



Fifth edition of the award

MOST PROMISING RESEARCHER IN ROBOTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Fondazione Mondo Digitale ETS, on the occasion of RomeCup 2027 (romecup.org), is promoting, in collaboration with the Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome, the fifth edition of the 'Most Promising Researcher in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence' award, to be presented to young researchers and PhD students engaged in research projects in the fields of robotics and/or artificial intelligence. The award is based on a collaboration with prestigious universities and research centres.

OBJECTIVE

The award aims to recognise and support the work of talented young people engaged in research in cutting-edge technological fields that are crucial to our country's development, such as robotics and artificial intelligence.

The award is presented to the recipient in recognition of their creativity, vision, dedication, perseverance and ability to contribute, through their research, to the development and progress of humanity.

WHO CAN TAKE PART

Only individuals - PhD students in all academic disciplines and/or PhD graduates, and/or researchers up to the age of 34 - who are carrying out research in Italy at centres, organisations, institutes, universities or other public and private institutions are eligible to apply for the award.

HOW TO TAKE PART

To apply, you must complete the registration form available at the following link by midnight on 28 February 2027: <https://www.romecup.org/research-award/e> and attach

- an academic CV in PDF format (in accordance with the attached template)
- a letter of reference in PDF format
- an academic paper of which you are the author or co-author, the one most representative of your application (optional)
- a photograph (max 2 MB)

REGISTRATION FORM

- Personal and contact details
- Description of the research work you are currently undertaking (max. 5.000 characters)

The description asks you to explore the following aspects in detail, point by point:

- (a) Relevance to the theme of the award
- (b) Innovativeness
- (c) Technology Readiness Level (TRL)
- (d) Scientific impact
- (e) Social impact
- (f) Economic impact
- (g) Outstanding challenges

Please also provide brief answers to the following questions:

- What is your personal contribution to the research project you are currently involved in? (max 2.000 characters)
- What motivated you to choose a career as a researcher? (max 500 characters)
- What motivated you to choose the field of research in which you are currently engaged? (max 500 characters)
- Could your work and study path be an inspiration to other young researchers? Why? (max 500 characters)

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The jury assesses the entries on the basis of the following criteria:

- Relevance of the research to the award's theme
- Innovative nature of the research
- Technology Readiness Level (TRL)
- Scientific, social and economic impact
- Publications, awards and patents listed on the CV
- Personal background

AWARD

The winner will receive a prize of 20.000 euros (the jury reserves the right to split the prize, not necessarily into equal parts)

DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted by midnight on 28 February 2027.

GIURIA

Chair: **Paolo Dario**, Professor Emeritus, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa