**The International Business Congress (IBC)**

***The Gas Industry Magazine*** (founder - PJSC Gazprom)

**2020 International Young Scientists Awards in the Field of Oil and Gas:**

**A Glance Into the Future**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

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# I. COMPETITION SNAPSHOT

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| **Eligible Applicant(s)** | Any scientist **from any country** of **up to 35 years of age** at the time of application engaged in research work, who has **advanced proficiency in English**, and **provided approvals** from an institution, and a supervisor. Teams of up to 5 members are also eligible to apply. No regard will be given to gender, nationality, or religion.  |
| **Competition Opens** | **30 March, 2020****Please note** *that electronic proposal submission website will go live starting March 30, 2020* |
| **Submission Deadline** | “Oil & Gas Projects: a Glance into the Future” - April 30, 2020 (23:59, Moscow time).  |
| **Announcement of Results** | **August, September 2020** via email**October 2020** at the Awards Ceremony (tentatively scheduled to be held as part of the St. Petersburg Gas Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia) |
| **Eligible Research Scope / Nomination categories** | “Oil & Gas Projects: a Glance into the Future” (in the field of Extraction, Processing, Transportation and Storage of Hydrocarbons, LNG Projects”, “Electric Power”, “IT Solutions”)  |
| **Complete Competition Announcement** | [www.gifaward.com](http://www.gifaward.com)  |
| **How to Apply** | All proposals must be submitted electronically through the Electronic Proposal Submission section of the GIFAwards website, which will go live **no later than 30 April, 2020.** Email applications, attachments as separate documents or hard copies will not be accepted.  |

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# II. BACKGROUND

**The International Business Congress (IBC),** and ***The Gas Industry* Journal** (founder - PJSC Gazprom) are accepting applications for **the 2020 International Young Scientists Awards in the Field of Oil and Gas: A Glance Into the Future (hereinafter – The 2019 GIFAwards)**.

**The International Business Congress (IBC)** is an international non-governmental and non-for-profit organization that comprises 129 companies and organizations from 28 countries, including Gazprom, Deutsche Bank, ExxonMobil, ENGIE, Gasunie, J.P. Morgan Bank International, KPMG, Mitsubishi, Mizuho Bank, Siemens, Shell, Statoil, Schneider Electric, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Total, Uniper, Wintershall Dea, Sakhalin Energy, and Srbijagas. The IBC promotes economic cooperation and development, and a sustained dialogue across the borders between different cultures and mentalities. The IBC operates through the Committees. The GIFAwards have been established, as part of The Modern Technologies and Prospective Oil and Gas Industry Projects Committee*.* The Committee provides a platform for oil and gas companies, equipment manufacturers, and industry experts to network, share their experiences and best practices, and collaborate on current and prospective national and transnational projects. More information about the IBC, and the Committee can be found at the [IBC website](http://www.international-bc-online.org/working-groups/modern-technologies-and-prospective-oil-and-gas-industry-projects/).

***The Gas Industry* Journal**

The Gas Industry Journal, first published in 1956, is the industry’s leading science and technology publication in Russia. The Journal aims to promote advanced technology, and present research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) activities in the fuel and energy industry. The Journal targets engineers, company management, and researchers, scientists, students, experts, and government officials throughout the industry. The peer-reviewed monthly delivers the latest industry news, covers developments and challenges, and publishes high-quality peer-reviewed research and reviews. The Journal collaborates with the scientific community to provide cutting-edge research, pioneering technologies, innovative strategies, and practical solutions (from idea to implementation). More information about *The Gas Industry* Journalcan be found at the [Journal website](http://www.neftegas.info/gasindustry/).

# III. SCOPE

**Recognizing** that energy production is vital to modern economy; oil and gas remain the world’s major energy sources; natural resources are limited; new breakthrough energy production technologies need to be developed and deployed, and intensive exploration of energy resources may affect ecosystems of oil and gas production sites, above all biodiversity;

**Acknowledging** the growing role and influence of oil and gas companies, equipment manufacturers, and world experts in new technology deployment, as part of current and prospective national and cross-border energy projects;

**Being guided** by The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dated May 9, 1991, The Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment adopted in 1972, and The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Cooperation (OPRC) dated November 30, 1990;

**Acknowledging** the significance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (The OSCE)’s provisions contained in The 1975 Helsinki Summit Declaration, The 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and other declarations on principles guiding relations between participating states, an international cooperation in the field of economy, and business contacts between foreign organizations and enterprises.

**To that end,** **The International Business Congress (IBC),** jointly with ***The Gas Industry* Journal** (founder - PJSC Gazprom) established **the** **International Young Scientists Awards in the Field of Oil and Gas: A Glance Into the Future (**The GIFAwards). The Awardswill be granted annually starting 2018.

