



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR SIGNAL PROCESSING

EURASIP Awards

Awards Selection Procedures

Introduction

The goal of the EURASIP Awards program is to pay tribute to those people who have made outstanding technical contributions and achievements, or those institutions that enabled the development of remarkable research and dissemination, leading to the advancement of the signal processing domain. EURASIP awards program promotes excellence in the different areas related to the signal processing community: education, research, industry and services.

Currently EURASIP Awards fall into the following categories:

- Best Paper Awards;
- Best PhD Awards;
- 3MT (3 Minutes Thesis) Award;
- Best Student Paper Awards (in EUSIPCO and sponsored Workshops);
- Society Awards:
 - Technical Achievement Award;
 - Meritorious Service Award;
 - Group Technical Achievement Award;
 - Early Career Award;
 - Athanasios Papoulis Award;
- Fellows.

The nominations for awards can be initiated by EURASIP members and by the public. The nominations for Best Papers and Best PhD Awards are collected by the EURASIP Director for Awards (i.e. the EURASIP BoD member who is coordinating the awards process) and then are forwarded to the respective Evaluation Committees. The proposals of the Evaluation Committees are submitted to the EURASIP Board of Directors (BoD) for final approval. The nominations for the Society Awards are collected by the EURASIP Director for Awards and then submitted to the EURASIP Board of Directors (BoD) for the selection of the Award recipients.

The EURASIP awards ceremony takes place during the annual EUSIPCO conference. The list of award-winners is published in the EURASIP Newsletter that is under distribution at that moment and in the EURASIP web site.

This document describes the procedures for determining the recipients of the EURASIP awards.

1. Best Paper Awards

Best paper awards (BPA) are given annually to the most relevant contributions published in the Journals sponsored by EURASIP, according to the average number of papers published per year (this number should be calculated by averaging over a window of 4 years):

- # 1–50: no award assigned;
- # 51–100: 1 award every two years;
- # > 100: 1 award per year.

Currently, the journals that meet this requirement are:

- Signal Processing (1 award annually)
- Signal Processing: Image Communication (1 award annually)
- Speech Communication (1 award every 2 years, even years)
- Journal on Advances in Signal Processing (JASP) (1 award every 2 years, even years)
- Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking (1 award annually)
- Journal on Image and Video Processing (1 award every 2 years, odd years).

These awards are given to each of the authors of the selected papers by the EURASIP BoD at the annual EUSIPCO conference.

The papers to be considered for the awards assigned in year x (and presented in EUSIPCO of year x) should have been published within a 4-year time window that goes from $x-5$ to $x-2$, extremes included.

Each author receives a Certificate prepared by care of the EURASIP Director for Awards according to the current standard layout, and a monetary compensation of 1K € (per paper) as a reimbursement for travelling and accommodation to attend the Awards Ceremony at EUSIPCO. The 1K€ is provided via bank transfer by the EURASIP Treasurer.

The steps of the selection process are briefly the following:

1. First, there is a pre-selection phase that is carried out by the EiC of the journal and the EURASIP Director for Awards. The initial list consists of the most cited papers plus any papers nominated by the EiC and the Associate Editors as well as any other member of the community. This initial list is pre-screened to exclude papers that are not eligible for awards, according to EURASIP rules (i.e., review or tutorial papers, papers co-authored by EURASIP BoD members or Award Committee members, and papers previously awarded by EURASIP).
2. In the sequel, a short list is formed taking into account the following criteria: i) the number of citations; ii) the number of downloads iii) if available, the evaluations of members of the editorial boards, including the guest editors of the special issues.
3. In the case of the multidisciplinary journals (i.e. SP and JASP), the EURASIP Technical Area Committees (TAC) take active part in the formation of the corresponding short lists. More specifically, each TAC, starting from the pre-screened list, will be invited to identify and propose, for each journal, one paper that deserves an award and which, preferably, lies within the field of the TAC. The papers proposed by the TACs can be out of the pre-screened list. Note that in case a TAC nominates a paper in which one or more of the co-authors are members of the TAC, then this nomination must be well documented, otherwise it may be considered as a “conflict of interest”. In any case, the procedure followed by the TAC should be well explained (i.e. detail what exactly they did to reach a proposal).

