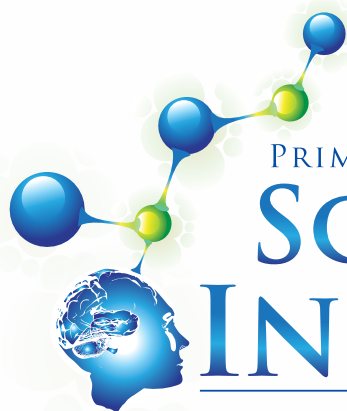




MINISTRY OF  
**SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**



PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR  
**SCIENTIFIC  
INGENUITY**

UNLEASH YOUR GREAT IDEAS

Think. Create. Solve.

**REGULATIONS BOOKLET**

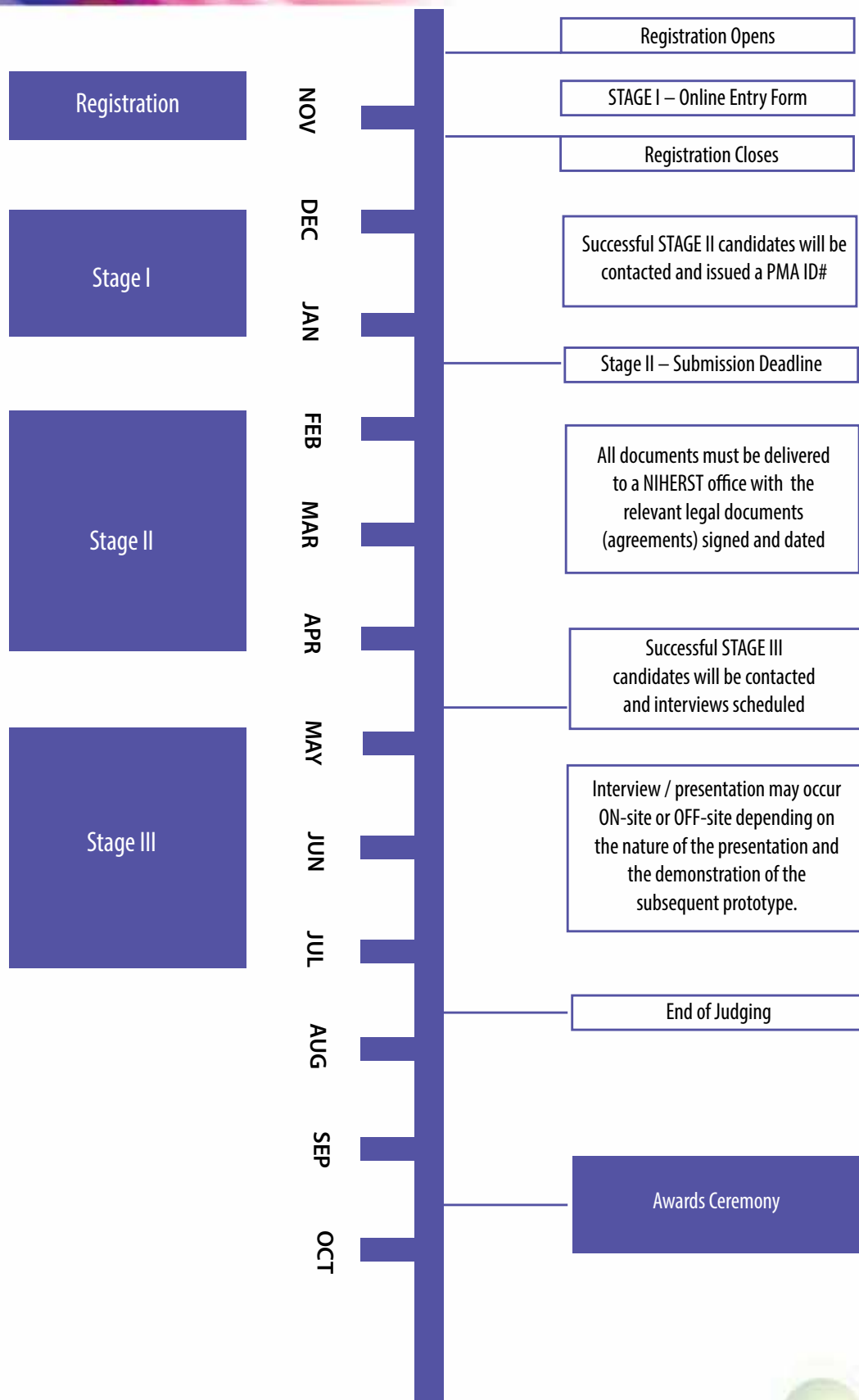
## **CONTACT INFO**

Innovation Department  
National Institute of Higher Education,  
Research, Science and Technology  
# 77 Eastern Main Road,  
St. Augustine, Trinidad  
Office: + I 868 663-9320 ext:2504  
Fax: + I 868 645-7805  
Email: [pmawards@niherst.gov.tt](mailto:pmawards@niherst.gov.tt)

