Competition rules ‘IVAN TOLPE’ Award

As a homage to farmer Ivan Tolpe, pioneer in manure processing, the Flemish coordination centre for manure processing (VCM) organizes the ‘Ivan Tolpe’ Award. This award is handed out every two years to the participant submitting an innovative, market-ready technique contributing to a sustainable, cost-efficient manure processing in the future.

The ‘Ivan Tolpe’ award has the aim to support and develop innovative, promising techniques, in order to give the manure processing in Flanders a lasting leading role.

**Target group**

Organisations / Companies / Individuals / Scientists / … with an innovative technique which is ready for practical application and is quickly implementable for processing of manure.

**Themes**

**All aspects of manure processing with focus on a better energy efficiency or a more optimal valorisation of nutrients from manure.**

**The idea must be innovative and must address a demand-driven problem from the (Flemish) manure processing sector. So the described technique must be applicable in the Flemish context.**

**What is included in the price?**

* An award
* A money price of €2000
* Visualisation of the technique on the VCM-website and VCM-newsletter
* The possibility of presenting the project on fourth edition of the International Manuresource Conference in 2019, including a free participation to the conference. It should be noted that the other nominated projects also get the possibility to join the conference for free and are allowed to present a poster on this conference

**Awards ceremony**

The award ceremony takes place in January/February 2019 (date to be fixed), in Flanders.

From the submitted application forms, three laureates will be selected who will be invited to present their concept during the award ceremony, after which the VCM will announce the winner of the price.

Also the press/media will be invited for this event.

**Timing**

1. Candidates submit their file before Friday October 26 2018 by means of the template of an application form that can be downloaded from the VCM-website ([www.vcm-mestverwerking.be](http://www.vcm-mestverwerking.be)).
2. The jury selects three laureates before Friday January 11th 2019.
3. All VCM members get the chance to vote on one of the three selected projects. These will be presented on the VCM-website. Voting is allowed from January 11th 2019 until two days before the date of the award ceremony.
4. On the award ceremony (January / February 2019), the winner will be declared in presence of the press.

**Jury**

The selection of the three laureates is done by a jury composed of the following members:

* Chairman VCM
* Vice Chairman VCM
* Secretary VCM
* 2 deputies of the organisations who make part of the Managing Committee of VCM
* VCM-team
* UGent, prof. Eric Meers
* Responsible for ‘Mestverwerkers vzw’ (organisation of Flemish manure processors)
* Max. two experts appointed by the Executive Board of the VCM

The jury can also ask scientific experts for additional scientific advice.

All VCM-members get the chance to vote on the three nominated projects. These will be presented on the VCM-website. Voting is possible from January 11th 2018 until two days before the date of the award ceremony. The possible number of votes is dependent on the member status (A or B): A-members get 2 votes per member, B-members 1 vote per member. Voting is done by a specific link on the VCM-website.

In case of a tied outcome, the jury decides on the awarding of the price.

**File**

1. The file is worked out in Dutch, French or English.
2. For the layout of the file, a template provided by the organizers is used. This template can be downloaded from the VCM-website ([www.vcm-mestverwerking.be](http://www.vcm-mestverwerking.be)) and can be extended with additional attachments (for example also a video with more information on the technique or other image material can be included).
3. The digital application form can be submitted by e-mail (info@vcm-mestverwerking.be), at the latest on **Friday October 26th 2018**. The reception of the submitted application will be confirmed by e-mail.
4. The participant declares his agreement that the proposed project can be communicated to the press, the VCM-website and VCM-workshops.

**Criteria**

Admissibility

Only fully filled in application forms (file according to template) will be judged.

Criteria content of the project

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| --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Weighing appointed to criteria** |
| **Applicability / Market readiness** Does the project focus on a demand-driven problem from the sector?Was the sector involved during the development of the technique (preparation, execution, evaluation)?Is the technique already applied in pilot installations or demos?Is the technique ready for market implementation?What is the economic potential / feasibility of the technology?Is the performance of the technique verified by means of scientific research? In other words, does the technique obtains the proposed results?Is the technique applicable in the Flemish context? | …/40 |
| **Innovative characteristics**Is the technique innovative?Are there similar projects known? What are the innovative elements?Does the project have enough additional value for practical application? | …/30 |
| **Sustainability**Are emissions to the environment reduced by means of this technique?Does the technique result in energy savings?Is there focus on recuperation and recycling of nutrients?Is the social impact of the technique considered?What is the long term vision of the project? | …/30 |
| Total | …/100 |

Method of judgement

The jury members judge the files individually and quote independently. From the submitted files, the jury nominates three projects. The jury can ask for additional information concerning the proposed project and can invite the participants for a further explanation or an oral defence on a location in Flanders (to be announced).

**General rules**

1. The participants are willing to explain their project to the jury orally in a location to be announced (in Flanders). The three laureates are expected on the award ceremony to present their work to the attendants.
2. The organisers retain the right to not hand out the award and price if an unsatisfactory number of qualitative files has been submitted.
3. The decision of the jury concerning the choice of the laureates and the awarding of the price, will be motivated. There is no possibility of appeal against the decision of the jury and the method of awarding of the price.
4. The participants declare their agreement with the rules of competition.
5. If it appears afterwards that the given information by the participant is incorrect, the jury can decide not to award the price or withdraw the award, and another winner can be appointed by the jury.