4. Then, the papers of the short list are sent to BPA Committee members (note that there is one Committee for each journal). Each Committee member scores the short listed papers according to the following evaluation criteria:
 - Relevance of the topic – The degree of contribution of the paper to the advancement of the state of the art is evaluated. Under this topic the evaluation committee will assess the value of the paper in terms of the significance of the problem addressed in the paper for the signal processing community.
 - Quality of the technical content – The degree of excellence of the work described is evaluated. Under this topic the evaluation committee will assess the techniques and skills used to achieve the reported results.
 - Style of the presentation – The degree to which the paper message is clearly and effectively expressed is evaluated. Under this topic the evaluation committee will assess the quality of the writing of the paper, namely completeness, conciseness, clarity, efficacy or balancing between the various sections of the paper.
 - Originality – The degree to which the paper is original is evaluated. Under this topic the evaluation committee will assess the novelty of the technical material presented, namely in terms of addressing new problems, presenting new results, or using new methodologies.
5. Based on the scores of the BPA Committee members, the EURASIP Director for Awards and the EiC submit a proposal to the EURASIP BoD which, in turn, makes the final decision.

All EURASIP members (in particular those actively involved in EURASIP activities, i.e. Editorial Board members, TAC members etc) are invited and strongly encouraged to submit nominations for best paper awards. These nominations are collected by the EURASIP Director for Awards and the Editors-in-Chief by October 31st of the preceding year, i.e. the year $x-1$. Then the Steps of the above described process follow one by one and the final decision should be made by the EURASIP BoD until the end of February of the year to which the award refers to, i.e. the year x .

The list of award-winners is published in the EURASIP Newsletter in a spring issue of year x . The awards ceremony takes place at the EUSIPCO of year x .

The Evaluation Committees of the different journals are selected by the EURASIP Director of Awards (based on proposals by the journals' Editors-in-Chief, the BoD members and the TACs) and they are composed by at least four members. These members are typically selected among Special Issues guest editors, members of the journals' Editorial Boards, and reviewers of the journals. The Evaluation Committees membership is renewed every three years.

As a compensation for the work performed in the quality of a journal's awards subcommittee member, these members are offered an annual subscription of one of the EURASIP sponsored journals.

2. Best PhD Award

Every year the EURASIP Board of Directors selects up to three theses related to different areas of signal processing to be awarded 'Best PhD Thesis' awards. The selection procedure is coordinated by the EURASIP Director for Awards and the PhD Awards Chair who is designated (on a yearly basis) by the BoD. The PhD Awards Chair invites an adequate number of reviewers, ensuring that each of the short listed theses is reviewed by 2-3 experts.

More specifically the procedure is as follows:

At the first step of the process, an initial long list is formed by taking into account the number of downloads from the EURASIP PhD Thesis Database. Well documented nominations by EURASIP members may also be included in the initial list.

Then a short list is selected based on the impact of the theses (e.g., download and citation statistics) as well as their subsequent journal and conference publications and related citations received. The shorted listed theses are further reviewed by independent reviewers.

The PhD Theses to be considered for the awards assigned in year x (and presented in EUSIPCO of year x) should have been awarded (i.e., recognized) by the University within a 3-year time window that goes from $x-5$ to $x-3$, extremes included. The theses that have received an award in previous years as well as those for which the thesis adviser / research director is a EURASIP Board of Directors member, are not eligible for award. The procedure begins in January and the decision is made by the end of April.

Each awardee receives a Certificate and a travelling & accommodation reimbursement of 1K € for attending the Awards Ceremony. The awards will be presented during the Awards Ceremony at the EUSIPCO conference of year x .

3. 3MT Award

As a relatively new activity within the EUSIPCOs, a 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) contest is organized, where a pre-selected group of 5 up to 10 PhD students have 3 minutes each one to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance. 3MT is an exercise for students to consolidate their ideas so they can present them concisely to an audience specialized in different signal processing fields. Together with scientific and technical quality, EURASIP wants to promote transversal skills of PhD researchers such as oral and presentation skills. Also, it aims to help PhDs to gain visibility of their work.

Previous to the contest, there is a call for 3MT participation within EUSIPCO. Authors only need to submit a video (that should not exceed 3 minutes of duration) together with one-page Thesis summary, to be included in the proceedings. A pre-selection of a maximum of 10 finalists and a minimum of 5 is done under a peer-review process and following the rules of Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]), developed by the University of Queensland (UQ) (every year EUSIPCO organizers should ask for permission to UQ in order to use (3MT[®])).

