



# BIOPOLYMER INNOVATION AWARD

## Call for tender 2024

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Merseburg, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2023. **Bio-based and biodegradable plastics are key materials for eco-efficient material cycles, for an environment free of microplastics and for the minimization of the use of fossil raw materials. Corresponding research and development activities are, however, still in their infancy. Plastics and products with these special quality features are still not very common. Against this background, the non-profit organization POLYKUM 2024 is offering the international BIOPOLYMER Innovation Award for the fifth time in order to make pioneering innovations in the field of bioplastics better known, to promote their spread and to encourage the networking of the experts across all branches.**



### Objectives

With the BIOPOLYMER Innovation Award, the Association for the Promotion of Polymer Development and Plastics Technology „POLYKUM“ wants to honor **pioneering products and applications** made of bio-based, biodegradable plastics as well as **technologies developed for them**. In this way, the award-winning projects should be made accessible to a broad public. Material and product developers, manufacturers, processors and stakeholders from a wide variety of industries should be encouraged to use and to improve these materials.

### Eligibility

**Companies, research institutions and associations, project groups or individuals from all over the world and from all sectors** are invited to apply for the Award. The competition focuses on pioneering products or applications made of bioplastics as well as on groundbreaking technologies for their production, processing and recycling.

Applications can be submitted **by the originators of the innovations themselves or by third parties**.

### Criteria for applying

Developments and inventions from the following areas can be submitted for the competition:

a) **Pioneering products or applications** made from bio-based and at the same time biodegradable plastics. **Intrinsic biodegradability** and environmental compatibility of the submitted plastic products and/or materials are required. Intrinsic biodegradability means that the used materials can be metabolized by microorganisms and

enzymes in a bioactive environment. So these materials can become part of natural cycles at the end of their useful life. Certified biodegradability is not mandatory.

b) **Particularly innovative bio-based but non-biodegradable materials** and products can only take part in the competition if objective technical reasons exclude biodegradability (e.g. due to safety regulations or physical conditions).

c) **Innovative technologies** that significantly simplify the **production, processing or utilization** (e.g. recycling, composting) of biopolymers, make them more effective or raise them to a new level of quality.

The innovations should have **passed the basic research stage** and have realistic chances of entering the market or should already be successfully placed on the market.

## Deadline

Applications can be submitted until **April 15th, 2024**.

## Application documents

The application form and current information on the BIOPOLYMER Innovation Award are **available on the Award's website**: <https://polykum.de/en/biopolymer-2024/biopolymer-award/>

## Jury and selection procedure

The winners are selected from among all the senders by the jury nominated by POLYKUM, which includes the following experts from business, science and media (naming in alphabetical order):

- **Dr. Martin Bussmann**, Manager Renewable Polymers and Chemicals, **Neste Germany GmbH**, Düsseldorf.
- **Simone Fischer**, editor of the **industry magazin „Plastverarbeiter“** ("Plastics Processor"), Hüthig GmbH, Heidelberg.
- **Dr. Patrick Hirsch**, expert of bioplastic materials at the Fraunhofer Institute for Materials and Systems (IMWS) Halle (Saale) und at the **Fraunhofer Pilot-anlagenzentrum (PAZ) Schkopau**.
- **Peter Putsch**, Chairman of **POLYKUM e. V.**, Merseburg.
- **Michael Walter**, Business Development Manager, **Hexpol TPE GmbH**, Lichtenfels.

The award winners are nominated on the basis of the published application criteria for the award. All jury members have the same number of votes and weighting. After joint consultation and assessment of the submissions, each member decides independently and independently on the allocation of their votes. The legal process is excluded.

## Award ceremony

The award ceremony will take place during the international congress "[BIOPOLYMER - Processing & Molding](#)" on June 11th, 2024, which will take place simultaneously as a live event in Halle (Saale) and as an worldwide online event. The award winners will have the opportunity to present their innovation to the participants from more than 40 countries (2023).



## Price categories

In addition to the main prize, which is endowed with **prize money of 2,000 Euros**, a second and a third prize (neither endowed) will be awarded. In addition to the award, which was **produced individually by hand**, all winners will have the opportunity to present their project in a **lecture at the international congress** "BIOPOLYMER - Processing & Molding ". In addition, the award-winning innovations can be presented in an attractive setting to the invited guests on site and to the worldwide online audience in an attractive setting. POLYKUM also supports the award winners with public relations work.

## Contact for applicants and the press

Applications can be submitted by post or electronically until **April 15th, 2024** to:

POLYKUM e.V.  
Peter Putsch  
Brandisstraße 4  
06217 Merseburg  
Germany

E-Mail: [biopolymer-award@polykum.de](mailto:biopolymer-award@polykum.de)  
Website: [www.biopolymer-award.polykum.de](http://www.biopolymer-award.polykum.de)  
Tel.: +49 (3461) 7940320

## Initiator

Information on the tendering association for the promotion of polymer development and plastics technology - POLYKUM e.V. is available on the website [www.polykum.de](http://www.polykum.de)

## Biopolymer – Processing & Moulding Congress

More information about the **congress on June 11th, 2024** and the award ceremony: [www. biopolymer-congress.polykum.de](http://www.biopolymer-congress.polykum.de)

