

# Cosmetics Innovation Awards Terms and Conditions

## Article 1 (Purpose)

The Cosmetics Innovation Awards (the “Awards”), held as a special program of the “Cosmetics International Forum 2027 in SAGA” on March 2–3, 2027, aim to recognize innovative research, technologies, and ideas that accelerate sustainability and scientific advancement in the cosmetics industry, thereby promoting the development of next-generation beauty science and innovation.

## Article 2 (Application and Amendment of These Terms)

1. These Terms and Conditions apply to all matters relating to the Awards between the Japan Cosmetic Center (the “JCC”) and applicants for the Awards.
2. JCC may amend these Terms and Conditions when required due to amendments to laws or regulations, operational necessity, or other reasonable grounds. Details of any amendment and its effective date will be announced by posting on the official website, by e-mail, or by another method deemed appropriate by JCC.

## Article 3 (Administration)

1. The Awards are organized and administered by JCC.
2. JCC may outsource all or part of the administration of the Awards to external service providers with which it has entered into the necessary agreements.

## Article 4 (Judging Committee)

1. JCC will establish a judging committee composed of academic experts, industry specialists, and other persons deemed appropriate by JCC.
2. The judging committee will review the entries and select the recipients of each award.

## Article 5 (Eligible Entries and Technology Fields)

1. Eligible entries are research, technologies, products, services, or projects with potential applications in the cosmetics field that contribute to improved sustainability or functionality. Details of eligible technology fields are set forth in the Application Guidelines.
2. Entries are eligible under any of the following publication/disclosure statuses. Applicants must declare the publication/disclosure status as of the date of application on the application form.

Entries based on results previously presented or made public.

Entries unpublished at the time of application but scheduled to be presented or made public at an academic conference or elsewhere by March 2, 2027.

Unpublished entries not scheduled to be presented or made public by March 2, 2027.

#### **Article 6 (Eligibility)**

1. Applicants must be corporations, sole proprietors, or researchers/teams affiliated with universities or research institutions, and the relevant product, service, technology, etc. must be expected to be deployed or utilized in markets in Japan and/or other countries.
2. For entries submitted by a team or as joint research, the representative must obtain all consents and approvals necessary for the application from all members and relevant affiliated organizations.
3. Applicants must not be members of, or have any relationship with, organized crime groups, corporate racketeers, terrorists, organized criminal groups, or any other antisocial forces prohibited or regulated under the laws of the applicable country or region.

#### **Article 7 (Award Categories)**

1. Academic Research Category: for researchers and teams affiliated with universities or research institutions.
2. Industrial Innovation Category: for companies and sole proprietors.

#### **Article 8 (Application Method and Submission Materials)**

1. Applicants must complete the required information in the designated application form and submit it by the deadline specified in the Application Guidelines.
2. Applicants must submit an Application Summary using the designated format, limited to a maximum of five A4 pages including the cover page, as one PDF file of no more than 10 MB.
3. Applicants may optionally submit supplementary materials for review, limited to a maximum of five A4 pages including the cover page, as one PDF file of no more than 10 MB. Such materials must be prepared for the purpose of supplementing the Application Summary.
4. The application form and submitted materials may be prepared in Japanese or English.
5. Applicants must review these Terms and Conditions and the Application Guidelines and indicate their agreement on the application form before submitting an application.

#### **Article 9 (Intellectual Property Rights and Patent Considerations)**

1. As a general rule, intellectual property rights in research results, technologies, and other materials included in an entry or submitted materials remain with the applicant or other legitimate rights holder, except for rights already owned by JCC prior to the application. Submission of an application does not transfer such rights to JCC.

2. Public disclosure of entry information during final selection, the awards ceremony, or similar occasions may result in the loss of novelty required for patent protection. Applicants must complete any necessary patent filings before applying or limit their entries to information that may be publicly disclosed without issue.
3. JCC will not be liable for any disadvantage relating to intellectual property rights incurred by an applicant as a result of disclosure of the entry, except where such disadvantage is caused by the willful misconduct or gross negligence of JCC.