The competition among the 10 finalist takes place at EUSIPCO. The audience participates in the voting, together with a Committee of 5 members (from the BoD and the EUSIPCO organising committee paying attention to diversity). Financial support of up to 1000 euros for the winner and of up to 500 euros for runner(s)-up (to be decided by the committee), is provided by EURASIP.

The EURASIP Director for Technical Programs and Membership is responsible for this award.

More details regarding 3MT Award may be found at the website of EURASIP.

4. Student Best Paper Awards

4.1 Sponsored Conferences/Workshops

To increase the impact of EURASIP and gather new members, notably young researchers, EURASIP may sponsor Student Best Paper Awards under the following conditions:

1. Only conferences/workshops with EURASIP technical sponsorship will be considered.

2. No conferences/workshops financially sponsored by international institutions or companies (other than EURASIP) will be considered.
3. Only one Student Best Paper Award will be considered per conference/workshop. The monetary value of the award is 500€ which is shared 50/50 between EURASIP and the conference/workshop.
4. The maximum number of EURASIP sponsored awards per year is 3.
5. The award will be named "EURASIP <WorkshopName> 20xx Student Best Paper Award".
6. The conference/workshop needs to have an Awards Committee under the leadership of an internationally recognized expert. This Awards Committee must include at least one expert nominated by the EURASIP BoD, e.g. the EURASIP TAC (Technical Area Committee) Chair, see <http://www.eurasip.org/>, notably in a field relevant for the conference/workshop.
7. The award winners have to be selected with a transparent process clearly at the conference website.
8. The proposal for award sponsorship has to be submitted at least 2 months before the paper submission deadline to the EURASIP Director for Technical Programs and Membership.
9. The approval of the award sponsorship is made by the EURASIP BoD. By the date of approval, the conference/workshop must already have its EURASIP technical sponsorship approved.
10. After approval, the conference/workshop commits to advertise the award with the appropriate name in the website and all advertising materials with high visibility.
11. The award will be given to the awardee at the conference/workshop banquet or at the opening ceremony by a person selected by the EURASIP BoD.
12. The awardee will receive a Certificate where the name of the award and the EURASIP logo are clearly visible.

4.2 EUSIPCO

EUSIPCO is the flagship conference of EURASIP. The basic rules for EUSIPCO Student Best Paper Awards are summarized as follows:

1. Each year in EUSIPCO, at least one and not more than three student best paper awards are assigned.
2. The selection process is carried out by EUSIPCO OC in close collaboration with EURASIP. The details of this collaboration are described in the corresponding protocol of EURASIP.
3. The monetary value of the award is 500€ which is shared 50/50 between EURASIP and EUSIPCO.
4. The template of the Certificate is supplied in advance by EURASIP to EUSIPCO OC.
5. The awards are presented to the winners normally at the EUSIPCO opening ceremony.

5. Society Awards

5.1 Technical Achievement Award

The Technical Achievement Award is given normally annually, to individuals who have made distinguished contributions in the field of signal, speech, and image processing.

A Call for Nominations is published in the EURASIP Newsletter, it is distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year and it is posted at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Director for Awards by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee, or by the general public until the end of December of the preceding year. The final decision about the award is taken by the BoD in January/February of the year of the award attribution and it is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter.

The candidates should:

- be actively involved with the international signal processing community, having a recognised leadership in their field of action and a significant impact on the European research activities;
- have a significant list of achievements, reflected by their *curriculum vitae*, namely in terms of relevant publications, original contributions, or inventive value (patents);
- publish regularly in EURASIP journals;
- participate regularly in conferences sponsored by EURASIP, and in particular in EUSIPCO conferences.

The nominations should be well supported, namely in terms of:

- providing complete name of the candidate, education degrees, business titles, contact information, professional curriculum, EURASIP involvement;
- documenting the major technical achievements of the candidate, namely by referencing books, papers, reports, standards contributions, patents, development of products, systems, facilities or services, technical presentations and courses developed;
- justifying why the candidate is worthy to receive this award on the basis of innovation, originality, creativity and relevance of contributions;
- including support endorsement letters.

Nomination and endorsements should be as specific, accurate and complete as possible.

The technical achievements awardee receives a Certificate, crafted according to the current standard layout, which is presented to the award-winner at the annual EUSIPCO conference.

5.2 EURASIP Meritorious Service Award

The EURASIP Meritorious Service Award is given normally annually, to individuals who have made distinguished services to the Society.