**ENTER NOW**



# Tmetable/Schedule



2014

2015

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Prime Minister's Awards for Scientific Ingenuity seek to recognise and reward Trinidad and Tobago's innovators, inventors and problem-solvers for their ingenuity, particularly through the application of scientific knowledge and technological solutions. Boosting the creative and innovative capacity of more of our citizens is critical to the country's future competitiveness and is the basis of advancement of a core development goal – fostering a strong national culture of science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. In 2013, **TT\$1,250,000** in prize money was distributed to the 60 finalists who took up the challenge to **THINK, CREATE** and **SOLVE**. The 2015 Award Scheme will see an increase in prize money to **TT\$1,500,000**.

The Prime Minister's Awards are open to any individual who believes he/she has a viable, creative solution to an everyday problem, an invention or innovation. The Awards are presented on the outcomes of TWO competitions:

- **Scientific Innovation & Invention Competition** where concepts and **prototypes** are evaluated.
- **Scientific Creative Solutions Competition** where **only concepts** are evaluated.

Each competition has two age group categories: Junior (13-17 years) and Senior (18 and over). Please note that Junior entrants are required to have a Mentor (an adult over 18 years) to sign off on all documents regarding to this Awards scheme. Online registration is available at [niherst.gov.tt/pma](http://niherst.gov.tt/pma). Persons can enter any number of times in either competition, or both.

Evaluation of entries will occur in three (3) stages:

- **Stage I – [Preliminary Evaluation]**  
Screening is based on details in the registration form.
- **Stage II – [Written Report]**  
Successful candidates from Stage I are evaluated on their written report. All signed agreements and documents must be submitted to NIHERST in this stage.
- **Stage III – [Presentation]**  
Successful candidates from Stage II are evaluated on the oral presentation of their ideas and their prototypes if applicable.

Officers of NIHERST are not members of the final Judging Panel.



# INTRODUCTION

The Prime Minister's Awards for Scientific Ingenuity (formerly the Prime Minister's Awards for Innovation and Invention, introduced in 2000) is conceptualised as a biennial competition, the aim of which is to help foster a national culture of science and technology innovation and entrepreneurship. The Awards were developed to spur local innovation and invention across ALL sectors and play a key role in the country's push to developing a highly diversified, knowledge-based economy.

## Objectives

The goal of the Awards is to contribute to Trinidad and Tobago's global economic competitiveness as well as provide socio-economic transformation through local innovation and invention. These goals are achieved in the following ways:

- Encouraging and rewarding local innovators and inventors
- Developing a wider culture of innovation and invention
- Promoting the commercialisation of local innovation, products and processes
- Fostering the development of critical and analytical thinking skills in more of our population

## COMPETITIONS

The Prime Minister's Awards for Scientific Ingenuity comprise two competitions. Each competition has both a Junior (13-17 years) and a Senior (18 and over) age categories.

### SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION AND INVENTION COMPETITION

This competition is for persons who have reached the prototype phase of their innovation or invention. These prototypes can either be:

- Tangible – can be held
- Intangible – cannot be held such as: processes, formulae, “apps”, etc.

Prospective entrants should note that the functioning of their prototype is a crucial part of the judging criteria in this competition.

### SCIENTIFIC CREATIVE SOLUTIONS COMPETITION

This competition requires **NO** prototype and is for persons who have not yet reached or cannot reach the prototype phase for any number of reasons such as lack of funds, lack of facilities or even lack of practical knowledge.

