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**Breakthrough Innovator Award   
ENTRY FORM**

The Breakthrough Innovator Award celebrates an emerging researcher who is seizing opportunities to commercialise their research.

This year entries will be submitted via email. **Please complete this entry form and when you are ready to submit, email to:** [**admin@kiwinet.org.nz**](mailto:admin@kiwinet.org.nz)

**Entry deadline: 5pm, Thursday 17th April 2025**

For assistance in completing your entry, please contact Kate Webby at KiwiNet: phone 021 0845 2975 or email [**admin@kiwinet.org.nz**](mailto:admin@kiwinet.org.nz)

The 2025 Kiwi Innovation Network

Research Commercialisation aWards

**CATEGORY:   
Breakthrough Innovator Award**

**The Breakthrough Innovator Award is awarded to an emerging researcher who is seizing opportunities to commercialise their research.**

This award recognises an up-and-coming entrepreneurial researcher who is making outstanding contributions to research commercialisation in New Zealand. Through technology licencing, start-up creation or commercial partnerships, their work is leading to the creation of new products and/or services from publicly funded research.

**Eligibility**

* Entry is open to New Zealand-based researchers of any age who are in the early stages of their research commercialisation journey (typically within 10 years of completing their PhD or entering the science arena professionally).
* The researcher must have collaborated effectively (with their tech transfer/commercialisation office and/or industry) to commercialise research in the five years prior to June 2025.
* The researcher’s work does not need to have received PreSeed Accelerator Funding.

**ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS:**

**In no more than 750 words** **tell us the breakthrough innovator’s story including how they have made an outstanding contribution to research commercialisation impact in New Zealand through technology licencing, start-up creation or commercial partnerships leading to the creation of new products and/or services from publicly funded research.**

* Please provide evidence or examples to support your claims.
* In the Summary section, include 3 reasons why you think this entrant deserves to win. You can include a supporting stakeholder quote.

**Please consider the following when writing your entry**, as these are key considerations for the judges when assessing submissions. *Not all points will be applicable to every entry; focus on those that best showcase the nominee’s achievements.*

* How this researcher’s priorities clearly include a focus on innovation that delivers commercial outcomes.
* What defines this researcher’s breakthrough; how they have accelerated their idea from research to impact, or overcome barriers in a way that sets them apart.
* How they inspire others with their enthusiasm for creating commercial impact from science.
* Who the researcher worked with to make it happen, and how they worked together to find the right path to commercialisation.
* What the outcome has been for the discovery and the researcher–commercial potential, future impact and benefit for New Zealand.

**ENTRY DETAILS**

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| **ENTRY DETAILS – Content in this table will be provided to media in the event that the nominee becomes a finalist.** | |
| **Researcher title, name and organisation:** |  |
| **Strapline highlighting the benefit of their research:**  *A short, memorable description or phrase (approx. 8-10 words).*  *Plain English please!* |  |
| **Short summary description of the entry:** *150-200 words succinctly describing the entry. (Plain English please!)* |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **ENTRY – Content provided in this table will remain confidential to the KiwiNet judging panel, KiwiNet management staff, and should the entrant become a finalist, to KiwiNet PR person Sandra Lukey as background information for content that she creates on behalf of KiwiNet.** | |
| **In no more than 750 words** **tell us the breakthrough innovator’s story including how they have made an outstanding contribution to research commercialisation impact in New Zealand through technology licencing, start-up creation or commercial partnerships leading to the creation of new products and/or services from publicly-funded research.** |  |
| **Please include up to 3 bullet points/sentences summarising why the nominated researcher deserves to win, including a supporting stakeholder quote or comment if appropriate.** | This person is an exceptional example of a breakthrough innovator because:  1.  2.  3.  Stakeholder quote (optional): |

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| **Researcher DETAILS (for KiwiNet use)** | |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Mobile number:** |  |
| **Organisation:** |  |
| **Physical Address:** |  |
| **Location - Town/City:** |  |
| **details of the Nominator with whom KiwiNet will initially liaise, if the innovator has been nominated by a third party (for KiwiNet use)** | |
| **Nominator name:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Mobile number:** |  |
| **Organisation:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Town/City:** |  |

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**GENERAL**

The Kiwi Innovation Network Limited’s Research Commercialisation Awards 2025 Evening Reception (the "Awards") will be **held in-person** **at Shed 10, Auckland, on 22nd October 2025.** Winners will be announced at this event.

