



# EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR SIGNAL PROCESSING

## EURASIP Awards

### Awards Selection Procedures

#### Introduction

The goal of the EURASIP Awards program is to pay tribute to those people who have made outstanding technical contributions and achievements, or those institutions that enabled the development of remarkable research and dissemination, leading to the advancement of the signal processing domain. EURASIP awards program promotes excellence in the different areas related to the signal processing community: education, research, industry and services.

Currently EURASIP Awards fall into the following categories:

- Best Paper Awards;
- Best PhD Awards;
- 3MT (3 Minutes Thesis) Award;
- Society Awards:
  - Technical Achievement Award;
  - Meritorious Service Award;
  - Group Technical Achievement Award;
  - Early Career Award
  - Athanasios Papoulis Award.

The nominations for awards can be initiated by EURASIP members and by the public. These nominations are collected by the Awards Chairman and then submitted to the EURASIP Board of Directors (BoD) for the selection of the Award recipients. The nominations to the Athanasios Papoulis Award are carefully reviewed by a panel of experts and their recommendations are submitted to the EURASIP Awards Chairman prior to their final approval by the EURASIP BoD.

The EURASIP awards ceremony takes place during the annual EUSIPCO conference. The list of award-winners is published in the EURASIP Newsletter that is under distribution at that moment and in the EURASIP web site.

This document describes the procedures for determining the recipients of the EURASIP awards.

## Best Paper Awards

Best paper awards are given annually to the more relevant contributions published in the Journals sponsored by EURASIP, according to the average number of papers published per year (this number should be calculated by averaging over a window of 4 years):

- # 1–50: no award assigned;
- # 51–100: 1 award every two years;
- # > 100: 1 award per year.

In 2016, the journals that meet this requirement are:

- Signal Processing (SP) (1 award annually);
- Signal Processing: Image Communication (1 award every 2 years);
- Speech Communication (1 award every 2 years);
- Journal on Advances in Signal Processing (JASP) (1 award annually);
- Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking (1 award annually).
- Journal on Image and Video Processing (1 award every 2 years).

These awards are given to each of the authors of the selected papers by the EURASIP BoD at the annual EUSIPCO conference.

These awards consist in a certificate, one for each author, prepared by care of the Awards Chairman according to the current standard layout, and a monetary compensation of 1K € (per paper) as a reimbursement for travelling and accommodation to attend the Awards Ceremony at Eusipco. The 1K € is provided by bank transfer by the EURASIP Treasurer.

The papers considered for the awards are pre-selected by the Editors-in-Chief of the EURASIP journals, helped by the SATs in case of the multidisciplinary journals as SP and JASP, according to the following criteria: i) the scores of the reviewers, ii) the number of downloads, iii) the number of citations; iv) the evaluations of members of the editorial boards, including the guest editors of the special issues.

Papers co-authored by BoD members or members of the selection Committee are not eligible for BPAs.

The papers to be considered for the awards assigned in the year  $x$  should have been published within a 4-years time window that goes from  $x-5$  to  $x-2$ , extremes included. Then a comparative evaluation is performed by specific subcommittees, one for each journal, according to the following criteria:

- Relevance of the topic – The degree of contribution of the paper to the advancement of the state of the art is evaluated. Under this topic the evaluation committee will assess the value of the paper in terms of the significance of the problem addressed in the paper for the signal processing community.
- Quality of the technical content – The degree of excellence of the work described is evaluated. Under this topic the evaluation committee will assess the techniques and skills used to achieve the reported results.

- Style of the presentation – The degree to which the paper message is clearly and effectively expressed is evaluated. Under this topic the evaluation committee will assess the quality of the writing of the paper, namely completeness, conciseness, clarity, efficacy or balancing between the various sections of the paper.
- Originality – The degree to which the paper is original is evaluated. Under this topic the evaluation committee will assess the novelty of the technical material presented, namely in terms of addressing new problems, presenting new results, or using new methodologies.

The nominations for best paper awards should be submitted by the Editor-in-Chief to the EURASIP Awards Chairman by October 31st of the preceding year, i.e. the year  $x-1$ . The decision about the award should be achieved by the subcommittee by January 1st of the year to which the award relates, i.e. the year  $x$ , and passed to the EURASIP BoD for the final approval.

The list of award-winners is published in the EURASIP Newsletter that will be available at the EUSIPCO of year  $x$  (where the awards ceremony will take place).

