



## Le Mans Sonore International Competition – Pays de la Loire Region

### Sound Design Trophies 2024 – Valuing the use for the sound

## Context

Le Mans Sonore, third edition of the International Sound Biennial, will take place in Le Mans from 20 to 28 January 2024 throughout the city. It marks the ambition to give visibility to excellence in acoustics and sound design to turn it into a cultural event for the general public to promote the region's reputation.

As in the last edition, the international Le Mans Sonore - Pays de la Loire Region competition will support creation and research. It will reward the best French and international projects of the year in the field of sound design.

The aim of this competition is to nominate and reward the best sound creations of the year, at international level. The aim of this French prize is to promote applied sound design, i.e. design that enhances use through sound.

For this third edition, we're introducing a new Radio France-labeled prize. It will be in the form of a commission with precise specifications, for the production of a sonal, a sound identity, an announcement or a generic jingle.

The winner of this prize will receive a broadcast on one of Radio France's channels (Hyper-radio, Applis, Antenne...), a day's visit/meeting with the sound design & audio innovation activities, and an immersive sound mixing session of his/her creation (in the studio-cube).

# Categories and expected projects

Sound creations designed for the following 3 categories will be considered.  
For the Radio France prize, precise specifications must be respected.

## 1. OBJECTS & SERVICES

All designs involving sound, whether digital or acoustic.

Examples: transport, communicating objects, packaging, household appliances, robotics, IoT, etc.

Different uses are possible:

- Sound interfaces: user interface (GUI) sonification, information design, 3D sound worlds, augmented reality, etc.
- Voice assistant and expressiveness: voice interaction, artificial intelligence, text-to-speech (TTS) systems, etc.
- Security and privacy: automotive AI, application devices, etc.

Scientific work and exceptional developments are also taken into account: the development must have reached prototype status with proof of concept. Examples: audio broadcasting systems, sound materials, etc.

## 2. LIFE & SOCIETY

- Sound concepts and signage for public spaces
- Concepts and solutions to improve health and well-being
- Sound concepts for inclusion, disability and accessibility
- Intelligent, innovative concepts and solutions that make an important contribution to society and culture. Examples: museography, audioguides, stations, hospitals, shopping centers, hospitality and territory, noise pollution, etc

## 3. RADIO FRANCE PRIZE

The Prize must take into account the following specifications for the production of a sound creation.

**Title:** Sonal Radio France "Olympic Games in multichannel".

**Function :** To indicate that the production that will follow the sonal will be broadcast in multichannel (at least binaural).

**Broadcast context:**

- Introduces the multichannel broadcast of a Radio France production.
- It may be preceded by a branding element (signature, comma, etc.) identifying the channel concerned.
- It can be broadcast on the channel's usual channels (live or replay) as well as on hyperradio <https://hyperradio.radiofrance.com>

**Production concerned:**

- It can concern any of the Radio France channels (France Inter, France Info, France Bleu, France Culture, France Musique, FIP, Mouv'): <https://www.radiofrance.fr/>
- It can be of any radio/podcast type (program, chronicle, concert, fiction, etc.).
- It will be broadcast during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, an event with which the production's theme will have a strong link.

**Aesthetics:**

- All sound sources (sound effects, instruments, etc.), and all treatments are possible.
- No vocals.
- No melodic/harmonic cues.

**Identity/Keywords :**

- Identity: Olympic Games Paris 2024, Radio France, Multichannel
- Character: momentum, movement, energy.

**Duration :** Minimum 03 seconds, maximum 04 seconds.

**Deliverables :**

- 1 single sonal proposal (original and exclusive creation, never used outside this competition).
- 24-bit 48kHz stereo .wav file.
- Documentation describing the approach and concept, structure and production of the sounds (PDF, video, audio, computer graphics or other).
- The winning sonal will then have to be delivered as a multitrack, in order to be mixed in multichannel in the Radio France studios.

**Award :**

The winner will receive :

- A broadcast on one of Radio France's channels,
- An immersive sound mixing session in one of the studios at the Maison de la Radio et de la Musique, as part of a day-long visit/meeting with Radio France's sound design and audio innovation activities.

# Applications

## Criteria for application

The application may be submitted by one person or by several people (in a multidisciplinary team) provided that the project concerns only applied sound design.

The applicant may be a sound designer, musician, researcher, sound engineer, young school graduate, etc. who works as a freelancer, in a design agency, in a company (start-up, SME, group) or in a community, public service, association, etc.

If applicable, the applicant must obtain the agreement of his partners or brands, for example his client, for an existing project.

In the case of a group application, one person will be designated as the team representative (project and application owner).

## Content of the expected application file

The applicant must complete the application form available on the Le Mans Sonore website with his/her contact details and the main information about the project. A video of a maximum duration of 3 minutes (**hosted on Youtube, Vimeo, ... in private access**) is also to be sent when submitting the application by filling in the link in the form.

# Selection criteria and process

Projects will be judged on the excellence of the prospective analyses and responses to use, with particular emphasis on the creative, innovative, functional, useful and aesthetic aspects, etc., and whose sound ambition is to serve the function.

The general criteria retained by the jury will be as follows:

- Intelligent sound solutions and concepts,
- Innovative and useful aspects,
- Accessibility for all,
- Consideration of sound as a use value.

All candidates will receive a reasoned evaluation from the jury. The winners will be expected at the awards ceremony in January 2024 to be presented with the trophy for their category and to briefly present their achievements.

The selection process is as follows:

- Deadline for applications: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12:00
- Qualification of projects and jury: Mid-January 2024
- Presentation of the winners and award ceremony: 25 January 2024 at 5pm

## Jury

The jury will be composed of experts who will evaluate all submissions. It will award the best projects. As the jury is sovereign, the choice of the winners cannot be contested in any way whatsoever. The composition of the jury will be communicated on the Le Mans Sonore website.

## Awards

The winners will receive a trophy designed specifically for this competition and will have their projects displayed on the International Sound Biennial website. There will be only one winner per category. The prizes per category will be announced on the Le Mans Sonore website.

### 1. OBJECTS & SERVICES :

Trophy specially designed for the competition.  
A 500 euros prize

### 2. LIFE & SOCIETY :

Trophy specially designed for the competition  
A 500 euros prize

### 3. RADIO FRANCE PRIZE :

Trophy specially designed for this edition.  
The winner will receive :

- a broadcast on one of Radio France's channels,
- an immersive sound mixing session in one of the studios at the Maison de la Radio et de la Musique, as part of a day-long visit/meeting with Radio France's sound design and audio innovation activities.

# General conditions of the competition

All the authors, persons or companies, involved in the device which is the subject of the application are subject to copyright and are eligible. Candidates may apply individually or as a team.

The award will be presented and received in person at the ceremony in January 2024, during the Le Mans Sonore biennial.

Please ensure that all information (project name and company name) is correct for the communication.

Participants agree to abide by the rules of the competition.

It is understood that participants agree to all terms and conditions stated once the submission is made.

Entrants confirm that they have obtained the legal authority to enter the competition under the terms and conditions set out above.

Entrants will be held liable for damages to persons and companies if they violate these terms and conditions.

The rules of the competition are governed and interpreted in accordance with French law and are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the French courts.

Participants guarantee that they have obtained the agreement of the respective rights holders, in the event that the work submitted contains elements belonging to other parties, for Le Mans Sonore to use these components in the context of possible publication and communication forms.

Participants grant Le Mans Sonore a right of use, to publish, provide public access on the Internet and make use, tangible or intangible, of the submitted material in print and other digital media.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at the following email address: [concours.lms@lemans.fr](mailto:concours.lms@lemans.fr)