A Call for Nominations is published in the EURASIP Newsletter, it is distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year, and it is posted at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Director for Awards by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee, or by the general public until the end of December of the preceding year. The final decision about the award is taken by the BoD in January/February of the year of the award attribution and it is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter.

The candidates should:

- have provided significant contributions to the development of EURASIP;

- have furnished distinguished service to the advancement and pursuit of the technical objectives of EURASIP;
- have cooperated actively in actions supported or sponsored by EURASIP.

The nominations should be well supported, namely in terms of:

- providing complete name of the candidate, education degrees, business titles, contact information, professional curriculum, EURASIP involvement;
- justifying why the candidate is worthy to receive this award on the basis of major contributions to the development of EURASIP.

Nomination should be as specific, accurate and complete as possible.

The meritorious service awardee receives a Certificate, crafted according to the current standard layout, which is presented to the award-winner at the annual EUSIPCO conference.

5.3 Group Technical Achievement Award

The Group Technical Achievement Award is given normally annually, to leaders of research groups that have made relevant contributions in the field of signal, speech, or image processing.

A Call for Nominations is published in the EURASIP Newsletter, it is distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year, and it is posted at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Director for Awards by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee, or by the general public by the end of December of the preceding year. The final decision about the award is taken by the BoD in January/February of the year of the award attribution and it is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter.

The nominations can also be open to the general public.

The award-candidate and his/her research group should:

- be actively involved in the international signal processing community, having a recognised leadership in their field of action and a significant impact on the European research activities;
- have a significant list of achievements, namely in terms of relevant publications, original contributions, or inventive value (patents),
- publish regularly in EURASIP journals;
- participate regularly in conferences sponsored by EURASIP, and in particular in EUSIPCO conferences.

The nominations should be well supported, namely in terms of:

- providing complete name of the candidate who represents the research group, his/her education degrees, business titles, contact information, professional curriculum, EURASIP involvement;
- documenting the major technical achievements of the research group, namely by referencing books, papers, reports, standards contributions, patents, development of products, systems, facilities or services, technical presentations and courses developed,
- justifying why the candidate research group is worthy to receive this award, namely in terms of innovation, originality, creativity and relevance of contributions;
- including support endorsement letters.

Nomination and endorsements should be as specific, accurate and complete as much as possible.

The group technical achievement awardee receives a certificate which is crafted according to the current standard layout. The certificate refers to the leader of the selected research group and is presented by the EURASIP BoD at the annual EUSIPCO conference.

5.4 Early Career Award

EURASIP has recently conceived a new society award, i.e., the EURASIP Early Career Award, which is given normally annually. This award is intended to recognize some of the finest scientist and engineers who, while at an early or mid-stage of their career, show not only significant scientific achievements but also high potential to advance knowledge within the technical scope of EURASIP. This award targets at researchers who are less than forty.

A Call for Nominations is published in the EURASIP Newsletter, it is distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year and it is posted at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Director for Awards by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee or by the general public until the end of December of the preceding year. The final decision about the award is taken by the BoD in February/March of the year of the award attribution and it is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP Newsletter.

The candidates should:

- be under 40 years old (at the nomination time);
- be actively involved in EURASIP and the international signal processing community, having a recognized leadership in their field of action and a significant impact on the European research activities;
- have a significant list of achievements, reflected by their curriculum vitae, namely in terms of relevant publications, original contributions, or inventive value (patents);
- publish regularly in EURASIP journals;
- participate regularly in conferences sponsored by EURASIP, and in particular in EUSIPCO conferences.

Current collaborators of BoD members are excluded (e.g. someone who regularly publishes with a BoD member).

The nominations should be well supported, namely in terms of:

- providing complete name of the candidate, education degrees, business titles, contact information, professional curriculum, EURASIP involvement;
- documenting the major technical achievements of the candidate, namely by referencing books, papers, reports, standards contributions, patents, development of products, systems, facilities or services, technical presentations and courses developed;
- justifying why the candidate is worthy to receive this award on the basis of innovation, originality, creativity and relevance of contributions;
- including support endorsement letters.

Nomination and endorsements should be as specific, accurate and complete as possible. The nomination form can be downloaded from the corresponding award section at www.urasip.org

The Early Career award includes a certificate presented to the award-winner at the annual EUSIPCO conference and a monetary award of 2000 €.

5.5 Athanasios Papoulis Award

The Athanasios Papoulis Award is given to honor scientists whose work had a major impact on signal processing education, in various aspects. The award is offered only on demand, every time there is an exceptional candidate and not on a regular period of time.

