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## New DLG Frontier Food Systems Award for International Agrifood Innovations

**International award recognizes start-ups and scale-ups shaping the agrifood systems of the future through innovative technologies and business models. Applications open on 1 October 2026. Finalists will present live pitches at the Inhouse Farming – Feed & Food Convention on 21 and 22 April 2027 in Hamburg, Germany – Prize money: 10,000 euros**

The new DLG Frontier Food Systems Award shines a spotlight on companies developing the agrifood systems of tomorrow through innovative technologies, products, and business models. The award focuses on solutions in the fields of FoodTech and Biotech; Ingredients; Food Processing & Manufacturing; Packaging; Controlled Environment Agriculture; alternative proteins; Novel Food, and related areas of innovation. The award scheme seeks companies that are opening up new markets while making a measurable contribution to a sustainable, resilient, and resource-efficient food supply. Applications open on 1 October 2026 and close on 15 January 2027.

The award is open to companies in two categories. The **Early Stage** category is designed for startup companies that have been on the market for less than five years and are still in an early development or funding phase. Key evaluation criteria include the degree of innovation and clearly identifiable market potential. The **Scale-up** category is aimed at companies that have been active in the market for five to ten years and already offer market-ready or commercially deployed solutions. Applicants must also demonstrate clear potential for international scaling. Prize money of **€10,000** will be awarded in each category. Applications are submitted online and must include key company information, a short elevator pitch, a description of the unique selling proposition, and a specific sustainability metric.

### Independent Expert Jury Evaluates Innovation and Impact

An independent jury of experts will assess all submissions based on four key criteria. In addition to the degree of innovation, including novelty, technological quality, technical feasibility, and

scientific foundation, the jury will evaluate competitive advantages such as unique selling points, specialized know-how, intellectual property rights, and technological barriers to entry.

The jury will also assess market and scaling potential, taking into account the business model, commercial viability, market opportunities, and prospects for international growth. Sustainability and impact represent another important evaluation area. Among other aspects, the jury will consider the contribution a solution can make toward reducing energy, water, land use, and emissions, as well as its potential to support the sustainable advancement of agrifood systems.

### **Live Pitches at the Inhouse Farming – Feed & Food Convention**

Nominated companies will have the opportunity to present their solutions in live pitch sessions before industry decision-makers, investors, and potential cooperation partners. The final of the DLG Frontier Food Systems Award will take place on 21 and 22 April 2027 during the Inhouse Farming – Feed & Food Convention at the CCH Hamburg.

In addition to the prize money, the award offers participants international visibility, expert feedback from the jury, and access to DLG's international network. The finalists will also have the opportunity to establish new contacts with potential partners and investors and gain momentum for future collaborations and international market expansion.

### **Application Period Opens on 1 October 2026**

The international application period begins on **1 October 2026** and ends on **15 January 2027**. From January to February 2027, applications will be reviewed and evaluated by DLG and the expert jury. The nominated companies are expected to be announced in March 2027.

The live pitches and final judging of the DLG Frontier Food Systems Award will take place on 21 and 22 April 2027 during the Inhouse Farming – Feed & Food Convention in Hamburg.

### **Inhouse Farming – Feed & Food Convention 2027**

The Inhouse Farming – Feed & Food Convention will bring together companies, start-ups, researchers, investors, and industry decision-makers from across the agrifood sector at the CCH Hamburg on 21 and 22 April 2027.

The event will focus on innovative technologies, production concepts, and business models for the future of food production, ranging from Controlled Environment Agriculture and alternative proteins to FoodTech, Biotech, and new circular economy and production systems. Expert presentations, panel discussions, and networking formats will provide a compact overview of

the latest developments and market opportunities while creating a platform for exchanging practical solutions for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

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#### About DLG

With more than 30,000 members, DLG is a politically independent and non-profit organisation. DLG draws on an international network of some 3,000 food and agricultural experts. DLG operates with subsidiaries in 10 countries and also organizes over 30 regional agricultural and livestock exhibitions worldwide. DLG's leading international exhibitions, EuroTier for livestock farming and Agritechnica for agricultural machinery, which are held every two years in Hanover, Germany, provide international impetus for the local trade fairs.

Headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany, DLG conducts practical trials and tests to keep its members informed of the latest developments. DLG's sites include DLG's International Crop Production Centre, a 600-hectare test site in Bernburg-Strenzfeld, Germany, and the DLG Test Centre, Europe's largest agricultural machinery test centre for Technology and Farm Inputs, located in Gross-Umstadt, Germany.

DLG bridges the gap between theory and practice, as evidenced by more than 40 working groups of farmers, academics, agricultural equipment companies and organisations that continually compare advances in knowledge in specific areas such as irrigation and precision farming.

[www.dlg.org](http://www.dlg.org)