**Two weeks prior to this day (exact date TBC)** finalists will be asked to attend a 10-minute Q&A session with judges via Zoom.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

# The following eligibility criteria will be applied to the Awards:

### These awards are open to any New Zealand research organisation, crown research institute or tertiary education institute, business, scientist, researcher or professional who works to commercialise New Zealand’s publicly funded research.

**ENTRY CONDITIONS**

# The Awards are open for entry commencing on 26 February 2025 and close at 5.00pm on 17 April 2025. An entry received after this time will not be eligible for consideration.

# The finalists for each category will be announced publicly on or soon after 7 August 2025 by means of kiwinet.org.nz, social media and a press release. The winners of each category of the Awards will be announced at the Awards evening to be held on 22 October 2025**.**

# An entry to the Awards may be in respect of one or more of the following categories:

### Breakthrough Innovator Award

### Researcher Entrepreneur Award

### Commercialisation Professional Award

### Breakthrough Project Award

### Commercialisation Impact Award

# KiwiNet reserves the right to change the timeline outlined in clauses 2 and 3 of these terms and conditions and KEY DATES, including the announcement of finalists and the Awards reception date.

# Where a proposal is created by more than one person, the entry form requires the nomination of one of these people to be the entrant for the purposes of the Awards, and all communication in respect of the Awards will be to this person elected, who KiwiNet will assume is empowered to act and respond on behalf of the group.

# Finalists and the key contacts for Finalist Award entries must be available for filming with KiwiNet’s videographer to create promotional content for the Awards evening and KiwiNet marketing, for one day (maximum) between 4th May and 12th June 2025.

# KiwiNet reserves the right to cancel the Awards programme or individual award categories within the programme.

**JUDGING**

# The judging panel for the Awards will comprise of five judges and will include renowned members of the research, innovation and business communities.

# Full confidentiality of all entries received will be maintained.

# The judges’ decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

# All entry information is held on a commercial-in-confidence basis. KiwiNet appreciates the sensitive nature of entries and will not disclose commercially sensitive information in its publicity relating to any project entered.

**PUBLICITY**

# All finalists and winners agree to KiwiNet generating publicity around each entry, including but not limited to media coverage and participating in the making of a short video for promotional purposes.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

# Entrants must have the rights to disclose to KiwiNet the intellectual property rights, including the copyright, or have permission to use any materials submitted for the competition.

# KiwiNet will not be responsible for breach of any third-party intellectual property and proprietary rights by the entrants, including any third party’s copyright works.

**RIGHTS AND LICENSES**

# By entering an application, each entrant warrants that they are the original author of the submission and that the submission does not or will not infringe any third party's intellectual property and proprietary rights, including their copyright, patent, trade mark, trade secret, design, or other proprietary rights or rights of publicity or privacy.

**ACCEPTANCE BY ENTRANTS**

# By entering, entrants accept these Terms and Conditions and agree to be bound by them.

# By entering, entrants warrant they are eligible to participate in the competition and agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless KiwiNet and all associated partners in the competition and their respective directors and employees from and against any and all losses, claims, liability and damages of any kind, brought against any of them, as a result of participation in this promotion or acceptance or usage of the award, including for third party claims for breach its intellectual property rights.

# By entering, entrants confirm and agree to abide by these terms and conditions and confirm that, should they be chosen as a finalist, they are available and willing to:

* Supply a **pre-recorded 5-minute pitch** by 20 September 2025 for judging
* Participate in a 10-minute Q&A session with judges **virtually**, around the week of 6 October 2025 (date TBC)
* Attend the Awards Evening Reception **in person**, on 22 October 2025.

**KEY DATES** (some dates may be subject to change)

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| --- | --- |
| **26 February 2025** | Entries open |
| **17 April 2025** | Entries close |
| **~4 May to 12 June 2025** | Filming of finalists’ videos |
| **~23 April 2025** | Stage One Judging |
| **7 August 2025** | Finalists announced |
| **20 September 2025** | Finalists’ Stage Two 5 min pre-recorded pitch supplied to KiwiNet for judging |
| **~ Week of 6 October (date TBC)** | KiwiNetAwards Finalists’ Q&A Day (virtual event)– finalists meet virtually with judging panel for 10 mins Q&A. |
| **22 October 2025** | **KiwiNet Awards Evening Reception** (in-person event) – winners are announced and celebrated |
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