

National Awards for Science & Technology Achievements (NASTA Awards) - 2018

Guidelines for applicants

1. RATIONALE

The role of technology and research is crucial for realizing Sri Lanka's aim to be a knowledge economy. The State recognizes its continued responsibility to provide support for Research, Development & Innovation which contributes to sustainable socio-economic growth. Today, Sri Lanka needs a paradigm shift in attitude to accelerate the infusion of innovations into local industries. In this endeavor, recognizing outstanding researchers, scientists, engineers, technologists and entrepreneurs is indeed a must. As such, the National Science and Technology Awards Scheme is established to exclusively recognize the significant contributions made by Sri Lankan researchers, scientists, engineers, technologists and entrepreneurs towards the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka through tangible or factual science & technology inputs. Transformation of knowledge into products, processes, services or solutions that add value across industry for maximum socio-economic benefit is one aspect promoted by this awards scheme. Secondly, it is entirely designed to achieve enhanced innovative capacity and capability for economic advantage by promoting increased applications of Science & Technology.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To recognize, reward and motivate researchers, scientists, engineers, technologists and entrepreneurs who have significantly contributed towards sustainable socio-economic development through the application of S&T.
- To encourage S&T community and the industry towards increased application of S&T towards innovation for economic advantage.
- To enhance the transformation of new knowledge into products, processes, services or solutions that add value across industry for maximum socio-economic benefit.
- To foster societal values and attitudes that recognize S&T as critical to future prosperity.
- To ensure that the utilization of S&T for sustainable development align with societal needs.

3. AWARD TYPES

National Awards - Margin for National Award: above 65 marks

Certificates of Merits - Margin for Certificate of Merit: above 60 marks

4. ELIGIBILITY

Individual researchers, scientists, engineers, technologists and entrepreneurs, research teams and organizations who/which has made a significant contribution towards the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka through tangible or factual science & technology inputs.

5. WHO CAN APPLY

- Individual researchers, scientists, engineers, technologists and entrepreneurs
- A team comprised above mentioned individuals
- Organizations (R&D Institutions, Universities, companies and any other public or private sector organization)

6. PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS

Raise the following questions to self before filling the application.

1. Is there sufficient proof for that the work presented in the application belongs to the applicant/s?
2. Are there any omissions of co-workers? Declaration is required stating that no co-workers are omitted.
3. Is there sufficient proof for that the work presented in the application does not breach any ethical aspect or laws of the land?
4. Has this work been rewarded/recognized before, under NASTA Awards or another award scheme? If yes, details to be given.

7. WHAT TO SUBMIT

Submissions must include properly signed application form prepared in accordance with the NSF specified format. The application shall also be accompanied by copies of patents, copyrights, trademarks, design drawings, description of technology/process/products, copies of certificates, customer feedback letters, proof of commercialization/market share and any other supportive document to prove the claims declared in the application.

- All applications must conform to the NSF specific format. Both Part A & B of the application must be filled.
- For categories 1 and 11 nominations may also be submitted by another party. All such nominations should accompany name and affiliation of the nominator (second party).
- Applications not conforming to NSF prescribed format will not be considered.
- Application forms can be obtained from the Technology Division of the NSF or downloaded at the website www.nsf.ac.lk.
- Individuals/ organizations applying for multiple categories should submit separate applications under each category.
- Applications should be signed by all applicants.

8. ORIGINALITY

Only submissions based on original works will be considered.

9. JUDGING CRITERIA

Main Criteria	Sub-criteria for Evaluation
1. Commercial and/or Social economic benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market potential (Local and/or Export)• Market penetration• Business model• Local value creation• Input to other sectors/industries (multiplication effect)• Socio – economic benefit (Employment generation etc)• Skill development and knowledge dissemination• Link to national issues and priorities
2. Technology Intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Novelty / IP value• use of local resources/indigenous knowledge or know-how• Resource Efficiency and productivity• Licensing/Royalty (supporting TT)• Certification/ product registration• Emerging Technologies• S&T communication
3. Partnerships and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optimum use of human resources through multi-stakeholder partnerships (PPP)• Effective exploration and harnessing of financial and other resources• Efficient use of institutional setups• Successful international collaboration for local benefits
4. Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social• Environmental• Economic• Needs Assessment (futuristic)
5. Category specific criteria	To be decided by the Panel of Judges

10. PANEL OF JUDGES

A Panel of Judges consists of eminent experts from public and private sector shall deem appropriate. Co-opted members will be incorporated where relevant and applicable.

11. DEFINITION OF SME

The term SME is used to denote micro, small, medium and large enterprises. In Sri Lankan context the SME policy framework (Ministry of Industry & Commerce) defines medium, small and micro SMEs as given in the table below.

Size Sector	Criteria	Large	Medium	Small	Micro
Manufacturing Sector	Annual Turnover	More than Rs. Mn. 251-750	Rs. Mn. 251-750	Rs. Mn. 16 - 250	Less than Rs. Mn. 15
	No. of Employees	More than 51 - 300	51 - 300	11 - 50	Less than 10
Service Sector	Annual Turnover	More than Rs. Mn. 251-750	Rs. Mn. 251-750	Rs. Mn. 16 - 250	Less than Rs. Mn. 15
	No. of Employees	More than 51 - 200	51 - 200	11 - 50	Less than 10

12. SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Applications must reach the NSF by December 29th, 2017 at 3.00 p.m. Late applications will not be entertained.