## ELIGIBILITY

1. An individual entrant must be a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, or a resident who has been living in Trinidad and Tobago for over three (3) years prior to the deadline of submission of the Registration Form.
2. Teams of up to four (4) persons can enter the competition. At least half of the team members must be Trinidad and Tobago citizens.
3. Entrants must be at least 13 years of age. The age of an individual is determined as of December 31st, 2014. Entrants in the Junior category must work under the guidance of a teacher, parent or adult mentor/supervisor. A team will be classified according to the age of the eldest member on December 31st, 2014.
4. Previous entries to this award scheme or other competitions will not be eligible unless significant changes/improvements have been made to the function and application of the invention or innovation, as will be determined by the judges. Entrants will be required to declare in their forms whether the entry was previously submitted, and the year in which this was done.
5. Members of the organising committee, judges and their family members are not eligible to enter this competition.
6. Entrants must sign the relevant agreement forms to be considered for judging.

# SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

## STAGE I

Online registration is available at <http://www.niherst.gov.tt>. Please read all instructions carefully and fill out the form accordingly. Email will be the PRIMARY source of communication between the Secretariat and entrants. All correspondences regarding the competitions will originate from [pmawards@niherst.gov.tt](mailto:pmawards@niherst.gov.tt); entrants are advised to regularly check their email, the NIHERST website and Facebook page to keep updated on all matters.

Any individual who does **not** have access to the Internet/computers may visit a NIHERST officer, to gain access to a computer and assistance with the Registration Process.

## STAGE II

Stage II candidates will be instructed to complete and submit the following documents to a NIHERST office before the stipulated deadline date:

1. Stage II Form
2. Declaration of Entrant [Signed and Dated by all Parties]
3. Agreement [Signed and Dated by all Parties]
4. Joint Ownership [Signed and Dated by all Parties] • if Joint (Team) Entry •

## NIHERST OFFICES

NIHERST  
Secretariat for PM Awards for Scientific Ingenuity  
77 Eastern Main Road  
ST. AUGUSTINE

NIHERST  
No. 8 Serpentine Road  
ST. CLAIR

NIHERST/NGC Science Centre  
Churchill Roosevelt Highway  
D'ABADIE

**Entries must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to “PMA for SI Secretariat” and clearly labelled “CONFIDENTIAL” to ensure that they are viewed only by approved NIHERST personnel.**



# RULES

Submissions must be the original creation of the entrant; and by submission all entrants represent and warrant that the submissions are of their original creation and that they own all rights to the materials, or have acquired permission from all other parties whose work may appear in the submitted materials.

1. Entries may be disqualified by the judges if they are found to violate any of the above conditions.
2. Late, illegible or incomplete entries will not be eligible for consideration.
3. An individual or a team can submit more than one entry but in relation to different inventions or innovations and on separate entry forms.
4. Entries in the fields of Culinary Arts and Creative Arts will not be considered as scientific or technological inventions/innovations unless there is a clear scientific or technological component.
5. ALL entrants MUST agree to, sign and submit ALL documents in EACH stage of the competition.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Entries that infringe public health, safety and morality; are illegal, dangerous or unsafe; or involve illegal substances will immediately be **REJECTED** by the Secretariat and/or judges.

Entries that have been copied in whole or in part from any other work and violate or infringe any copyright, trademark or other proprietary right of any person or entity (including any rights of privacy or publicity) will also be **REJECTED** by the Secretariat and/or judges.

## DISCLAIMER

In no event shall NIHERST or any of its employees, or representatives or any member of the organising committee or the judges be liable to any entrant for any direct or consequential damages whatsoever arising out of or in connection with this award scheme.

**NIHERST IS NOT A PART OF THE FINAL JUDGING OF THIS COMPETITION AND IS IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESULTS THAT ARE DETERMINED BY THE JUDGING PANEL.**

**THE RESULTS OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO REVIEW OR APPEAL.**

# JUDGING CRITERIA

## Scientific Creative Solutions Competition

## Scientific Innovation and Invention Competition

### Stage I

|                     |
|---------------------|
| Originality [40%]   |
| Functionality [40%] |
| Ingenuity [15%]     |
| Presentation [5%]   |

### Stage II

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Originality    | 30% |
| Functionality  | 30% |
| Sustainability | 10% |
| Methodology    | 10% |
| Presentation   | 5%  |
| Ingenuity      | 15% |

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Originality    | 25% |
| Functionality  | 25% |
| Sustainability | 10% |
| Methodology    | 10% |
| Presentation   | 5%  |
| Creativity     | 10% |
| Usefulness     | 15% |