**The primary goals of the GIFAwards are to:**

* Identify and promote cutting-edge technology and innovation for the oil and gas industry;
* Support and encourage young scientists’ research work;
* Enhance internationalscience and technology **collaboration.**

**For the 2020 GIFAwards, proposals in the following research areas / nomination categories will be accepted:**

“Oil & Gas Projects: a Glance into the Future” in the field of:

Extraction, Processing, Transportation and Storage of Hydrocarbons, LNG Projects,

Electric Power,

IT Solutions

**Proposals submitted to** **the 2020 GIFAwards:**

* **Should include** research that is clearly and directly related to the fuel and energy sector;
* **Should match** one or more allowable topics;
* **May include** previous research accomplishments, be a continuation of the previous or current work, or involve a new line of investigation;
* **Research activities** may aim to investigate global issues, trends, and prospects; respond to immediate industry needs and requirements, or develop new, cost-effective and environmentally friendly technology or products, etc.

**NOTE: Only proposals** involving non-commercial research will be accepted.

**The 2020 GIFAwards seeks proposals of the highest quality that:**

* Contain cutting edge technology, innovations and excellence;
* Have the potential to advance the frontiers of knowledge;
* Address oil and gas industry needs;
* Hold promise for future innovative discoveries that could transform the field;
* Respond to environmental challenges, and
* Benefit society, etc.

All proposals will be **subject to a technical review process** by scientific experts in appropriate fields (subject matter experts, SMEs). A prestigious jury will be formed to select the competition winners.

All applicants will be notified of the competition results by the end of August 2020. Winners will be invited to attend the Awards Ceremony that is tentatively scheduled to be held in early October, as part of the 2019 St. PetersburgInternational Gas Forum.

**Awards may include but are not limited to:**

* **A Certificate of Recognition** of the Research Achievements;
* **Prizes, and Gifts;**
* **Assistance to promote a research project**, including travel-related expenses or publication costs, opportunities for winners to present their research work to industry leaders during meetings, presentations, discussions, etc.;
* **Internships** at Russian and international oil and gas companies provided by GIFAwards partners;
* **Free publications** of articles in *The Gas Industry* Journal, including advertising publications related to joint projects with commercial companies;
* **Free one year subscription** to *The Gas Industry* Journal, etc.

**The Jury**

The 2020 GIFAwards Jury consists of distinguished representatives from industry, academia, and research institutions.

**The Awards Ceremony**

The 2020 GIFAwards Ceremony is scheduled to be held in early October 2020, as part of the St. Petersburg Gas Forum. Representatives of the leading Russian and international oil and gas companies, academia, and the government will attend the Ceremony.

**IV. RESEARCH AREAS / NOMINATION CATEGORIES**

Each proposal must fit one of the GIFAwards nomination categories listed below. Please note that subtopics may include, but are not limited to those listed here.

## 1. Hydrocarbon Exploration and Production: extension of proved reserves; steady increase in carbohydrate reserves through geological exploration to ensure that recovery exceeds annual production; intensified oil and gas exploration; new and/or improved oil and gas production strategies, including but not limited to extraction of coal bed gas; optimization of production operations through transition from traditional to new and more effective technologies, and workover of wells, etc.

**Transportation and Storage of Gas:** development of a gas transportation system;the expansion and modernization of supply chains, including but not limited to development of new gas transportation and storage facilities (underground storage, and etc.); energy efficiency of equipment, including gas transfer units; internal and external pipe diagnostics; protection of pipelines against corrosion; the equipment that reduces toxic emissions into the environment, etc.

**Oil and Gas Processing:** oil and gas (gas condensate) processing techniques; oil and gas production and organic synthesis issues, including primary and secondary methods of oil refining; increasing depth of refining, and improving quality of end products (including atmospheric and vacuum distillation, hydrocracking, hydrolytic cracking, delayed coking, reforming, isomerization, etc.), conversion and upgrading processes, etc.

**Liquefied Natural Gas** (**LNG**): LNG transportation and trade, including production phases, transportation, and gasification stages, and ways to expand LNG domestic consumption (gas-fired power stations, industrial and agricultural enterprises, transport, and boiler plants for a variety of industries), etc.

**Electric Power**: development of heat and power generation for further distribution to end users, including investments, and economics; issues of enhancing efficiency of electric power industry; increasing heat and power production; diversification of risks associated with price regulation; diversification of fuel balance; development of new power plants, and increasing performance, etc.

**IT Solutions for Oil and Gas Industry:** automation of operations and business processes; automated management and control systems; data center; oil and gas software solutions; blockchain in logistics; The Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) in oil and gas; digital enterprise and business process modeling, etc.