The Award subcommittees are selected by the EURASIP Awards Chairman by proposal of the journal Editors-in-Chief and of the BoD members, being composed by at least four members. These members are typically selected among Special Issues guest editors, members of the journal Editorial Board, and reviewers of the journal. The subcommittees membership is renewed every three years.

As a compensation for the work performed in the quality of a journal's awards subcommittee member, these members are offered an annual subscription of one of the EURASIP sponsored journals.

More specifically in the Elsevier contract it is written that:

- Page 3 of 11: The Publisher will supply an Online Only subscription, to one Journal, for one year, to the members of the Society's Award Committees that select a paper for the EURASIP Best Paper Award, with maximum of four members per committee.
- Page 4 of 11: The Publisher will supply an Online Only subscription to the author(s) of the Best Paper Award winning paper that grants the author(s) access to the journal in which their paper appeared for the term of one year. Such subscriptions are for personal use only. Access to the Journal shall be pursuant to terms and conditions of use set and enforced by the Publisher.

The Publisher agrees to make the Award winning papers freely available in ScienceDirect for a period of three months. The Society agrees to send an e-mail announcement with a link to the Award winning papers to the members of the Society. The Publisher will provide the Society with the text of the announcement and the links.

## **Best PhD Award**

Every year a committee of experts nominated by the EURASIP Board of Directors selects up to three theses related to different areas of signal processing to be awarded 'Best PhD Thesis' awards. The selection process is based on the evaluation of the impact of the theses, their subsequent journal and conference publications and related citations received, and on the review reports of independent reviewers as well as on the download and citation statistics. The thesis to evaluate will be those that are listed among the top 30 downloaded theses from the EURASIP PhD Thesis Database.

In order to select the 20xx best PhD theses, the temporal window of the years 20xx-5 through 20xx-3 is considered. The awards will be presented during the Awards Ceremony at EUSIPCO 20xx. Each award consists of a certificate and of a travelling & accommodation reimbursement of 1K Euros for attending the Awards Ceremony.

The theses that have received an award in previous years, or those for which the thesis adviser / research director is a EURASIP Board of Directors member, are excluded.

The procedure begins in January and the decision is made by beginning April. A specific committee, organized by the PhD Award Chair, is formed every year so that each of the pre-selected thesis is reviewed by 2–3 people.

### **3MT Award**

As a new activity within the EUSIPCOs, a 3 Minutes Thesis (3MT) contest is organized, where a pre-selected group of 10 to 5 PhD students have 3 minutes each one to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance. 3MT is an exercise for students to consolidate their ideas so they can present them concisely to an audience specialized in different signal processing fields. Together with scientific and technical quality, EURASIP wants to promote transversal skills of PhD researchers such as oral and presentation skills, Also it wants to help PhDs to gain visibility of their work.

Previous to the contest, there is a call for 3MT participation within EUSIPCO. Authors only need to submit a video together with a 1 page Thesis summary, to be included in the proceedings. A pre-selection of a maximum of 10 finalists and a minimum of 5 is done under a peer-review process and following the rules of Three Minute Thesis (3MT®), developed by the University of Queensland (UQ) (every year EUSIPCO organizers should ask for permission to UQ in order to use (3MT®).

The competition among the 10 finalist takes place at EUSIPCO. The audience participates in the voting, together with a jury of 5 members (3 from Industry and 2 from Academia). A prize of 1.500 euros is fully sponsored by EURASIP. EUSIPCO organizers can look for more sponsors in order to have second and third prizes.

The EURASIP Membership Chair is responsible for this award.

### **Technical Achievement Award**

The Technical Achievement Award is assigned on demand, annually, to individuals who have made distinguished contributions in the field of signal, speech, and image processing.

A Call for Nominations is included in the EURASIP Newsletter to be distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year and posted at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Awards Chairman by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee, or by the general public by the end of December of the preceding year. The final decision about the award is taken by the BoD in January/February of the year of the award attribution and it is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter that is distributed at the next EUSIPCO, where the awards ceremony takes place.

The candidates should:

- be actively involved with the international signal processing community, having a recognised leadership in their field of action and a significant impact on the European research activities;
- have a significant list of achievements, reflected by their *curriculum vitae*, namely in terms of relevant publications, original contributions, or inventive value (patents);
- publish regularly in EURASIP journals;
- participate regularly in conferences sponsored by EURASIP, and in particular in EUSIPCO conferences.

The nominations should be well supported, namely in terms of:

- providing complete name of the candidate, education degrees, business titles, contact information, professional curriculum, EURASIP involvement;

- documenting the major technical achievements of the candidate, namely by referencing books, papers, reports, standards contributions, patents, development of products, systems, facilities or services, technical presentations and courses developed;
- justification why the candidate is worthy to receive this award, namely in terms of innovation, originality, creativity and relevance of contributions;
- including support endorsement letters.