### Stage III

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Originality    | 20% |
| Functionality  | 20% |
| Ingenuity      | 7%  |
| Sustainability | 8%  |
| Methodology    | 15% |
| Creativity     | 10% |
| Usefulness     | 15% |
| Presentation   | 5%  |

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Originality          | 15% |
| Functionality        | 15% |
| Ingenuity            | 10% |
| Sustainability       | 10% |
| Methodology          | 10% |
| Creativity           | 5%  |
| Usefulness           | 10% |
| Presentation         | 5%  |
| Simplicity           | 10% |
| Commercial Potential | 10% |

### FINAL SCORE

**70% STAGE II**

**+**

**30% STAGE III**

**30% STAGE II**

**+**

**70% STAGE III**

An independent panel of distinguished educators and professionals will be appointed to evaluate the entries. Please note that NIHERST will not be part of the FINAL judging panel.

## CRITERIA DEFINITIONS

**Creativity (of the idea and how it is developed):** Is defined by the level of imagination which the invention/innovation displays.

**Functionality:** Is defined by the capacity of the invention/innovation to serve the proposed purpose well.

**Ingenuity:** Is defined by the skill utilised in devising or contriving the invention/innovation.

**Methodology:** Is defined as the system of methods and principles employed in the development of the invention/innovation.

**Originality (of the idea):** Is defined by the invention/innovation being new in character, design or application/use (i.e must demonstrate appreciable novelty).

**Presentation:** Is defined by the written, oral and visual presentation of the forms, reports, supporting documents, animations, simulations or drawings, and prototype that have been submitted by the entrant.

**Simplicity:** Is defined by the uncomplicated mechanisms used; the ease with which materials can be acquired; and the steps involved in the manufacturing or process of development.

**Sustainability:** Is defined by the capacity for the invention/innovation to be maintained for a considerable period of time (including and not limited to long-term market/economic potential as well as ecological sustenance, i.e. not exhausting natural resources or causing ecological damage).

**Usefulness:** Is defined by the benefits to society (social, socio-cultural or economic).

**Commercial Potential:** Is defined by the prospect of sales and profit on a large enough scale to make the risk generated from the invention/innovation worth undertaking. It involves undertaking market research to identify the markets, the market need and the market competition.

## PRIZES

Winners will be advised of prizes and the prize-distribution dates at the end of the two competitions. The Scientific Innovation and Invention Competition carries a total of TT\$1,200,000 in prizes to be distributed among winners in the Junior and Senior age groups as follows:

- 1st place winner
- 2nd place winner
- 3rd place winner
- Special Prizes

Additional prizes may also be awarded at the discretion of the organisers. A similar system for the Scientific Creative Solutions Competition, which carries a total of TT\$300,000 in prizes, will also be utilised.

*NIHERST and the organising committee reserve the right to refuse awarding prizes where the required standards are not met, and will not be liable to any entrant for the loss of opportunity, or under any other grounds.*

## 2013 PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC INGENUITY



*Sixty-five (65) persons were recognised for their inventiveness at the 2013 awards ceremony.*



## FINAL NOTE TO ENTRANT

- NIHERST, the organising committee and the judges reserve the right to make reasonable enquiries to satisfy themselves that the rules of the competitions are adhered to and that representations and claims made by entrants are accurate.
- Entrants wishing to apply for a patent or utility patent for their inventions should direct all their enquiries to the Intellectual Property Office.
- If a creation is considered to have good commercial prospects, and is without patent protection, NIHERST may provide administrative and technical support toward obtaining this protection. This will require the entrant entering into a signed agreement with NIHERST.
- To protect intellectual property, a non-disclosure agreement is signed by all personnel involved in the administration of the competition and the judging or evaluation process.

### MENTOR GUIDELINES

- Read the regulations booklet thoroughly. Make a note of all the important deadlines. Encourage teams/individuals to do the same.
- Work with the entrant(s) to develop ideas, ensuring that projects are feasible in terms of time, resources and finances.
- For entries into the Scientific Innovation and Invention Competition, ensure that entrant(s) keep(s) a log; to document the development of their entry/entries.
- Remind entrant(s) of the need for photographic and written records as well as the requirements of data to support claims being made.
- Ensure that team effort is exercised in this project. All members must participate and no member should be excluded.
- Guide entrant(s) to complete all tasks on time and also to submit documents on time.
- Ensure that the registration and entry forms are accurate and that all relevant agreements are signed.
- Encourage entrant(s) to enjoy this experience, and in so doing, encourage non-participants to become interested also!
- Keep track of ideas for improvement of the two competitions. We are always open for new suggestions on ways in which they can be improved.