A Call for Nominations published in the EURASIP Newsletter to be distributed at EUSIPCO of the preceding year and at the EURASIP web site. The nominations are submitted to the EURASIP Director for Awards by members of the EURASIP BoD and/or Advisory Committee, or by the general public until the end of December of the preceding year. The nominations to the Athanasios Papoulis Award are reviewed by a panel of experts and their recommendations are submitted to the EURASIP Director for Awards prior to their final approval by the EURASIP BoD. The final decision on this award is taken by the BoD in February of the year of the award attribution and is published in the EURASIP web site and in the EURASIP.

The Athanasios Papoulis Awardee receives a certificate, crafted according to the current standard layout, which is presented to the award-winner at the annual EUSIPCO conference.

Awards Standard Layouts

The standard layouts of Certificates are kept by the current EURASIP Director for Awards and transferred to the next one.

Awards Voting Procedure

All Society Awards (i.e., the Technical Achievement Award, the EURASIP Meritorious Service Award, the Group Technical Achievement Award, the Early Career Award and the Athanasios Papoulis Award) are decided by the BoD according to the following guidelines:

1. Voting is carried out electronically, with the assistance of the EURASIP Office and under the supervision of the EURASIP Director for Awards.
2. The voting members are the elected members to the EURASIP BoD and the Past President.
3. In case there are more than three candidates for an award, the voting procedure is split in two parts.
 - In the first round, ranked voting is followed.
 - The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes pass to the second round. In the second round each voting member votes only for one candidate. The award is given to the candidate who receives the highest number of votes.
 - In case that two or more candidates receive the same number of votes in any of the two rounds, it will be care of the BoD to decide how to proceed.
4. In case the number of candidates is up to three, only the second part of the vote will take place.

Awards Attribution Notification

Since the decisions about the awards are taken by the elected members of the BoD, plus the past President, and in consideration of the relevance given to the awards, award-winners, together with their corresponding nominators, are notified by the EURASIP President or by the EURASIP Director for Awards.

The name of each award will begin with "EURASIP ..." (also in the certificates), so that we guarantee that the award recipients do not forget to cite EURASIP when referring to the award in any occasion (e.g. CV, Homepage).

The EURASIP awards ceremony takes place during the annual EUSIPCO conference. The list of award-winners is published in the EURASIP Newsletter that is issued immediately after the awarding decision.

The nominators for Society Awards as well as for EURASIP Fellows are notified in case the Awards/Fellowships have not gone through.

EURASIP Fellows

Fellows Nominations Procedure

EURASIP, through the "Fellowship Programme", recognizes outstanding achievements of its members and volunteers. Each year, a select group of signal processing researchers are elevated to 'EURASIP Fellow', the Association's most prestigious honor.

Any EURASIP member can nominate a colleague to be elevated to Fellow grade. Nominations should be submitted to the EURASIP Director for Awards by e-mail. The nomination form can be downloaded from the EURASIP webpage or requested to the EURASIP Director for Awards. The deadline is October 31st of every year.

As an exception, members of the Fellow Selection Committee and members of the EURASIP Board of Directors are not allowed to nominate.

The nominations are passed to the Chair of the Fellow Selection Committee who consults the committee to formulate a proposal (including a short citation for each candidate) to the BoD by December 31st of the same year. The involvement in EURASIP activities is appreciated when selecting Fellows. The BoD takes a decision by the end of January of the Following year and then the EURASIP President notifies the successful individuals, and their names are added to the EURASIP relevant web pages.

Fellowship versus Technical Achievement Awards and Society Awards in general

Having a clear distinction between the Fellowships and the Technical Achievement Awards (TA's) is felt to be desirable. Even though the Fellowships are announced as "the Society's most prestigious award", the BoD prefers not to have a hierarchy between Fellowships and TA's, but differentiate these better instead. Fellowships are assigned "for contributions to ...", i.e. referring to a long-term contribution to a field, whereas TA's are assigned for specific contributions/inventions/etc. The difference should be apparent from the quotations. The BoD decides to add a (soft) exclusion rule to the general policy, namely that recipients of a Society award (including Fellowships) are "in principle" excluded from receiving other Society awards (including Fellowships) in the next five years. In other words, it is a wish. There have been exceptions in the past. If there are candidates that are close, better to select the one who did not already receive a major award in the last 4-5 years. Members of the BoD cannot be considered for any EURASIP award during the period they serve in the BoD.