Nomination and endorsements should be as specific, accurate and complete as possible.

The technical achievements award consists of a gold medal, crafted according to the current standard layout, and a certificate presented to the award-winner.

## **EURASIP Meritorious Service Award**

The EURASIP meritorious service award is given on demand, annually, to individuals who have made distinguished services to the Society.

A Call for Nominations is included in the EURASIP Newsletter to be distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year and at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Awards Chairman by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee, or by the general public by the end of December of the preceding year. The final decision about the award is taken by the BoD in January/February of the year of the award attribution and it is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter that is distributed at the next EUSIPCO, where the awards ceremony takes place.

The candidates should:

- have provided significant contributions to the development of EURASIP;
- have furnished distinguished service to the advancement and pursuit of the technical objectives of EURASIP;
- cooperate actively in actions supported or sponsored by EURASIP.

This award, in the form of a gold medal, crafted according to the current standard layout, is decided by the EURASIP BoD at the annual EUSIPCO conference.

The nominations should be well supported, namely in terms of:

- providing complete name of the candidate, education degrees, business titles, contact information, professional curriculum, EURASIP involvement;
- justification why the candidate is worthy to receive this award, namely in terms of the major contributions to the development of EURASIP.

Nomination should be as specific, accurate and complete as possible.

## **Group Technical Achievement Award**

The group technical achievement award is given on demand, annually, to leaders of research groups that have made relevant contributions in the field of signal, speech, or image processing.

A Call for Nominations is included in the EURASIP Newsletter to be distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year and at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Awards Chairman by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee, or by the general public by the end of December of the preceding year. The final decision about the award is taken by the BoD in January/February of the year of the award attribution and it is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter that is distributed at the next EUSIPCO, where the awards ceremony takes place.

The nominations can also be open to the general public.

The award–candidate and his/her research group should:

- be actively involved with the international signal processing community, having a recognised leadership in their field of action and a significant impact on the European research activities;
- have a significant list of achievements, namely in terms of relevant publications, original contributions, or inventive value (patents),
- publish regularly in EURASIP journals;
- participate regularly in conferences sponsored by EURASIP, and in particular in EUSIPCO conferences.

These awards, in the form of a plaque, crafted according to the current standard layout, presented to the leader of the selected research group, are given by the EURASIP BoD at the annual EUSIPCO conference.

The nominations should be well supported, namely in terms of:

- providing complete name of the candidate who represents the research group, his/her education degrees, business titles, contact information, professional curriculum, EURASIP involvement;
- documenting the major technical achievements of the research group, namely by referencing books, papers, reports, standards contributions, patents, development of products, systems, facilities or services, technical presentations and courses developed,
- justification why the candidate research group is worthy to receive this award, namely in terms of innovation, originality, creativity and relevance of contributions;
- including support endorsement letters.

Nomination and endorsements should be as specific, accurate and complete as much as possible.

## Early Career Award

Description:

EURASIP has conceived a new award: EURASIP Early Career Award, which is intended to recognize some of the finest scientist and engineers who, while at an early or mid–stage of their career, show not only significant scientific achievements but also high potential to advance knowledge within the technical scope of EURASIP. This award targets at researchers who are less than forty.

Award selection procedure:

It is an EURASIP society award that presents the following features:

The EURASIP Early Career Award is assigned on demand, annually, to individuals who have made distinguished contributions in the field of signal, speech, and image processing.

A Call for Nominations is included in the EURASIP Newsletter to be distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year and posted at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Awards Chairperson by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee or by the general public by the end of December of the preceding year. The final decision about the award is taken by the BoD in February/March of the year of the award attribution and it is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter that is distributed at the next EUSIPCO, where the awards ceremony takes place.

The candidates should:

- Under 40 years old (at the nomination time);

- be actively involved with EURASIP and the international signal processing community, having a recognized leadership in their field of action and a significant impact on the European research activities;
- have a significant list of achievements, reflected by their curriculum vitae, namely in terms of relevant publications, original contributions, or inventive value (patents);
- publish regularly in EURASIP journals;
- participate regularly in conferences sponsored by EURASIP, and in particular in EUSIPCO conferences.
- Present collaborators of BoD members are excluded (e.g. someone who regularly publishes with a BoD member)

The nominations should be well supported, namely in terms of:

- providing complete name of the candidate, education degrees, business titles, contact information, professional curriculum, EURASIP involvement;
- documenting the major technical achievements of the candidate, namely by referencing books, papers, reports, standards contributions, patents, development of products, systems, facilities or services, technical presentations and courses developed;
- justification why the candidate is worthy to receive this award, namely in terms of innovation, originality, creativity and relevance of contributions;
- including support endorsement letters.