## Appendix

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY [IP] & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS [IPR] WHAT IS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY?

“Intellectual property (or “IP” as it is often referred to) is the output of intellectual activity. IP is a form of property and, as with any other form of property, it can be bought, sold or licensed. Under the terms of the convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), intellectual property was defined as:-

*“literary, artistic and scientific works, performances of performing artists, broadcasts, inventions in all fields of human endeavour, scientific discoveries, industrial designs, trademarks, service marks, commercial names and designations and all other rights resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary and artistic fields.”*

“If intellectual property is the output of intellectual activity then “intellectual property rights” (often referred to as “IPRs”) are the rights granted under the law to the owner of the intellectual property. The terms, intellectual property and intellectual property rights, are often used interchangeably. However, strictly speaking the term “intellectual property” defines the actual results of the intellectual endeavour, whilst the term “intellectual property rights” relates to the concept of legal protection and ownership which the law grants to the legal owner of the intellectual property.” There are six (6) main types of intellectual property rights, namely:

- I. patents
- II. confidential information and know-how/trade secrets
- III. copyright
- IV. trademarks
- V. design rights
- VI. plant variety rights.

Certain types of IPRs can arise almost automatically; however other forms only arise through a formal registration process. In addition, more than one form of IPR can apply to one creation. For example, a vacuum cleaner could be protected by different forms of IPRs, such as:

- a) The novel aspects of the cleaner could be protected by patents.
- b) The actual “look” of the cleaner could be protected by design rights.
- c) The knowledge that the company producing the cleaner has of the product and how it is produced could be protected by know-how.
- d) The trade name of the cleaner could be protected by trademarks.
- e) The user manual relating to it could be protected by copyright.

Therefore, one single product could be protected by nearly all the main forms of intellectual property rights. (Information extracted from the Lord Society of Scotland’s website [www.lawscot.org.uk/intprop](http://www.lawscot.org.uk/intprop)). The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has a service that is not offered by our local Intellectual Property Office called the Provisional Application.

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY [IP] & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS [IPR] WHAT IS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY?

## ABOUT THE PROVISIONAL APPLICATION

“The provisional application only establishes the filing date and automatically becomes abandoned after one year. You may file a provisional application when you are not ready to enter your application into the regular examination process. A provisional application establishes a filing date at a lower cost for a first patent application filing in the United States and allows the term “Patent Pending” to be applied to the invention. Claims are not required in a provisional application. The USPTO does not examine a provisional application and such an application cannot become a patent. You must submit the non-provisional application within one year of submitting your provisional application, in order to possibly receive the benefit of the provisional application’s filing date. You do not have to file a provisional application before filing a non-provisional application.”

(Information extracted from the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
website [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov))

## WHAT IS COPYRIGHT?

“Copyright is a legal term used to describe rights given to creators for their works. Copyright is not a right to use the work. Rather it is a right to exclude others from the use of work.” (IPO)  
For more information, please check the US Library of Congress: <http://www.copyright.gov/>

**ALL COPIES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS BEING SUBMITTED  
FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE INNOVATORS AND  
INVENTORS COMPETITION MUST BEAR THE COPYRIGHT  
SYMBOL AND YEAR ON EACH PAGE SUBMITTED.**

For further information on matters related to Intellectual Property please contact:  
The Intellectual Property Office  
3rd Floor, Capital Plaza,  
11-13 Fredrick Street,  
Port of Spain,  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Website: [www.ipo.gov.tt](http://www.ipo.gov.tt)

Email: [info@ipo.gov.tt](mailto:info@ipo.gov.tt)

Telephone: 625-9972, 625-1907, 627-0706

Fax: 624-1221

# AGREEMENT

I/we have read the rules contained in the regulations booklet of the awards scheme and I/We agree to abide by these rules.

I/we understand that an entry may be disqualified if there has been any false representation supplied by the entrant/s.

I/we understand that the organising committee is responsible for the selection of the judges, but is NOT answerable for their decision.

Submission of this signed form is a binding legal agreement that the entrant has accepted the judging process and that the **“JUDGES’ DECISION IS FINAL AND CONFIDENTIAL AND CANNOT BE CALLED INTO QUESTION.”**

## Signature of Entrant(s)

1. .... Date .....

