

Nokia Bell Scientific Award 2026

REGULATIONS



- Art. 1. With the financial support of Nokia Belgium, the Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) and the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) present the annual **Nokia Bell Scientific Award**.

Nokia is a global leader in connectivity, advancing fixed, mobile, and transport networks for the AI era. This Award rewards the PhD thesis that brings the most original **contribution in the field of information and communication technologies**, in one of the following topics:

- Artificial and connected intelligence
- Artificial Intelligence assisted software development
- Decentralized/Trustless and secure Software Systems
- Edge and cloud computing
- Fixed and wireless communication
- Optical communication
- Signal processing
- AI-native, autonomous and mission-critical networks

- Art. 2. The Award is intended for an individual researcher **who has obtained their PhD thesis from a Belgian University or the Royal Military Academy of Belgium between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025**, using the date of the public defence as the reference.

- Art. 3. **Candidates must hold a research position at a university or research institute** at the submission deadline (16 March 2026). This can also be an unpaid affiliation.

- Art. 4. The Award amounts to **€ 8.000** (for personal use; Nokia Bell has no responsibility for any usage of the Award).

- Art. 5. Applications, written in English, must be submitted by email no later than **16 March 2026** (midnight CET) to prix@frs-fnrs.be.

The application must include the following documents:

- As a single pdf:
 - The completed application form;
 - A detailed curriculum vitae including a list of publications;
- As a separate document: an electronic version of the PhD thesis.

The regulations and the application form are available on the website www.frs-fnrs.be.

- Art. 6. The Award cannot be divided amongst multiple researchers.

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- Art. 7. The PhD thesis may have been partially or entirely conducted in collaboration with Nokia Bell and its subsidiaries.
- Art. 8. Employees of Nokia Bell and its subsidiaries are not eligible for the Award.
- Art. 9. The Award will be granted based on the recommendations of an independent panel of experts appointed by the F.R.S.-FNRS and the FWO.
- Art. 10. If no suitable laureate can be identified, the F.R.S.-FNRS and the FWO can decide not to award the Prize.
- Art. 11. Any question regarding the applications or the awarding of the Prize will be settled in a final and binding manner by the F.R.S.-FNRS and the FWO.
- Art. 12. Nokia Bell, in consultation with the Award winner, has the right to publish the awarded work, mentioning the author's name and position.
- Art. 13. The deliberations of the panel are confidential and must not be disclosed.

December 2025

