

Proposal for Award for Attendance at BINDT Annual Conferences by a Foreign Delegate

Background

The aim of this award is to encourage the attendance at the BINDT annual conferences by contributors from foreign nations. The target group for this award are individuals from the profession of NDT and Condition Monitoring (CM) who wish to attend the conferences but are unable to do so due to financial constraints. Applicants can range from individuals at an early career stage or be experienced contributors who are unable to attend because of restricted finance. The title of the award will be 'The Conference Attendance Award'.

Key principles

- The award is expected to be available annually for attendance at the NDT and CM conferences to present a paper of interest to the relevant community.
- The award will consist of a contribution towards travel, subsistence and conference fees. The amount will be typically up to £1000 and a free registration at the conference but will depend on particular circumstances.
- The recipient will be asked to provide feedback to the Institute indicating benefits or problems to ensure that future awards meet their objectives.
- It is anticipated that one award will be available annually for each conference.

Financial arrangements

- The Institute has allocated a fund from which these awards will be made.
- If the costs exceed the limit of the award (expected to be a maximum of £500) the recipient must obtain the remaining funds from other bodies.
- The magnitude of the financial part of the award will not be publicised. The recipient's name and employer will be publicised at the conferences because they are both relevant to the award.
- The award will be paid after the conference on the presentation of suitable receipts directly to the Institute CEO.
- If no suitable applicant is identified the award will be held over for subsequent years.

Judging panels

The judging panels will consist of five members (with expertise in NDT and CM respectively) for each conference who are appointed by the Council of the Institute. Normally they will comprise the chairpersons (or other representatives) of the main committees (NDT and CM Technical Committees, Industry, Executive Committee, MQ&E and CMC).

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants should be permanent residents of a foreign nation.
- Recipients must have had a paper accepted for presentation at the relevant conference that they wish to attend, at which point they will be asked to submit an application form.
- Recipients must have demonstrated that conference attendance will make a strong contribution to their professional activities and be supported by referees who would normally be their managers or senior colleagues.
- Recipients must supply a description of the financial limitations that the award is intended to overcome.

Judging criteria

This award is intended to enhance the conference by allowing contributions from someone who would not otherwise be able to attend. The selection process must consider the following aspects for each applicant.

Technical content of the paper – the criterion here is the value to the other conference delegates in having the author present their work. The Award will be made mainly on the basis of the quality of the written paper, rather

than on the quality of the oral presentation. This will allow the judging process to be completed before the conference. However, a check will be made by members of the NDT and CM Technical Committees to ensure that the quality of the oral presentation of the proposed winner is acceptable.

Professional development – the criterion for this aspect of the award is the extent to which attendance will contribute to the professional development of the applicant in the field of NDT and CM.

Limited finances – the key criterion will be the description of the limitation on funds available balanced against the benefits of attendance.

The judging panel may take other factors into account in reaching their decision.

Award schedule

- Include opportunity of award and sponsoring organisation on the Call for Papers adverts. Suitable wording could be:
- 'The Institute is able to offer an award, to support speakers from outside the UK with the cost of attendance. The award is aimed at individuals who will make a significant contribution to the conference but may be restrained from attending due to limited finance. To apply for this award please request an application form when submitting your abstract to the Institute and, provided the paper is accepted for presentation, ensure the completed form is returned by 21 July 2017 for NDT conference and 14 April 2017 for CM conference with the necessary supporting documents. The successful applicant will be notified by 4 August for NDT conference and 28 April for CM conference.'
- Include opportunity of award on acceptance notification for papers from foreign nations. Applicants must request an application form. The deadline for receipt of completed forms for an award will be 21 July for NDT conference and 14 April for CM conference. This provides time to judge any applications received before travel arrangements need to be made.
- Judging panel to review any applications and issue offer letter to the successful candidate.
- Unsuccessful applicants to be informed. Deadline 4 August for NDT Conference and 28 April for CM Conference.
- Recipient to claim award via submission of receipts for legitimate expenses, with feedback report.
- Deadline 29 September for NDT conference and 28 July for CM conference.
- Technical Committees to assess the feedback report and award process to verify it meets the objectives.

Please send all information to:

karen.cambridge@bindt.org

The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing
Midsummer House, Riverside Way
Bedford Road, Northampton
NN1 5NX

Elements to be included in the written application:

- Applicant's details and contact details
- Date
- Affiliated organisation
- Title of paper accepted for presentation
- Referees (2 preferred)
- Justification for award (max 250 words)
- Comment by Manager/Supervisor.