#### **Article 10 (Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information)**

1. JCC may disclose entry information and submitted materials, to the extent necessary for the administration and judging of the Awards, to JCC officers and employees, contracted service providers, judges, and other persons involved in the review. JCC will require such persons to maintain appropriate confidentiality and information security.
2. Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, information may be disclosed to the extent necessary where required by law, where the applicant has already made the information public, or where the applicant has given consent.
3. In connection with final selection, award announcements, the awards ceremony, the official website, press releases, and other public relations activities, JCC may publish the applicant/team name, affiliated organization, research theme/technology name, a summary of the entry, award details, and photographs or video footage of such activities. If individual arrangements regarding the scope of disclosure are required, the applicant must notify JCC at the time of application.

#### **Article 11 (Overlap with Other Awards)**

1. An entry may not be identical to work that has already received another major external award. However, subsequent progress or further developments following such an award may be submitted.
2. If an applicant has received any related awards, the applicant must accurately disclose such award history in the application form or submitted materials.

#### **Article 12 (Rejection of Applications and Revocation of Awards)**

JCC may reject an application or revoke an award if it determines that the applicant or award recipient falls under any of the following:

The entry contains false statements or omits material facts.

The entry infringes or is likely to infringe the intellectual property rights or other rights of a third party.

The applicant has not obtained necessary approvals from affiliated organizations, co-researchers, or other relevant parties.

The applicant violates the conditions set forth in Article 11.

The applicant constitutes, or has a relationship with, antisocial forces.

JCC or the judging committee reasonably determines that the entry is otherwise contrary to the purpose of the Awards or inappropriate for recognition.

### **Article 13 (Representations, Warranties, and Dispute Resolution)**

1. Applicants represent and warrant that they have lawful authority over the entry and submitted materials and that such materials do not infringe any third party's intellectual property rights, portrait rights, privacy rights, or other rights.
2. If a dispute arises with a third party in connection with an entry, the applicant must resolve the dispute at its own responsibility and expense, except where the dispute is attributable to JCC.

### **Article 14 (Judging Results)**

1. Following the review, approximately 10 top applicants are expected to be invited to present their work, and approximately three top applicants will be selected for awards. The number of presenters, award details, and implementation method may be changed depending on the number and nature of applications, the review process, or other operational circumstances.
2. As a general rule, details of the review, evaluations, and reasons for selection will not be disclosed.
3. JCC will not respond to individual inquiries or objections regarding judging results.

### **Article 15 (Changes to the Event and Disclaimer)**

1. JCC may postpone, cancel, or modify the Awards due to natural disasters, infectious diseases, laws or governmental requests, or other unavoidable circumstances.
2. JCC will not be liable for any loss or damage incurred by an applicant as a result of the circumstances described in the preceding paragraph or participation in the Awards, except where such loss or damage is caused by the willful misconduct or gross negligence of JCC.

### **Article 16 (Handling of Personal Information)**

1. JCC will use personal information obtained through applications only to the extent necessary for the administration and judging of the Awards, communications with applicants, award announcements and public relations, and record retention.

2. If JCC outsources any of the operations described in the preceding paragraph to an external service provider, JCC may permit the provider to handle personal information to the extent necessary. In such cases, JCC will appropriately select and supervise the service provider.
3. Personal information will be appropriately managed in accordance with JCC's Privacy Policy and applicable laws and regulations.

**Article 17 (Governing Law and Jurisdiction)**

1. These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Japan.
2. The Saga District Court will have exclusive agreed jurisdiction as the court of first instance over any dispute arising out of or in connection with these Terms and Conditions or the Awards.

# Cosmetics Innovation Awards Application Guidelines

## 1. Overview

The Cosmetics Innovation Awards (the “Awards”) will be held as a special program of the “Cosmetics International Forum 2027 in SAGA,” taking place in Saga Prefecture on March 2–3, 2027. Open to researchers, universities and research institutions, companies, and sole proprietors in Japan and abroad, the Awards recognize innovative research, technologies, and ideas that accelerate sustainability and scientific advancement in the cosmetics industry.

The Awards aim to support initiatives that transcend the boundaries between academia and industry, advance next-generation beauty science, and drive innovation in the cosmetics industry.

## 2. Eligible Entries and Technology Fields

Eligible entries include research, technologies, products, services, or projects with potential applications in the cosmetics field that contribute to improved sustainability or functionality.

Eligible Technology Fields

- Ingredients, Raw Materials, Formulation & Biotechnology: sustainable cosmetic ingredients, emulsification technologies, skin microbiome research, etc.
- Evaluation, Testing & Digital Technologies: alternatives to animal testing, AI-based skin analysis, beauty IoT devices, etc.
- Packaging, Environment & Kansei: environmentally conscious packaging, kansei engineering, universal design, etc.
- Other: fields that contribute to improved sustainability or functionality in beauty and healthcare.