# V. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicant must meet **each** of the following eligibility criteria:

* Any scientist **from any country** and **of any nationality** up to **35 years of age** at the time of application;
* Be **the author of the research** or a team member (also a researcher), who made **substantial contributions to the research**, as evidenced in the enclosed Letter of support from a supervisor or PI;
* Have **advanced proficiency in English** (both writing and speaking skills);
* Provide **an institutional approval** (Application Form signed by an authorized institution representative);
* Provide **an approval** **from a supervisor** (submit a **Letter of Support)**.

**NOTE:**

* The GIFAwards provides equal and non-discriminatory opportunities for all applicants:  **no regard will be given** to gender, nationality, or religion;
* Young scientists may apply to GFAwards **for more than one nomination**; however, an applicant **may not receive more than one award** **a year** nor may an individual receive **more than one award for the same work;**
* **Teams** **of up to 5 members** are eligible to apply. One applicant must serve as the principal investigator (PI) – will submit a proposal, and receive an award (if proposal is selected) on behalf of the team;
* The GIFAwards Organizers reserve the right to restrict the participation of any individual or institution in their program.

# VI. REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

## A. Review Process

All proposals and information contained therein will be screened for eligibility and completeness upon receipt by the GIFAwards Organizing Committee. All eligible proposals will be subjected to a technical review process by subject matter experts (SMEs) based on the criteria described below. A decision on the selection of finalists will be made by the GIFAwards Jury based on the proposal’s overall rating, and experts’ recommendations. Results will be announced via e-mail and all decisions are final.

**B. Evaluation Criteria**

**Primary Criteria:**

1. **Technical Merit:** significance of the research topic, above all, for the oil and gas industry; whether the proposed research will contribute to the solution or further understanding of the problem; potential for the activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields; whether the project proposes innovative methods or cutting-edge directions that are likely to lead to important scientific or scholarly breakthroughs, etc.
2. **Research Plan:** practicality of the research plan; how well research scope and methods fit with the overall project goal and objectives; the likelihood of success and applicability of the research plan, as well as the potential significance of the results; whether the plan contains evaluation mechanism; expected publications or other plans to disseminate the results of the research, etc.
3. **Resources:** adequacy of resources to carry out the proposed activities (facilities, equipment, human and other resources directly applicable to the research); if the PI, individual researchers, a team, or an institution are well qualified to conduct the proposed activities, etc.
4. **Research Impacts:** the probability that the results will serve as the basis for a new or improved technology; impact on the industry andthe potential to benefit society; long-term positive impact on social, economic, or environmental issues in the countries involved, etc.

**Secondary Criteria:** The primary factor for the evaluation is scientific merit followed by the other criteria laid out above. However, in cases where two or more proposals are deemed to be of equal scientific merit, special consideration will be given to:

* Projects that incorporate young scientists or students in their teams (other than the PI).
* The PI and/or team members, who:
* Possess the degree of Ph.D., or be pursuing a degree in one of the natural sciences;
* Have the equivalent research experience;
* Have scientific publications in peer-reviewed scientific literature;
* Are members of professional associations;
* Participate in international activities and events relating to the oil and gas industry, etc.

# VII. PROPOSAL PREPARATION

All proposals must be submitted electronically through the Electronic Proposal Submission section of the GIFAwards website no later than April 30**, 2020** **at 23:59 Moscow Time**

Each Applicant **must** comply with the GIFAwards applicable policies, regulations, and rules.

**A. Ethical Policies**

## Before writing a proposal each applicant must review the following policies:

**Confidentiality of Proposals and Applicant Information:** The GIFAwards Organizers assure confidentiality of all proposals’ materials, and will require all Members of the Organizing Committee and reviewers to respect the confidentiality of proposals. However, authors should be aware that successful proposals will be treated as public information. Therefore, at the author’s discretion, if there is specific information in the proposal that is business confidential and not intended for public dissemination, it should be clearly labeled as such. Such passages will be withheld from public distribution if the proposal is successful.

**Intellectual Property:** The GIFAwards Organizersmake no claim to intellectual property rights under any award. The Organizers’ primary interest is that intellectual property rights be equitably allocated, and abide by the laws regarding intellectual property in the applicants’ respective countries, including regulations regarding research projects.

**Ethical Authorship:** The GIFAwards encourages a culture of ethical authorship, and requires strict adherence to the rules of proper scholarship and attribution.

**Acknowledgements:** all contributing authors, including any PIs and team participants, and all those, who contributed to the work, and who are not authors, should be named and acknowledged in the proposal (at the bottom of the narrative section). If selected, authors will sign License Agreements with *The Gas Industry* Journal before publication of their papers.

**Conflict of Interest:** all GIFAwards participants are expected to disclose any relationship, financial or interests that could pose a Conflict of Interest (COI) or the appearance of a Conflict of Interest.

