

2023 ECSECO Paper Competition – Rules and conditions

1. Timeline

20 April	Call for abstracts open
24 June	Closure of the application period
25 June-24 July	Selection of the top 4 applicants per category
25 July	Invitation of selected applicants for the conference. From now on, the selected applicants must finalise their papers, which they will present at the conference.
1 September	Deadline to submit the papers
12 September	Presentation of the papers at Commercial Space Days in Luzern and announcement of one winner per category

2. Rules and definitions

- 2.1. Author is a person who significantly contributed to the production of a research publication.
- 2.2. Applicant is a person who submits their work for the competition. Applicant must be an author of the submitted work.
- 2.3. Only one submission is allowed per applicant.
- 2.4. Submission is an abstract and a following research paper submitted for the competition by an applicant.
- 2.5. Submission may have a few co-authors but only one of them may submit and present it during the competition.
- 2.6. Applicant must be an active member of the European Centre for Space Economy and Commerce (The application is continuously open - applicants can apply any time before the submission of their abstracts.)
- 2.7. Authors must be currently enrolled in a Master or PhD programme in a higher education institution in one of the ESA or EU Member States.
- 2.8. There are two competition categories:
 - a. Space Economy
 - b. Space Business & Commercialisation
- 2.9. Each applicant can submit their work in only one category.
- 2.10. The same submission cannot be submitted in both categories by two different applicants.

3. Formal requirements

- 3.1. All abstracts and papers must be in English.
- 3.2. Abstract length 250-400 words
- 3.3. Abstract should not include any information allowing to identify the author.

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- 3.4. It is not possible to include tables, charts, or images in the abstract.
- 3.5. Paper length 3'000-4'000 words
- 3.6. Paper should lead to a conclusion and do not present ongoing research project.
- 3.7. Paper must be a result of an original work.
- 3.8. Paper must follow academic ethics (no plagiarism allowed, etc.)
- 3.9. Citation style – common practice (APA, MLA, ...).

4. Evaluation:

- 4.1. There shall be a separate jury for each category.
- 4.2. Min. of 3 (max. 4) jurors in each jury.
- 4.3. Evaluation method will depend on the number of submissions.
- 4.4. The ECSECO Secretariat facilitates the scoring process but is not part of the evaluation jury.
- 4.5. Scoring criteria:
 - a. Originality: The paper should present new and innovative ideas, or new ways of looking at existing ideas, that make a significant contribution to the field of the category.
 - b. Relevance: The paper should address an important research question or problem that is relevant to the category and the broader scientific community.
 - c. Clarity: The paper should be well-written and easy to understand, with clear and concise language and a logical structure.
 - d. Methodology: The paper should clearly explain the research methods used, including any experiments, data analysis, or other techniques.
 - e. Results: The paper should present clear and well-supported results that demonstrate the validity of the research findings.
 - f. Conclusions: The paper should draw appropriate conclusions based on the research results and provide insights into the implications and potential applications of the findings.
 - g. Citations: The paper should cite relevant previous research and demonstrate a clear understanding of the existing literature in the field of the category.
 - h. Contribution: The paper should make a significant and original contribution to the field of the category and demonstrate the potential for future research and development.
 - i. Ethics: The paper should adhere to ethical standards and guidelines for research, including issues such as informed consent, confidentiality, and data protection.

5. Awards

- 5.1. All the finalists who submit their papers will be granted:
 - a. 2-Day Congress Pass for Commercial Space Days in Luzern
 - b. 2-night accommodation during the event
- 5.2. The author of the best paper in each of the categories will receive 2023 ECSECO Best Paper Award.