The Negative Ions, Beams and Sources Prize
"The NIBS2026 Prize"
Competition Information and Rules

PURPOSE

The Negative Ions, Beams and Sources Prize, named the "NIBS Prize", donated by D-PACE Inc., Nelson, BC, Canada, is intended to recognize and encourage innovative and significant recent achievements in the fields of the physics, theory, technology and/or applications of sources, the low energy beam transport, and/or diagnostics of negative ions. The prize rewards a recent innovation, rather than "career accomplishments".

PRIZE

The prize consists of a plaque & $5,000 US, which is presented to the winner(s) at the Negative Ions, Beams & Sources (NIBS) Symposium. The selection of the recipient(s) is made by the International Advisory Committee (IAC).

PRIZE ADMINISTRATOR

The procedures for the shortlisting of candidates and the selection of the NIBS Prize winner will be administered by the NIBS Prize Administrator. The NIBS Prize Administrator IS the Chairperson of the NIBS2026, Dr. Morgan Dehnel, mdehnel@selkirk.ca.

PRIZE CRITERIA

The NIBS Prize will be presented for an outstanding recent contribution to the fields of thephysics, theory, technology and/or applications of sources, the low energy beam transport, and/or diagnostics of negative ions. This contribution could be a breakthrough idea, understanding or design that leads to an ion source, or could be the ion source itself. The ion source resulting from this contribution must demonstrate significantly improved levels of performance over the currently-established state-of-the-art. The contribution should have been published in a journal or in proceedings of a conference that is in the public domain.

CRITERIA INTERPRETATION

Negative Ion Source:

Definition: A device producing a beam of negatively charged particles (H^- or heavier) suitable for transport to an experimental setup (e.g. atomic-, surface- or cluster physics), or to an application, such as accelerator injection, ion implantation, ion source or accelerator for a neutral beam injector, ion propulsion, etc. A critical element is the formation of a beam, rather than simply plasma generation.

Demonstrated Performance:

The contribution selected must have led to the production of, or a significant improvement to, an actual, operating ion source. The contribution can be theoretical or experimental. However, in case of theoretical contributions, an experimental demonstration of the validity of the theory must have been done with production of a beam of sufficient quality to obtain quantitative measurements of its characteristics. The performance characteristics must be recognized by the NIBS International Advisory Committee as a significant improvement over the currently-established state-of-the-art.

Publication:

The contribution should have been published in a journal or in proceedings of a conference that is in the public domain. Primary supporting publications should have been published within 5 years of the upcoming NIBS nomination deadline June 26, 2026. Laboratory design notes, internal technical notes, or other written material, do not qualify as primary references, but may be submitted to support other publications. Full and open disclosure is necessary to the extent that a potential user could clearly make use of the concept or source design for which the prize is given. More than one article may be submitted (together) to satisfy this requirement; for example, an article describing the principle plus another article describing the performance.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominations are open to candidates of any nationality for work done at any geographical location. The Prize may be shared between (a maximum of four) persons contributing to the same accomplishment.

A nomination that was not selected for receiving the Prize in a previous round can be updated and resubmitted for the present round, provided it complies with the Rules established for the present round of the competition.

DISCLOSURE

The Prize Administrator may release the names of entrants and a list of publications related to an entry if requested by a third party. Unpublished supporting material will not be disclosed nor will the names of persons supporting a nomination. Discussion regarding individual entries, scoring, etc. is regarded as confidential and will not be disclosed.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

A Nomination can be submitted by anyone working on negative ion sources or negative ion accelerators or a related field to the Prize Administrator, who will forward these to the IAC for evaluation.

Nomination:

The Nomination package must be submitted by a professional (physicist, engineer or management person) familiar with the candidate(s) and his/her/their contribution, and can speak to the significance of the contribution.

The nomination package shall include:

- A cover page including the name, title and affiliation of the candidate(s), a short title of the contribution for which the Prize is sought, and the list of relevant publications. Include on this page the name and contact information for the Submitter of the nomination.
- A statement, signed by the Submitter, describing the contribution of the Nominee to the physics or technology of the field.
- Full copies of up to 4 relevant publications that have appeared in journals or widely-available conference proceedings.

NOTE: All documents must be submitted in English, any papers in another language must be accompanied by a full translation into English.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Nomination Package:

Submissions will be accepted by the Prize Administrator, a.k.a. the NIBS2026 Chairperson, *Dr. Morgan Dehnel*: **mdehnel@selkirk.ca**

Documents must be in .pdf format (only!) and can be made either as e-mail attachments or as web downloads. The package must include all of the items listed above, including scans of the signed Submitter letter. The Submitter must be available to work with the Prize Administrator to solve any formatting and transmission problems.

DEADLINES

Nomination:

Deadline for submission of Nominations is to be **June 26, 2026**.

SELECTION OF THE NIBS PRIZE CANDIDATES AND THE WINNER

The selection of the winning candidate will be made by the IAC, in a process conducted by e-mail, or if necessary by phone or video conference, managed by the Prize Administrator. The process is as follows:

1. The Prize administrator distributes the Nominations to the IAC.
2. On the basis of the nomination packages the eligible IAC members assess the work of the candidates in each of the 6 areas that can contribute to winning the prize, i.e.: (1) physics, (2) theory, (3) technology, (4) applications of sources, (5) the low energy beam transport, and (6) diagnostics of negative ion sources. Each eligible IAC member can allocate a maximum of 12 points to each area. The maximum possible total is 72 points. The Prize Administrator will sum up the total points for each candidate after removing the highest and lowest marks from the IAC members. The candidate with the highest total mark will win the prize.
3. In the event of a tie between 2 or more candidates, the Prize administrator will ask the eligible IAC members to choose between the tied candidates by email. IAC members will each send the Prize Administrator a list of the tied candidates in order of preference. The Prize Administrator will then assess the number of 1st choices for each candidate and the candidate with the most will win the prize.
4. If after the above procedure there is still not a clear winner, the final choice of winner will be made by the Prize Administrator.

IAC MEMBER ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING FOR THE NIBS PRIZE

To avoid a conflict of interest any IAC member who is also a nominated candidate for the NIBS prize will not be eligible to vote.

If the Prize Administrator perceives another possible cause of a conflict of interest of an IAC member, the Prize Administrator will ask the IAC members to vote to exclude, or otherwise the concerned IAC member from the voting for the NIBS Prize. In the event that a majority of IAC members do not reply to the request from the Prize Administrator, the Prize Administrator will decide whether or not the concerned IAC member is excluded from the voting.

CHANGES TO PROCEDURES

While not anticipated, changes to the above Rules and Procedures can be made by the Prize Administrator, after full consultation with, and agreement by the IAC, and the Prize Donor.