**ONLY PROPOSALS, WHICH FOLLOW**

**THE FORMATTING AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS,**

**AND INCLUDE ALL OF THE REQUIRED ELEMENTS**

 **WILL BE REVIEWED**

**B. Formatting**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Typed
 | * 2 margins on ALL sides
 |
| * Single-spaced
 | * Font size of no less than Arial 10pt (Times New Roman 10pt font is **not** acceptable)\*
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*\*A font size of less than 10 points may be used for mathematical formulas or equations, figure, table or diagram captions and when using a Symbol font to insert Greek letters or special characters.* ***However, the text must still be readable*.**

**C. Required Elements**

This section contains detailed information for all elements of a proposal. Any proposal submitted without ALL required information will be disqualified and removed from the competition. Applicants are required to follow instructions and use the Application Form downloadable as a Word Document here: [2020 GIFAwards Application Form](http://gifaward.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018_GIFAwards_Application-Form_FINAL.docx). Proposals must be combined into a SINGLE Word or PDF file.

1. **Cover Sheet:** The Cover Sheet includesbasic information about the project, the applicant, and the applicant institution. Must be signed by both the applicant, and the institution representative (a scanned copy should be included).
2. **Project Abstract** (minimum 200 – maximum 250 words): in one paragraph, a brief description of the scope of research and activities.
3. **Public Summary** (minimum 200 – maximum 250 words): summary for a non-scientific community (in non-scientific language), including problem statement; description of an importance of the problem to the scientific community; research methodology; description of how application of research results will further knowledge in the field, contribute to solving the problem, and benefit the society.

**NOTE: Do not resubmit project abstract**

1. **Project Narrative (max 10 pages**, including any graphs, tables, diagrams, and photos, etc.):

Describe the scope of the proposed or implemented research and its significance, including:

* + **Goal and Objectives:** long-term goals; research approach, objectives, and methodology; statement on the technical merit of the implemented or proposed activity; the scope and significance of the research; the potential of the proposed activity to advance knowledge, etc.;
	+ **Problem Statement:** clear statement of the problem and its implication for the industry and community; present state of knowledge in the field; brief discussion of existing scientific literature on the issue, and how the proposed research differs from current activities, etc.;
	+ **Research Plan:** description of the work implemented/to be undertaken, including a time frame (milestones), resources, personnel, etc. Where appropriate, provide the broad design of activities, a clear description and justification of previously established and/or innovative methods and approaches;
	+ **Research Impact:** a statement on impact on industry, and the broader impacts of the proposed work;
	+ **Sources of support** for this research project (past, current, or pending). If applicable, please indicate the funding agency, duration of the support, and amount of funding;
	+ **All contributing authors**, including any PIs and team participants, should be named and acknowledged at the bottom of the Project Narrative section.

**NOTE:**

* + **No URLs** providing additional information related to the proposal should be used;
* Patentable ideas, trade secrets, privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the proposer, should be included in the proposals only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. Such information must be clearly marked in the proposal and appropriately labeled as: *"The following is (proprietary or confidential) information not to be released to persons outside except for purposes of review and evaluation."* This information will be withheld from public distribution if the proposal is successful.

**Reference List:** (in alphabetical order) should include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Identify the website address if the document is available electronically. While there is no page limitation for the References Cited, this section must only include bibliographic citations and not be used to provide parenthetical information outside of the Project Narrative.

1. **Personnel Data - if applicable:** should be completed for each additional participant (the PIs do not need to complete this Form), including researchers/engineers, technical/scientific support staff, graduate, and undergraduate students, administrative/clerical support staff, and secondary collaborators.
2. **Participant CV** (Curriculum Vitae):is required for the PI, and all team members (if applicable). CV should not exceed four pages in length. Each CV should include name, title, educational background, current and previous institutional affiliations with dates, area of expertise, and highlight employment and academic experience, major research accomplishments to date, publications, domestic, regional, and international conferences attended, and any experience with international oil and gas research, and collaborations.
3. **Letter of Support (LOS):** on institution letterhead from the applicant’s direct supervisor highlighting the position and expertise of the applicant.
4. **Applicant Declaration:** a signed and scanned copy should be included.
5. **Additional Attachments (Not Required)**

Applicants may attach copies of patents, patent applications, certificates, letters of support, publications, or other information. Should not exceed 4 pages in lengths.

## VIII. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

**Proposal Submission Requirements:**

* Proposal application materials must be prepared **in English** and submitted to the website as **MS Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf);**
* Application documents must be submitted through the GIFAwards website at www.gifaward.com
* Applications must be submitted **no later than April 30, 2020 (23:59) Moscow Time.**

# IX. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

For further information about this program, please contact Lazareva Alexandra, the GIFAwards project manager:

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | info@gifaward.comwww.gifaward.com |  |

**Please do not hesitate to forward your questions by e-mail.**