Nomination and endorsements should be as specific, accurate and complete as possible. The nomination form can be downloaded from the corresponding award section at [www.eurasip.org](http://www.eurasip.org)

The Early Career award consists of a certificate presented to the award-winner and 2000 euros.

## **Athanasios Papoulis Award**

The Athanasios Papoulis Award is given to honor scientists whose work had a major impact in various aspects on signal processing education. The award is offered only on demand, every time there is an exceptional candidate and not on a regular period of time.

A Call for Nominations is included in the EURASIP Newsletter to be distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year and at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Awards Chairman by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee, or by the general public by the end of December of the preceding year. The nominations to the Athanasios Papoulis Award are reviewed by a panel of experts and their recommendations are submitted to the EURASIP Awards chairman prior to their final approval by the EURASIP BoD. The final decision on this award is taken by the BoD in February of the year of the award attribution and is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter that is distributed at the next EUSIPCO, where the awards ceremony will take place.

## **Awards Standard Layouts**

The standard layouts of certificates are kept by the current Awards Chairman and transferred to the next one.

## **Awards Voting Procedure**

The Technical Achievement Award, the EURASIP Meritorious Service Award, and the Group Technical Achievement Award, are decided by the BoD according to the following guidelines:

1. All the votes are expressed by e-mail on request of the Awards Chairman.
2. The voting members are the elected members to the EURASIP BoD and the Past President.
3. In case of more than three candidates to an award the voting procedure is split in two parts.
  - In the first round each voting member casts two votes.
  - The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes pass to the second round. In the second round each voting member votes only for one candidate. The award is given to the candidate who receives the highest number of votes.
  - In case of two or more candidates who receive the same number of votes in any of the two rounds, it will be care of the BoD to decide how to proceed.
4. In case of a number of candidates up to three only the second part of the vote will take place.

## **Awards Attribution Notification**

Since the decisions about the awards are taken by the elected members of the BoD, plus the past President, and in consideration of the relevance given to the awards, award-winners, together with their corresponding nominators, are notified by the EURASIP President or by the Awards Chairman.

From now on it is agreed that the name of each award will begin with "EURASIP ..." (also in the certificates), so that we guarantee that the award recipient do not forget to state EURASIP when phrasing the award in his/her cv.

The EURASIP awards ceremony takes place during the annual EUSIPCO conference. The list of award-winners is published in the EURASIP Newsletter that is under distribution at that moment.

The nominators for EURASIP fellows are also notified in case the Fellowship has not gone through.

## **Fellowship versus Technical Achievement Awards and Society Awards in general**

Having a clear distinction between the Fellowships and the Technical Achievement Awards (TA's) is felt to be desirable. Even though the Fellowships are announced as "the Society's most prestigious award", the BoD prefers not to have a hierarchy between Fellowships and TA's, but differentiate these better instead. Fellowships are assigned "for contributions to ...", i.e. referring to a long-term contribution to a field, whereas TA's are assigned for very specific contributions/inventions/etc. The difference should be apparent from the quotations. The BoD decides to add a (soft) exclusion rule to the general policy, namely that recipients of a Society award (including Fellowships) are "in principle" excluded from receiving other Society awards (including Fellowships) in the next five years. In other words, it is a wish. There have been exceptions in the past. If there are candidates that are close, better to select the one who did not already receive a major award in the last 4-5 years. Members of the BoD cannot be considered for any EURASIP award during the period they serve in the BoD.

Nominations Procedure:

Any EURASIP member can nominate a colleague to be elevated to Fellow grade. Nominations should be submitted to the EURASIP Awards chair by e-mail. The nomination form can be downloaded from the EURASIP webpage or requested to the Awards Chair. The deadline is October 31st of every year.

As an exception, members of the Fellow Selection Committee and members of the EURASIP Board of Directors are not allowed to nominate.

Nominations will be passed to the chair of the Fellow Selection Committee who will consult with the committee to formulate a proposal (including a short citation for each candidate) to the BoD by December 31st of the same year. The BoD will take a decision by the end of January of the following year and the EURASIP President will then notify the successful individuals, and their names will be added to the Society WWW pages.