



AWARD AND JUDGING Rules „International FoodTec Award 2027“



1. Goal and areas of responsibility

The innovation awards system for the International FoodTec Award aims to recognize trailblazing innovations in food technology and successful implementation of innovative concepts in companies in the food industry and its suppliers, as well as to support communication of these.

The innovations campaign is organized by DLG e.V. (Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft – German Agricultural Society). The technical execution lies in the hands of an independent international Commission appointed by DLG and made up of recognized consultants, scientists and practitioners. Members are appointed for a term of three years up to the time a new Commission is appointed by the DLG Board of Directors.

2. Participants

All companies in the food industry and its suppliers can participate. It is immaterial whether the specific project comprises a process, a line, machinery and installations, or the setting up of a complete production plant. Instead, what is crucial is the way in which innovative concepts have been successfully implemented.

Participation is voluntary and does not involve any additional costs. The participants themselves bear sole responsibility for observance of all relevant legal requirements and these DLG Award and Judging Rules.

3. Admission of products

Only products from the following fields will be admitted:

- Process technology
- Filling and packaging technology
- Automation, robotics, software, measuring, control and regulating technology
- Conveying, transport and storage facilities, logistics
- Food safety, analytics and biotechnology
- Environmental technology (resource-saving and energy-saving developments, sustainability)
- Refrigeration and air-conditioning technology
- Ingredients
- Packaging, packaging materials

The following are excluded from participation:

- Products that cannot be allocated to any of the above sectors
- Services
- Innovations that have already won an award at another trade fair or exhibition

4. Submission procedure

Each innovation must be submitted individually. The complete submission with uploading of documents and picture material must be carried out solely via E-Mail to IFTA@DLG.org

Submissions via letter or fax are not permitted and will not be accepted.

Submissions may be made in English.

Online submission is possible up to midnight on the closing date for submissions.

The closing date for submissions is 4th May 2026.

Joint submissions are possible. In this case the submission must be marked as a joint submission and all partners must be named. The innovation will be shown as a joint submission with all participating partners in the Award Winners Magazine.

Clear explanation of the innovative nature and its benefits

The application form requesting a summary of the key facts must be filled out carefully. **It must show the innovative achievement.** The submission documents must identify clearly where the new and advantageous nature of the submitted product lies. The innovative product properties must be described plausibly, be transparent and wherever possible be documented by independent test results. Patents must be named and any use of licensed intellectual property rights, for example for components, must be fully stated.

Picture material

At most one picture as a file (with 300 dpi resolution) should be attached to illustrate the innovation in the media and as a selection aid for the Commission. All rights of publication and reproduction shall be transferred to DLG.

Binding submission deadline

All the documentation must be uploaded in the online database by the stated deadline for submission. Any submissions received after the deadline and any submissions which are incomplete or do not comply with the requirements set out above will be excluded from participating in the innovations campaign. DLG warrants that all documents submitted will be treated in strict confidence except those required to present the product in the Award Winners Magazine. The Commission's decision will be published in consultation with DLG's Marketing Service Department.

5. Judging principles

To assess the innovations, DLG will appoint an independent and international Commission made up of recognized consultants, scientists and practitioners. The chair of the Commission will be designated by the DLG Board of Directors within the context of the appointments.

The Commission will satisfy requirements in respect of

- independence and neutrality
- competence to judge the innovations submitted
- practical orientation.

The Commission will be subject to a Code of Ethics (Compliance Ruling).

The Commission will undertake its assessment for the award of the Gold and Silver Medals on the basis of the documents submitted:

Assessment guidelines for Gold Medals

Products with a new concept in which the function has been crucially altered and the use of which allows a new process or which substantially improves a known process will be awarded an International FoodTec Gold Medal Award. Aspects crucial for the selection are the significance for practice and the effects on operating efficiency and labour management, the environment and the energy situation. Effects on facilitation of labour and safety at work will also be appraised.

Assessment guidelines for Silver Medals

Products in which a known product has been developed further to such an extent that a substantial improvement in the function and the process is achieved will be awarded an International FoodTec Silver Medal.

This is for products that do not completely satisfy the criteria for winning an International FoodTec Gold Medal. Aspects that are crucial for the award include the economic significance for practical applications, work performance, work quality and operational reliability. Furthermore, positive effects on the environment and energy situation must also be taken into account.

Award-winning products must be fully functional at the time of the trade fair and be available on the market at the latest in the year 2028.

6. Presentation of the medals

The decision on awards will be taken in accordance with the **Guidelines for the award of Gold and Silver Medals** within the context of the "International FoodTec Award" competition. The Commission's decision is binding for all participants. Recourse before a court of law is not permitted.

If a product does not win an award, the Commission is not obliged to state reasons for rejection to the exhibitor. Complaints may only be made to the Chair of the Commission via the staff member serving as contact at DLG Head Office. None of the documents submitted will be returned. The award winners will receive a certificate and a medal for each award-winning product. In the event of an award for joint submissions, each of the companies involved will receive a certificate and a medal.

Presentation

The Gold and Silver Medals and the certificates will be presented at a publicity-attracting ceremony during Anuga FoodTec 2027. The organizer will specify the appropriate framework for the presentation of awards in the run-up to the event.

Publication

DLG will publish the award winners and their award-winning innovations on the "International FoodTec Award" website and in the "Award Winners Magazine" (in German/English).

- All the award-winning innovations will be published with a picture, product information and the Commission's text explaining reasons for the award.
- If video or picture material is to be shown within the framework of the Medal presentation, DLG reserves the right to edit the material made available.
- Furthermore, the national and international trade and business press will be notified of the presentation of the awards and of the award-winning companies and innovations in advance of Anuga FoodTec 2027 (approx. six weeks before).

7. Advertising with award-winning products

Advertising is voluntary and admissible:

- with the certificate
- with the Medal (in color or black-and-white)
- with text references to the award (e.g. in press releases, advertisements, websites)
- and with further campaign logos or communications materials defined by DLG in advance and released for advertising.

Admissible types of use

- Certificates and medals may be reproduced in any size, though the ratio of width to height must remain the same. Modification of the medals (e.g. text, colours) is not allowed.
- The production of duplicates is not admissible.
- The award logos and other design materials defined by DLG can be called up from DLG in the form of a four-colour or b/w illustration as a data file.

Advertising regulations regarding clarity

Advertising with the award logos and text references to the winning of an "International FoodTec Award" are only admissible in close connection with the naming of the award-winning product(s). It must be exactly visible at which trade fair and on the basis of what innovative properties the product won the award. The year of the award must be stated.

Exclusivity

Advertising may only cover the properties of the award-winning product presented for judging. Use of the award in corporate or image advertising separately from the product is not admissible.

Data of originator

The name of the award winner must be visible.

Duration of advertising

The duration of advertising that states the year of award and the award-winning product is left to the manufacturer.

Prohibition of misleading statements

Care must be taken in advertising measures to avoid anything which can give rise to misleading impressions. All data supplied must comply with the law governing competition. The participant or their legal successor bears sole responsibility for this.

8. Revocation of the medals

DLG reserves the right to revoke Gold Medals or Silver Medals awarded if the award winner has made untrue statements regarding the award-winning innovations or grossly violates the rules on advertising (see Section 7).

9. Claims for damages

Claims for damages are ruled out unless they are based on deliberate or grossly negligent action. This does not apply in cases of loss of life, physical injury and harm to health or so-called cardinal duties based on minor negligence.

10. Concluding provision

On submission of products to the innovations database, the Award and Judging Rules together with their annexes become legally binding for the participant.