institutions or a consortium of actors with a joint public image. We are looking for solutions, projects, initiatives, concepts with outstanding innovation potential and a clear business strategy based on scalable digital processes.

In addition to the general criteria, the following aspects are especially important for the jury's evaluation:

- Is the description of the innovative character plausible?
- How is the comparison and differentiation to established business models clarified?
- Is there a recognizable relevance for the economy, society or the environment, and is this documented by a neutral third party?
- Is the solution applicable in an international context (e.g. localization, language, legal framework, etc.)?
- Does the solution provide a purely digital process, and is it scalable?
- Are there any recognizable advantages in terms of efficiency, performance or reachability?

4. The Jury

A jury of experts decides on the nominations and the awarding of the eco://award 2019. For each category, eco nominates personalities from areas of business, science, research or politics that possess corresponding professional competence and experiences. Individuals who have direct ties to the applicants are excluded from the respective categories. The members of the jury will be announced publicly after the application deadline, by September 2, 2019 at the latest.

To ensure the objective work of the expert groups, the following basic rule applies: a jury member who was involved in one of the applications or projects that is to be evaluated, is not entitled to participate in the discussion and voting regarding the respective application, and may neither nominate nor vote on such an application for the eco://award 2019. The member of the jury may answer technical and content-related questions from other members of the expert jury.

5. Prize and Procedure

The jury will evaluate the submitted documents and nominate the winners. The award recipients in each category will be announced and honored at the award ceremony on November 21, 2019 in Cologne.

6. Rights of Third Parties

The participant must comply with the applicable laws and all rights of third parties when providing the content. In this respect, the participant confirms that they hold all necessary rights of use to the provided content. The participants are prohibited from using content from other persons, regardless of whom this content concerns.

7. Indemnification

Should the participant violate the rights of third parties through the application and documents submitted, this participant releases the organizer from all claims resulting from this violation of rights, including compensation claims, that are made against the organizer. In this case, the participant must reimburse the organizer for all costs that arise from this violation of the rights of a third party, including the costs incurred for legal defense. This shall not affect any further compensation claims.

8. Exclusion from Participation

Applications that contain inappropriate content or violate the rights of third parties can be excluded from the eco://award 2019 at the organizer's discretion.

In the event of a nomination (three per category), the participant agrees to send a representative to the award ceremony on November 21, 2019, in Cologne. In case of non-appearance, the organizer has the right to withdraw the nomination from the participant.

The organizer is entitled to exclude applications that infringe the property rights of others (e.g. plagiarism, pirated copies, forgeries, etc.) at any time from the award, when presented with a legally effective judgement or a court order.

If a participant is subsequently disqualified from the award after the fact, the usage rights for said award also lapses. In the event that a participant is excluded from the award, the participation fee or any other costs incurred will not be refunded.

9. Grant of Rights of use

By participating in the eco://award 2019, the participant agrees that the submitted application can be used by the organizer for documentation in the context of the application and reporting purposes and therefore grants the organizer the necessary rights of use.

The participant grants the organizer all non-exclusive, temporally and spatially unlimited rights of use for all known usage rights for the submitted applications.

This includes in particular:

- a. the right to reproduction (§ 16 Copyright Act),
- b. the right of distribution (§17 Copyright Act),
- c. the right of exhibition (§18 Copyright Act),
- d. the right of recitation, performance and presentation (§19 Copyright Act),
- e. the right of broadcasting (§20 Copyright Act), the right of communication by video or audio recordings (§21 Copyright Act),
- f. the right of adaptations and transformations (§§23 f. Copyright Act), and to reproduce, distribute, present and transmit via wireless or wired connection the results in original or adapted form,
- g. the right to transfer the said rights of use to third parties,
- h. the right to transfer these rights of use to third parties (§34 Para. 1 Copyright Act).

10. Data Protection Regulations

In order to participate in the award, the participant provides company and application-related information, as well as first name, last name, title, position, phone and email as personal data of the contact person for the application. The organizer will use this data exclusively to organize the award, and the data will not be forwarded to third parties. The legal basis for this is Art. 6 Para. 1 lit. a GDPR.

The participant data will only be stored beyond the period of the award if this is legally required.

The organizer reserves the right to report or enable reporting by others on the award and the submitted application in the media. The name of the participant may be published on the organizer's website together with the published contribution.

The participant can withdraw consent for the use of his or her data at any time and free of charge with effect for the future in written form or via email at legal@eco.de.

As a consequence of the withdrawal of consent, the application documents submitted by the applicant will be deleted and the application will no longer be considered for the eco://award.

If you have any further questions about this data privacy policy, please contact us at legal@eco.de. You can, at any time, ask if and what of your data is stored by us. Furthermore you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restriction of processing, the right to object and the right to data portability at any time, regarding your personal data stored by us,. Please send your request to our data protection officer at legal@eco.de, or via mail to our address: eco - Verband der Internetwirtschaft e.V., Lichtstraße 43h, 50825 Cologne, keyword “Data protection”, or via fax to the number 0221 7000 48 111.

11. Miscellaneous

11.1. The law of Federal Republic of Germany shall apply.

11.2. Should individual provisions become invalid, this shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

11.3 There is no right of appeal.

11.4 Place of jurisdiction is Cologne.