2. .... Date .....

3. .... Date .....

4. .... Date .....

Name of Witness .....

Signature of Witness ..... Date .....

## •Junior Entrants Only •

## Signature of Parent/Guardian • Junior Entrants Only •

1. .... Date .....

2. .... Date .....

3. .... Date .....

4. .... Date .....

Name of Mentor .....

Signature of Mentor ..... Date .....

**ALL SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED OR ENTRY IS DISQUALIFIED**

## DECLARATION OF ENTRY

I/we, having submitted an entry for the Prime Minister's Awards for Scientific Ingenuity 2015 (the Awards), hereby represent and warrant:

- I. that I am/we are the sole creator(s) of the innovation / invention / creative solution submitted by me/us to the organisers of the Awards as my/our entry for the Awards;
- II. that to the best of my/our knowledge, actual and/or constructive, I/we have not committed any infringement of the intellectual property rights or any other rights of any third party or any applicable law in the process of my/our innovation / invention /creative solution; and
- III. that I/we have scrupulously adhered to the rules in the competition in the creation and submission of my innovation / invention/ creative solution for an Award.

I/we hereby acknowledge and agree that I/we will defend, indemnify and hold harmless NIHERST, the organisers and judges of the Awards and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives from all claims, actions, losses, liability, damages, costs and expenses arising from my/our breach of any infringement of any intellectual property rights or any other rights of any third party or in breach of the rules of the Awards or any applicable law in the creation and submission of my/our innovation/invention/creative solution for an Award.

I/we agree also to promptly notify NIHERST, the organisers and judges of the Awards of any indemnifiable claim and to cooperate fully with NIHERST, the organisers and judges of the Awards in defending or settling such claim.

# DECLARATION OF ENTRY (continued)

## Signature of Entrant(s)

1. .... Date .....

2. .... Date .....

3. .... Date .....

4. .... Date .....

Name of Witness .....

Signature of Witness ..... Date .....

---

## • Junior Entrants Only •

### Signature of Parent/Guardian • Junior Entrants Only •

1. .... Date .....

2. .... Date .....

3. .... Date .....

4. .... Date .....

Name of Mentor .....

Signature of Mentor ..... Date .....

**ALL SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED OR ENTRY IS DISQUALIFIED**



# AGREEMENT FOR JOINT OWNERSHIP IN RESEARCH/INVENTION

We, the undersigned, in pursuance of our intended entry, as joint innovators/inventors, in the Prime Minister's Awards for Scientific Ingenuity 2013, hereby individually and jointly agree as follows:

- I. That we shall jointly research, design, develop and otherwise collaborate in the research/invention of ..... for entry in the Competition.
- II. That we shall be joint owners of the innovation/invention/creative solution for all purposes.
- III. That we shall record all research and technical activities in our inventor's log, which will be classified and kept confidential.
- IV. That at the end of each work session, we shall all sign at the bottom of the page of the log entry and that either principal or mentor shall witness our signatures. All signatures shall be dated.
- V. Any decision with respect to the seeking of intellectual property rights/patenting and commercialisation of our innovation/invention/creative solution will be decided by consent of all.
- VI. That we shall seek legal advice before any decision regarding the seeking of intellectual property rights/patenting and commercialisation of our innovation/invention/creative solution is implemented.

We acknowledge that the disclosure to the public of information regarding our innovation/invention/creative solution, and in particular, the inventive processes could be fatal to the seeking of Intellectual Property rights of our innovation/invention/creative solution and consequently we agree to keep this information confidential.

With respect to ownership of the entry, please refer to the Official Regulations

# AGREEMENT FOR JOINT OWNERSHIP IN RESEARCH/INVENTION (continued)

**Entrant's Name**

**Percentage of Ownership**

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

**Signature of Entrant(s)**

1. .... Date .....
2. .... Date .....
3. .... Date .....
4. .... Date .....

Name of Witness .....

Signature of Witness ..... Date .....

•Junior Entrants Only •

**Signature of Parent/Guardian • Junior Entrants Only •**

1. .... Date .....
2. .... Date .....
3. .... Date .....
4. .... Date .....

Name of Mentor .....

Signature of Mentor ..... Date .....

**ALL SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED OR ENTRY IS DISQUALIFIED**

## NOTES



# NOTES





