

RULES FOR THE ETSON AWARD 2026 CALL TO JUNIOR EXPERTS FOR COLLABORATIVE PAPERS

The ETSON network has decided to reward annual collaborative papers written by a team of young experts from the different active ETSON member organizations (Technical Safety Organizations) by offering ETSON Award, to be officially presented and awarded at ETSON Conference, the EUROSATE Forum or IAEA TSO conference. This year the award competition will be organized in Cologne at EUROSATE in November 2026 in Germany. The exact date will be announced later.

1. Objectives

ETSON aims to develop and promote best practices in nuclear safety assessment. ETSON benefits from the experience of its members and intends to foster dialogue amongst its members and furthermore to stimulate young expert cooperation in the domain of activities of the Network.

The ETSON Award is to promote junior experts for this aim and objectives. Therefore, the Award will reward achievements generally in topics such as:

- Nuclear safety assessment and research,
- Radiation protection of the environment, population and workers,
- Safe management of radioactive waste, safe decommissioning and dismantling,
- Security of nuclear installations.

2. The ETSON Award prize

The ETSON Award money amounts to 6500 € in total, to be shared among the five nominated teams. The best contribution will be honored with 3000 € and the second-best with 2000 €. The last three will be honored by a price of 500 € each.

3. Modalities and conditions

- The first author should be under 35 years of age at the time of the submission.
- The first author should be from active ETSON member organization. However, cooperation with IAEA TSO Forum members, universities or external research institutes is accepted (as co-authors). Cooperation,

between several technical support organizations, is part of the selection criteria. For example, papers authored by young experts from several TSOs will receive a bonus in the selection. Still, a paper proposed by a single expert or a team from a unique ETSON member will be considered.

- All candidates should work in the field of ETSON activities mentioned above.
- Only one submission is permitted per applicant or per team of applicants. Once a paper has been submitted, the applicant(s) will not have the opportunity to revise it.
- Authors of five selected submissions (the “nominees”) will be invited to attend the Conference and present the work to the audience during the Side Event.
- The work must be presented in a competition (“Science Slam”) in short presentations (max. 7 minutes) using a maximum number of five slides with the scientific content.
- All nominees to the Science Slam will receive a certification for their contribution and achievement.
- Winners will be requested to send their identification documents (e.g., copy of passport) to facilitate administrative arrangements.
- The papers of the nominees are going to be published on the ETSON Homepage or the report of the conference.

4. Choice of topic

The papers should contribute to the progression of the understanding of or the development of one of the activities mentioned in §1. The chosen topic should be original and innovative.

5. Promotion of the event

Inside ETSON, the JSP (Junior Staff Programme) is a network of young engineers/researchers. It is managed by a team consisting of young experts that have been selected by their TSO as delegates. The promotion of all information regarding the application for the ETSON Award is organized through each JSP delegate in his/her organization.

6. Selection of candidates

The ETSON JSP Committee (JSP Chair, secretary and web support) and the ETSON Award Committee (usually Experts from different TSOs) will make the selection and assessment; the winners will be selected through the following three-step procedure.

1. First step – identification of candidates

The candidates will send their applications (paper, authors impact justification, authors declaration and CV, see §7) to the ETSON JSP committee at “etson.award@grs.de”. The ETSON JSP committee identifies candidates based on criteria presented in §7.

2. Second step – selection for nomination

Based on the full paper, the ETSON Award Committee will then decide to nominate five of the candidates that go through to the third step. In doing so, the ETSON Award Committee considers:

- Scientific or technical value
- Originality and innovation
- performance
- clarity of presentation
- Pertinence with respect to the ETSON objectives.

The ETSON JSP Committee informs the candidates of the nominations.

3. Third step – final selection of the winners

The five nominated papers will each have to be presented in a competition (Science Slam) in short (max. 7 minutes) presentations using a maximum number of five slides with the scientific content. In case if there are less than 5 nominees, the speech time will be adapted with a maximum of ten minutes.

The final selection of the winners will be considering the following criteria:

- Evaluation of the papers by a jury of independent experts.
- Evaluation of the cooperation by the JSP committee.
- Evaluation of the audience by voting of the public.

The two teams that score the highest overall rating will be granted the ETSON Award.

7. Practicalities: Additional terms and conditions

The ETSON JSP Committee will manage the relations between the candidates and the ETSON Award Committee. The candidates will send their application for the award at etson.award@grs.de before the deadline mentioned in §8 hereafter.

The application should be written in English, and should include the following:

- Full Paper
- Justification of the impact of their paper with respect to ETSON objectives and compliance with the ETSON guides and/or research programs,
- Statement by the team that the paper is original and has not been published or submitted for publication,
- Short CV of all co-authors of the team. The CVs will be used to verify the personal conditions mentioned above.

The ETSON JSP committee will check the completeness of the application and provide the applicants with confirmation of receipt and acceptance.

The full papers shall then be sent by the candidates to the ETSON JSP Committee at etson.award@grs.de. The layout of the papers (and slides) shall follow the ETSON template that will be given to the candidates. The papers shall not exceed 6 pages (including the text, all tables and figures). The content must not have been published before, either at another conference or in a journal.

On the one hand, the winners of the ETSON Award will be allowed to mention this award in all her/his/their forthcoming activities where this is relevant. On the other hand, the ETSON network has the right to freely publish a summary of the winning text and/or material for publicity purposes on any ETSON related carrier it considers useful without written consent from the winners.

8. ETSON AWARD time schedule

- **February:**
Invitation of papers for the ETSON Award, incl. these Rules
- **July 18th:**
Application deadline for the submission of the title, abstract, paper (max. 6 pages), justification, statement and CV
- **September 12th:**
Nomination by the ETSON Award Committee of the five papers to be presented during the ETSON conference within the session “Science Slam” in Manchester. Information to the authors about the teams nominated for the Science Slam.
- **November:**
 - The exact day will be specified later.
 - Science Slam of the nominated papers, presentation by one member of the team with maximal of 5 slides of scientific/technical content during the ETSON conference in Manchester, UK,
 - Selection of the winners by the ETSON Award Committee and the voting of the audience.
 - Award ceremony to the winners
- Publication of the full papers/proceedings on ETSON website.

