THE EARTO INNOVATION PRIZE
RULES AND PROCEDURES

ELIGIBILITY

1. Only members of EARTO may apply.
2. An EARTO member may submit up to three applications in any one year. In the case of Association Members, the maximum number of three applications shall apply to the totality of the member organisations of the Association Member.
3. The rewarded innovation shall have the following characteristics :
   - social and/or economic relevance
   - innovative originality
   - proven practical application or plausibly demonstrated practical application
   - proven financial/commercial viability or plausibly demonstrated viability
4. The rewarded innovation shall be of recent date, but not necessarily be completed or fully launched into application. As a guide, it should correspond to a score of no lower than 7, or possibly 6, on the scale of Technology Readiness Levels used by the US Department of Defense (see Appendix)

APPLICATION

5. Applications shall be made in the name of an EARTO member RTO and shall be submitted, or otherwise explicitly endorsed, by the Official EARTO Correspondent of the EARTO member RTO.
6. Applications shall be made using the special EARTO Innovation Prize application form.
7. All applications and supporting documents shall be in English, contained in a single PDF file, and submitted electronically.
8. In submitting an application, the EARTO member accepts to attend, at its own cost, the official award ceremony in Brussels

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

9. Evaluation and selection shall be made in a two-stage procedure.
10. In the first stage, all applications received by the due date shall be screened by an EARTO Task Force of seven persons nominated for this purpose by the Executive Board of EARTO. The Task Force shall select, up to a maximum of nine, those proposals which it considers to be of the highest, sufficient quality.
11. In the second stage, a jury of seven or nine persons[1], chosen to represent the worlds of research, industry, public service and innovation - shall evaluate all of the retained stage-one proposals and shall select one or more applications, up to a maximum of three, for award.
12. The Jury shall be chaired by the President of EARTO. Its membership shall include the Chair of the first-stage Task Force. The remaining members of the Jury shall be nominated by the Executive Board of EARTO. A majority of the members of the Jury shall be independent of EARTO and EARTO members.

[1] The number shall depend upon how many applications are received and the nature of the submitted innovations

13. All members of the jury shall sign a non-disclosure agreement as well as an undertaking to make known any conflict of interest which may arise in the exercise of their function as a member of the Jury.
14. The Jury shall deliberate in secret. Its decisions shall be final and without appeal.

AWARD CEREMONY

15. The award ceremony shall be held in the autumn of the same year in Brussels[2]. The ceremony shall be public, before an audience of EARTO members, industry representatives, European Commission officials, Members of the European Parliament, and other interested professionals.
16. Each winning innovation shall be presented in the form of a short, professionally produced video. The costs of video production shall usually be borne by the prize-winner[3].
17. The award shall be made to the winning RTO represented by its Chief Executive Officer. The recipient may choose to be accompanied on stage by colleagues having contributed significantly to the innovation as well as by representatives of clients or others having put the innovation into application.

Technology Readiness Levels in the Department of Defense (DOD)
(Source: DOD (2006), *Defense Acquisition Guidebook*)

Technology Readiness Level	Description
1. Basic principles observed and reported	Lowest level of technology readiness. Scientific research begins to be translated into applied research and development. Example might include paper studies of a technology's basic properties.
2. Technology concept and/or application formulated	Invention begins. Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. The application is speculative and there is no proof or detailed analysis to support the assumption. Examples are still limited to paper studies.
3. Analytical and experimental critical function and/or	Active research and development is initiated. This includes analytical studies and laboratory studies to physically validate analytical predictions of separate

[2] Typically in the second half of October or early November.
[3] We intend that in the case of multiple awards in one year all videos will be produced by the same professional company to a common presentational format. We also assume that prize-winners will wish to use the video for their own publicity purposes and for that reason invite them to bear the costs of video production in exchange for full and exclusive rights to the video. Videos are expected to be of 4-5 minutes in length, and we estimate the cost of an individual video to be of the order of €6,500.

characteristic proof of concept	elements of the technology. Examples include components that are not yet integrated or representative.
4. Component and/or breadboard validation in laboratory environment	Basic technological components are integrated to establish that the pieces will work together. This is relatively "low fidelity" compared to the eventual system. Examples include integration of 'ad hoc' hardware in a laboratory.
5. Component and/or breadboard validation in relevant environment	Fidelity of breadboard technology increases significantly. The basic technological components are integrated with reasonably realistic supporting elements so that the technology can be tested in a simulated environment. Examples include 'high fidelity' laboratory integration of components.
6. System/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment	Representative model or prototype system, which is well beyond the breadboard tested for TRL 5, is tested in a relevant environment. Represents a major step up in a technology's demonstrated readiness. Examples include testing a prototype in a high fidelity laboratory environment or in simulated operational environment.
7. System prototype demonstration in an operational environment	Prototype near or at planned operational system. Represents a major step up from TRL 6, requiring the demonstration of an actual system prototype in an operational environment, such as in an aircraft, vehicle or space. Examples include testing the prototype in a test bed aircraft.
8. Actual system completed and 'flight qualified' through test and demonstration	Technology has been proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions. In almost all cases, this TRL represents the end of true system development. Examples include developmental test and evaluation of the system in its intended weapon system to determine if it meets design specifications.
9. Actual system 'flight proven' through successful mission operations	Actual application of the technology in its final form and under mission conditions, such as those encountered in operational test and evaluation. In almost all cases, this is the end of the last "bug fixing" aspects of true system development. Examples include using the system under operational mission conditions.