

Scientific research is carried out by researchers in a variety of areas. Those setting out to do a research project usually do so by presenting a doctoral thesis. In these early stages, it is very important that researchers realise the potential value of their results, not only in the scientific arena, but also in terms of their commercial or industrial applications. Therefore, within the framework of Research Centres of Catalonia, the CERCA Institute is introducing the **Premis PIONER** awards to recognise those researchers who have presented a doctoral thesis with results that are clearly aimed at commercial exploitation.

The annual **Premis PIONER** awards initiative is regulated according to the following stipulations:

1. OBJECTIVE

The awards aim to recognise those researchers working in one of the CERCA centres who, in the period between the publication date of the 2020 call for applications (13 October, 2020) and this year's call for applications publication date, have presented a doctoral thesis through which they propose to initiate or improve the development of a technology or product that may have an industrial or commercial application or might even make a significant specific contribution to the development of public policy.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND NOTICE OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Researchers from a CERCA centre who, in the period between the 2020 Call for Applications and this year's Call for Applications publication date, have produced a doctoral thesis and obtained a PhD and have presented a specific proposal for applying the results of the thesis that falls within the framework of this call.

It is open to researchers from any academic area.

Information regarding the **Premis PIONER** awards will be available on the CERCA Institute website and distributed to all CERCA centre directors so that it may then be distributed internally among the research groups within their institutions.

3. PRIZE MONEY

Each beneficiary will receive a sum of €1,000. A minimum of three **Premis PIONER** winners will be selected for 2020. This call for applications is supported by a number of institutions and businesses.

4. DEADLINE

The deadline for the submission of applications is **12 November, 2021**.

5. APPLICATIONS AND ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Applications must be submitted by email to pioner@cerca.cat and addressed to the director of the CERCA Institute. Each application must include the following documentation:

- a) Registration form, in which applicants must agree to the terms and conditions and which must include the relevant identification documentation and email contact information (direct email address), to which the CERCA Institute may send communications relating to this application process.

- b) Executive summary of the thesis.
- c) Certification from the relevant CERCA centre director indicating the date of the thesis presentation and the name of the thesis director, who must be a member of the CERCA centre.
- d) A PDF file attachment containing the full doctoral thesis.
- e) A proposal for the application of the results obtained, focusing on the relevant industrial or commercial interests or potential for influencing the development of public policy (maximum 5 pages).
- f) If applicable, letters of interest from companies or government bodies that have followed the project.

6. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

An expert committee will evaluate the applications submitted, assessing the contribution of each thesis with regard to the objective of the competition, and present a proposal on the distribution of the awards to the director of the CERCA Institute. The names of the experts will be announced when the awards are presented.

The evaluation criteria for applications are:

- a. Originality (30%)
- b. Viability (30%)
- c. Expected impact (30%)
- d. Estimated time until application (10%)

The director of the CERCA Institute will make a final decision as to the winners of the **Premis PIONER** awards, which will be announced on the CERCA website and communicated directly to all applicants by email before 31 December, 2020.

7. AWARDS CEREMONY

A prize-giving ceremony will be held to present the **Premis PIONER** awards to the winners, attended by all the companies and institutions involved in this competition. Exceptionally, this event could have a virtual format, as recommended by authorities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

I-CERCA guarantees confidentiality with respect to the information provided by the participants, with the exception of information of a general nature related to the projects presented and their participants, which may be published in the public domain at any time and by any means.

9. PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

The personal data that is provided within the framework of this call for applications, as well as the updates of said data, will be processed by the CERCA Institute under the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, of 27 April 2016 (GDPR), and Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December (LOPDGDD).

The CERCA Institute will process the personal data provided by participants for the purposes of managing their application to take part in the **Premis PIONER** awards and to provide information and send communications, including electronically and/or telematically, concerning updates regarding this or future calls for applications promoted by the CERCA Institute in the field of research.

The legal grounds for processing the data are compliance with a legal obligation and the exercise of public powers conferred on Institució CERCA in regard to management of the call and the consent of the interested parties in reference to the sending of electronic communications. The interested party may withdraw such consent at any time.

This data will be kept for the time strictly necessary to achieve the aforementioned purpose, respecting in any event that established in the terms and conditions of the call for applications and the applicable archiving regulations. The CERCA Institute hereby certifies that it has taken the technical and organisational measures contemplated in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 to ensure the security and integrity of the personal data on file and to prevent unauthorised alteration, loss, processing or access.

The CERCA Institute may communicate the personal data of applicants to the Ministry of Business and Knowledge so that it may exercise its power of control over the management of the Institute, as an organisation attached to said ministry; The CERCA Institute may publicise the projects presented and the winners on the basis of the public interest and the exercise of the public powers conferred on it.

The CERCA Institute advises participants that they may exercise their rights of access to and rectification and erasure of data at all times, in the terms established by current legislation, request restriction or oppose the processing of their data, as well as request data portability, by writing to Via Laietana, 2, 08003 Barcelona, or by emailing **dpd@cerca.cat**, stating clearly the right they wish to exercise. In the case of non-conformity with the data processing, they also have the right to submit a complaint before the Catalan Data Protection Authority (apdcat.gencat.cat).

10. IMAGE AND AUDIO RIGHTS

By accepting these terms and conditions, participants irrevocably and freely authorise the CERCA Institute to reproduce, use and display their name and image for the purposes of publicising them in the public domain without the right to any corresponding remuneration.

Participants grant the CERCA Institute the usage rights for images, sound bites, audio and video material, as well as the names and general descriptions of the projects presented, across any medium or format, exclusively for purposes of promotional, publicity and development activities related to the **Premis PIONER** awards.

This rights transfer is not subject to any kind of geographical or temporal restriction or financial obligation.

APPENDIX

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND RULES OF CONDUCT TO WHICH THE ACTIVITIES OF BIDDERS AND CONTRACTORS MUST COMPLY

1. Bidders and contractors shall adopt exemplary ethical conduct and shall act to prevent corruption in any and all of its possible forms.
2. In this regard, and aside from other duties linked to the aforementioned principle derived from the ethical principles and rules of conduct to which the activities of bidders and contractors must comply, they undertake to comply with the following specific obligations:
 - a) To inform the contracting body immediately of any conflict of interest.
 - b) To refrain from, either directly or indirectly, asking a public servant or employee to influence the awarding of the contract.
 - c) To refrain from offering or providing public servants or employees with material or personal gain, either for themselves or for persons in their family or social environment.
 - d) To refrain from undertaking any action that could violate the principles of equal opportunities and free competition.
 - e) To refrain from any actions that pose a risk to the public interest.
 - f) To respect the principles of free market and free competition, and refrain from conduct intended or with the potential to impede, restrict or distort competition, such as collusion or fraudulent competition (token bidding, bid suppression, market allocation, bid rotation, etc.). Similarly, to report any act or conduct to that end and related to the tender or the contract of which they have knowledge.
 - g) To refrain from using confidential information, acquired by means of the contract, to obtain, either directly or indirectly, an economic advantage or benefit in their own interest.
 - h) To observe the ethical principles, rules and canons that govern the activities, trades and/or professions involved in the services contracted.
 - i) To collaborate with the contracting body in relation to the actions it takes to monitor and/or assess fulfilment of the contract, in particular by providing any information requested to that end.
 - j) To report any acts they become aware of and that may entail infringement of the obligations contained in this clause.
3. Failure to fulfil any of the aforementioned obligations included in Section 2 on the part of bidders and contractors shall constitute grounds for the rescission of the contract, without prejudice to other possible consequences contemplated in current legislation.