



Erlangen, November 26, 2021

Announcement: SAOT Innovation Award 2022

Dear SAOT Doctoral Candidates,

Herewith we would like to announce the “SAOT Innovation Award 2022” which is a competition amongst all Doctoral Researchers.

Please feel encouraged to submit short proposals on feasibility studies regarding any “innovative blue sky research idea” you might have in the field of Optical Technologies. Members of the Executive Committee of SAOT will review all submitted proposals. The most innovative proposal will be awarded the “2022 SAOT Innovation Award”. The “Innovation Award” is endowed with 2.000 € and provides additional financial support of 20.000 € for the activities described in the project proposal.

Please submit your proposal to johannes.knorr@fau.de

Deadline for receipt of your proposal is **April 30, 2022**.

The following information is required in the proposal:

- Who are the applicants (must be Doctoral Researchers of SAOT)?
- Short summary of the proposal describing the aim of the proposed feasibility study (max 300 words) and how it differs from what you are working on in your PhD project (max 200 words).
- State of the art and your own expertise in the field of the proposed research (max 600 words; expertise in the proposed research is not required to pass the review process successfully).
- Work plan including a rough description how the proposed feasibility study should be carried out (max 600 words).
- Cost plan (rough estimate) what the 20.000 € should be used for – in principle the money is free for any use within the scope of the proposal and its actual use can be changed during the project realization.
- Strategy, how to proceed with the proposed project after the successful feasibility study (just a very short statement).
- Certification, that the contents of the proposed feasibility study are not part of another proposal submitted to a funding agency and that the equipment to be bought by the 20.000 € are not yet available in the research environment of the applicant/s and have not yet been applied for in another proposal submitted to a funding agency.

Your proposal will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- Scientific challenge: Is your idea challenging from a scientific point of view?
- Broad effect: Would other persons not familiar with your research find your idea interesting and could your idea impact disciplines different from yours?
- Inspiration: Is it a smart and inspiring idea that shows out-of-the-box thinking? Is the project clearly distinct from the PhD topic?

- Impact: In case of success, what is the benefit or the impact to society or industry?
- Workplan: Does the workplan seem to be logic and constructive?

For each of the above listed criteria your proposal can earn max 3 points. "Inspiration" will be weighted double, the other criteria only single. The proposal that attracts the highest overall score will be selected.

We are looking forward to receiving some of such "blue sky research ideas" by our innovative Doctoral Researchers.

Here you can find the last years' innovation award laureates:

<https://www.saot.fau.de/awards/saot-awards/innovation-award/>

The SAOT Innovation Award will be presented on July 8, 2022 at the "SAOT Young Researcher Award 2022" ceremony.

With best regards

Johannes Knorr for the SAOT Board of Directors