Publication / Disclosure Status

Entries are eligible under any of the following publication/disclosure statuses. Please select the status applicable as of the date of application on the application form.

- Entries based on papers, research results, technologies, or projects that have previously been presented or made public.
- Entries that are unpublished at the time of application but are scheduled to be presented or made public at an academic conference or elsewhere by March 2, 2027.
- Unpublished entries that are not scheduled to be presented or made public by March 2, 2027.

## 3. Eligibility

- Applicants must be corporations, sole proprietors, or researchers/teams affiliated with universities or research institutions (in Japan or abroad).
- The relevant product, service, technology, etc. must be expected to be deployed or utilized in markets in Japan and/or other countries.
- Applicants must have obtained all necessary approvals for the entry from their affiliated organizations, co-researchers, and other relevant parties.
- Applicants must not constitute, or have any relationship with, antisocial forces.

#### **4. Award Categories**

- Academic Research Category: for researchers and teams affiliated with universities or research institutions.
- Industrial Innovation Category: for companies and sole proprietors.

#### **5. Evaluation and Selection Process / Judging Criteria**

A judging committee composed of academic experts, industry specialists, and other professionals will evaluate the submitted application materials. During the review process, applicants may be asked to participate in an interview for further clarification or a presentation.

##### **Judging Criteria**

1. Validity and logical structure of scientific evidence
  2. Academic novelty and technological originality (including related publications and patent status)
  3. Marketability, commercial potential, and problem-solving capability
  4. Expected future contribution to the cosmetics industry
- \* The weighting of the judging criteria may be adjusted according to the characteristics of each award category.

##### **Selection Results and Presentations**

Following the review, approximately 10 top applicants are expected to be invited to present their work. From among them, approximately three top applicants will be selected for awards. The number of presenters, award details, and implementation method may be changed depending on the number and nature of applications or other circumstances.

## 6. Application Method, Submission Materials, and Language

Complete the required fields in the designated application form and submit the following materials by the deadline. Applicants must review and agree to the Application Guidelines and Terms and Conditions before applying.

### Application Summary (Required)

- Use the designated format and prepare a maximum of five A4 pages, including the cover page.
- The cover page must state the award category, research theme/technology name, applicant/team name, and affiliated organization.
- Include an overview of the research/technology and information addressing the four judging criteria.
- Submit as one PDF file of no more than 10 MB.

### Supplementary Materials for Review (Optional)

- Detailed data, charts, tables, photographs, references, publication information, patent information, etc. may be included.
- Submit a maximum of five A4 pages, including the cover page, as one PDF file of no more than 10 MB.
- These materials should supplement the Application Summary; the explanation should not rely solely on the supplementary materials.

Applications may be prepared in Japanese or English.

Application Form: <https://forms.gle/GGc3oLmL56VWK3bh6>

## 7. Important Notes for Applicants

**Confidentiality:** Entry information and submitted materials will be handled by JCC, its contracted service providers, and judges to the extent necessary for judging and administration. Please refer to the Terms and Conditions regarding information that may be disclosed in connection with award announcements, final selection, the awards ceremony, and public relations activities.

**Intellectual Property Rights:** Public disclosure during final selection, the awards ceremony, or similar occasions may result in the loss of novelty required for patent protection. If you plan to file a patent application, please complete the filing before applying or limit your entry to information that may be publicly disclosed without issue.

Overlap with Other Awards: Entries identical to work that has already received another major external award are not eligible. Subsequent progress or further developments following such an award may be submitted.

## **8. Schedule (Tentative)**

- Call for Entries Announced: September 14, 2026
- Application Period: October 1–December 31, 2026
- Review Period: January 2027 (document review and, if necessary, interviews)
- Results Announcement / Awards Ceremony: March 3, 2027 (tentative), during the “Cosmetics International Forum 2027 in SAGA”

## **9. Handling of Personal Information**

Personal information obtained through applications will be used only to the extent necessary for the administration and judging of the Awards, communications with applicants, award announcements and public relations, and record retention.

If administrative operations are outsourced to an external service provider, personal information may be handled by such provider to the extent necessary. In such cases, JCC will appropriately select and supervise the service provider and manage personal information in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

## **10. Contact**

Japan Cosmetic Center (JCC) Contact: Fujioka

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