

High-flying idea?



Apply for the Displaying Futures Award 2016

With the Displaying Futures Award 2016, Merck recognizes entrepreneurial spirit in the field of Performance Materials. The 2016 award focuses on new liquid crystal applications.

Curious to participate?

Do you have a great idea for a new liquid crystal application? Something the world has not yet seen? Are you dreaming of starting up your own company? If so, we want to hear from you!

Merck will select the best three teams out of applicants from all over the world. Each team will receive up to 50,000 USD to further explore its idea. Over the course of 12 months, each team will be supported according to its individual needs, for example in business plan development or prototype building.

What can you expect?

- Extensive mentorship from experts at Merck.
- Up to 50,000 USD in cash to further explore your idea.
- Access to proprietary materials and the company's global network.
- A special business curriculum in selected areas to support your team at the beginning, the middle and the end of the 12-month period.

What do we expect from you?

We are committed to fully supporting the teams and therefore do not ask for equity or IP rights if a company is formed. However, our company would like to be offered a board seat and the opportunity to invest. We require the winning teams to spend their money according to the submitted proposal. All contracts are simple, transparent and available for all to see.

Who can participate?

Anyone can participate, however, we give preference to PhD candidates/postdocs and senior research scientists.

How do you apply?

Visit our website at www.merckgroup.com/df-award

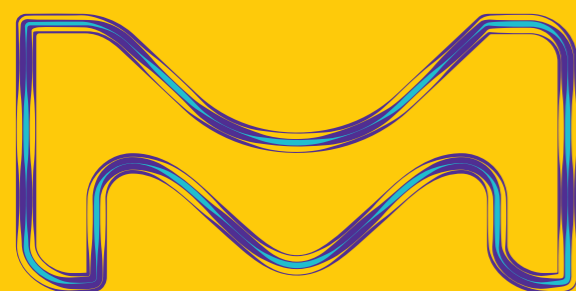
- Provide us with an executive summary of your idea, its technical background as well as the related IP situation.
- Elaborate the business potential of your idea and introduce your team.
- Include a short- and long-term milestone plan and briefly describe the expected use of money.
- Submit your application in English.

What happens when?

The application period opens on July 4 and closes on August 28, 2016. A jury of experts from Merck will select up to ten teams and ideas on the basis of innovativeness, business potential and social impact. The jury will be headed by Executive Vice President Inese Lowenstein, Head of the Display Materials business unit within the Performance Materials business sector of Merck.

We will invite the selected teams to pitch their ideas at the Merck Innovation Center in Darmstadt, Germany. The pitch day for all teams is planned for September/October 2016. Travel costs will be reimbursed for two members of each team (up to 3,000 USD per team). The jury will select up to three winners for the Displaying Futures Award 2016 from these pitches.

In addition, all participating teams will be invited to take part in the kick-off boot camp for the Displaying Futures Award. The latter is scheduled to take place just before the pitch day in Darmstadt, Germany. Beyond the aforementioned support, the three winning teams will be invited in May 2017 for a midway pitch and a second boot camp. At the end of the 12 months, a final event will take place for all selected teams, including a pitch in front of potential investors.



Take off!

Submit your application for the Displaying Futures Award 2016 from July 4 to August 28, 2016.

Find out more at:
www.merckgroup.com/df-award

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