



Le Mans Sonore International Competition - Rules for the 2026 Acoustics Awards Research and Innovation

Context

Le Mans Sonore, the fourth edition of the International Sound Biennial, will take place in Le Mans **from 17 to 25 January 2026** throughout the city. The aim of the event is to raise the profile of excellence in acoustics and turn it into a cultural event for the general public, helping to raise the profile of the region.

In this fourth edition, the international Le Mans Sonore competition will support research and innovation. It will reward the year's best French and international projects in the field of acoustics.

The aim is to put forward and reward the year's best achievements (students) and promising research projects at the start of a scientific career, right up to international level. Through a French prize, the aim is to promote research in acoustics, i.e. the originality and potential impact of fundamental research or research carried out in the context of targeted applications.

Categories and expected projects

Research projects in the following 2 categories will be considered:

1. Young researchers (thesis prize)

The expected application is based on a presentation of the research carried out over the last 3 to 5 years and the provision of factual information on its assessment. No special production is required. The work must involve fundamental or applied research into acoustic/mechanical waves.

2. Student prize

Each entry must be the result of a student project that is less than 2 years old at the time of the biennial event (or with a significant update within the last 2 years). The theme is acoustics and the science of sound, and the entry must include evidence of the originality of the research carried out to achieve this result. The achievement may be a new object or piece of equipment, or an innovative method or piece of software.

Application

Content of the expected application file:

For the "young researcher" category:

Applicants must complete [the application form](#) available on the Le Mans Sonore website, and attach a detailed scientific CV, the defense reports, an active link to the thesis and any appendices deemed useful for analyzing the application. The thesis must have been defended between **September 2023 and December 2025**. No video is required.

For the "student" category:

Applicants must complete [the application form](#) available on the Le Mans Sonore website, giving their contact details and the main details of their project. A video of a maximum duration of 3 minutes (hosted on Youtube, Vimeo, etc. with private access) must also be sent when the application is submitted by filling in the link in the form. If the project has been produced by a group of students, the whole group may apply. In this case, only one application form is required for the whole group.

Selection criteria and process

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

- Originality and quality of the research carried out or leading to the projects submitted
- Clarity, originality and quality of the presentation of the achievements and research carried out.
- Proven or potential impact of the research or achievements presented.

All candidates will receive a reasoned assessment from the jury. The winners will be expected at the awards during the ceremony in January 2026 to be presented with the trophy for their category and to briefly present their achievements.

The selection process is as follows:

- Deadline for applications – **Monday 5 January 2026 at 12 noon**
- Qualification of projects and jury: **Mid-January 2026**
- Presentation of the winners and prize-giving ceremony: **Friday 23 January 2026 at 5 p.m.**

Jury

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

Awards

The winners will receive a trophy designed specifically for this competition and their projects will be exhibited 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. Young researchers (thesis prize)

Trophy designed specifically for this competition

A prize worth €1,000.

2. Student prize

Trophy designed specifically for this competition

A prize worth €500.

General terms and conditions of the competition

All authors, whether individuals or companies, involved in the project 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 the **23 of January 2026**, during Le Mans Sonore biennial.

Please ensure that all information (e.g. name of project and candidates) is correct for communication purposes.

Participants agree to abide by the rules of the competition.

It is understood that participants accept all the terms and conditions set out once the submission has been 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 caused 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 holders of the respective rights, in the event that the work submitted contains elements belonging to other parties, for Le Mans Sonore to use these components as part of the 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 documents submitted in print and other digital media.

Do you have any questions? You can contact us at the following e-mail address: **concours.lms@lemans.fr**