

DesignEuropa Awards: celebrating design in the EU

To celebrate the importance of design in the EU, the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM), the EU's largest intellectual property agency, is today announcing the first edition of the DesignEuropa Awards.

The Awards are open to firms and/or individuals who hold a valid Registered Community Design (RCD). The RCD is a unitary intellectual property right administered by OHIM and valid throughout the EU-28.

The DesignEuropa awards will have three categories: Industry (firms with more than 50 employees and over €10 million turnover); Small and Emerging companies (firms with fewer than 50 employees and less than €10 million turnover, or companies established after January 1, 2013); and a special Lifetime Achievement Award.

Applications for entry will open through OHIM's website on February 1, 2016. Terms and conditions and a guide for entrants will also be published on that date. The award ceremony will be held in Milan, Italy, in December 2016.

The President of OHIM, António Campinos said:

“For twelve years, the RCD has offered design protection to every type of company – from established multinationals to start-ups. It has proved its utility for firms across the globe. These awards will celebrate talented design innovators for whom IP is a key business asset.”

A joint OHIM/European Patent Office report, released in 2013, underlined the importance of design as a motor of economic growth. 12.2% of all jobs in the EU are supported by design-intensive industries, which in turn generate 12.8% of EU GDP.

The awards will be held in partnership with EU national and regional IP offices, IP user associations and design industry associations.

ABOUT OHIM

The Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market is the EU's largest intellectual property agency. Founded in 1994, it is responsible for the management of two EU-wide intellectual property rights, the Community Trade Mark (CTM) and the Registered Community Design (RCD). The RCD, introduced in 2003, is valid throughout the 28 member states of the European Union. It allows any business or individual to register a design, the right to which is renewable for up to 25 years. An RCD application offers the possibility of filing multiple applications (including several designs in one application, such as variations of the same design). With OHIM's Fast Track application process, a design can be registered in less than 48 hours.