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-to whom it may concern -



Invitation

to participate in the H₂-Age Award 2023 of the
National Economic Forum Hydrogen
for **Start-ups**

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The premiere of the National Economic Forum Hydrogen took place in Hamburg on 18 May 2022 under the patronage of Senator Michael Westhagemann. The concept: Top-class C-level managers and entrepreneurs from the industry meet representatives from politics and science to discuss the challenges of the market ramp-up of hydrogen in Germany and to develop solutions. Lectures and panel discussions will focus on individual aspects of hydrogen production, transport, storage, distribution and use. The number of participants is limited to 130 (including all speakers and panel members). The "small hydrogen summit" is expected to provide important impulses for the introduction of the hydrogen economy. Following the success of the premiere, the 2nd National Hydrogen Business Forum will now take place in Hamburg on 24 May 2023.

1. Objectives

The start-up award of the National Economic Forum Hydrogen pursues the goal of making innovative products, processes and business models better known and actively supporting young companies. The currently emerging hydrogen economy in particular is characterised in this young phase by innovative concepts that are being developed and implemented by a large number of new start-ups.

2. Categories & Prices

The Start-up Prize of the National Economic Forum Hydrogen will be awarded in 2023 in one of the following two categories: In the category "Production/Supply of Hydrogen", young companies can apply that have developed innovative products, processes or business models that can contribute to produce green or blue hydrogen. In the second category, "Use of Hydrogen", start-ups that develop a new concept for the use of hydrogen, whether in the mobility sector, industry, municipalities or buildings, can apply, regardless of whether the hydrogen is converted into electricity, further converted or burned.

The prize of the National Hydrogen Economic Forum is endowed with **EUR 5,000.00**.

The winning team will also receive a winner's trophy donated by the National Economic Forum Hydrogen and may use the title "Best European Hydrogen Start-up 2023". The trophy, together with a laudation, will be presented to a company representative during the 2nd National Economic Forum Hydrogen on 24 May 2023 in Hamburg. In addition, the winner will have the opportunity to present the company and the business idea to the participants in an approx. 20-minute talk on the afternoon of 24 May 2023 during the 2nd National Business Forum Hydrogen in Hamburg and to join the evening conference dinner (participation in the entire event is free of charge for the winner). Furthermore, the winner benefits from media attention in print, radio, television and social media.

3. Requirements for participation

All companies that meet the following conditions are eligible to participate:

- a) The company is already established at the time of application. The date of foundation is not before 1.5.2018,
- b) the company's registered office is in a European country (with the exception of the European part of Russia and Belarus),
- c) the annual turnover of the company is below 20 million EUR.

4. Process/application procedure

The following documents are required for the application:

- a) The indication under which of the two categories mentioned under 1. the company is applying.
- b) Contact person with e-mail address and telephone number.
- c) Documents stating the conditions for participation mentioned under 3.
- d) A description of the company's business model with details on the innovative character of the developed processes, products or business procedures.

The documents must be sent by **26.4.2023, 24:00** to the following e-mail address:

startup@wirtschaftsforum-h2.de.

After receipt of the documents, each applicant will receive confirmation of receipt by e-mail within three days. All documents will be treated confidentially and will remain with the jury in digital form after evaluation.

The jury mentioned under 5 will select several applications for a second round on the basis of the criteria "degree of innovation", "scalability/market potential", "USP", "feasibility/realisability" and "company quality/founder profile". For the second application round, the companies are invited individually to an online interview. After this interview, the winner will be selected in one of the two categories and information will be passed on to the company.

5. Jury

The jury of the H₂-Age Award of the National Economic Forum Hydrogen currently consists of the following members:

- Prof. Dr. Christopher Hebling, Director Division Energy Technologies and Systems at Fraunhofer ISE
- Jan Rispens, Managing Director Renewable Energy Hamburg
- Dr. Stefan Kaufmann, former Innovation Commissioner Hydrogen of the Federal Government

It is possible that additional members will be added to the jury.

6. Schedule

The timeline is as follows:

- Application deadline: 26.4.2023, 24:00
- Selection of applicants for the 2nd application round: 30.4.2023
- Conduct of the 2nd application round online: 8-12 May 2023
- Selection of the two winners: by 17 May 2023
- Award ceremony: 24 May 2023 during the 2nd National Economic Forum Hydrogen.