

# Statement and Rules of the Fizeau Interferometry Prize

## **Name of Prize**

The Fizeau Prize for Contributions to Astronomical Optical Interferometry (“The Fizeau Prize”).

## **Purpose of Prize**

To provide recognition within the interferometry community, as well as in the broader science community, of theoretical and technical progress and developments in the rapidly growing field of optical interferometry, and to assist the Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur (OCA) and the Commission on Optical and Near-Infrared Astronomical Interferometry with engaging the community in promoting the future of optical interferometry.

## **Prize Authority**

The Fizeau Prizes will be a joint program of the Commission and of Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur.

## **Prize Sponsor**

The Fizeau Prize will be sponsored by the Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur. The OCA includes research departments that have a long and continuing history of innovative contributions to the development of optical interferometry. The Commission does not contribute financial support for the prize.

## **Description of the Fizeau Prize**

The Prize will recognize outstanding achievement in fundamentals and implementation of optical interferometry. The Prize may be given for significant theoretical and technical innovations, for instrument design and deployment, including programmatic and management accomplishments, for teaching, and for related public service. The Fizeau Prize will recognize a substantial history of contributions and international leadership as evidenced by one or more of: publications, advancement of knowledge, reputation, procurement and management of resources, and accomplishments of former students. Candidates may be of any age and nationality.

## **The Nature of the Prize**

The Fizeau Prize will consist of a certificate of prize, with a statement of the contributions and their significance, accompanied by a cash prize of 1000 Euros.

## **The Occasion of the Prize**

The prizes will be timed, when possible, to allow announcement at a major community venue. Possibilities are International Conferences focusing on interferometry techniques or science.

## **Nomination and Selection Process**

Approximately six months before the expected date of the prize, the OCA Director and the Lowell Observatory Director will extend an invitation to the international astronomy community via available newsletter and email routes. A complete nomination must include the nominating letter, which provides supporting, and a statement that the nominee is aware of and approves of the nomination. A single Prize Committee of seven members will be formed for both Fizeau and Michelson Prizes. The directors of the Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur and of the Lowell Observatory (or their representatives) will be ex-officio members, and they will select four committee members from the community and a President of the Committee. The Prize Committee will review the nominations, and may solicit additional input from external referees as needed. It will meet, most likely by teleconference, to recommend the prize recipients and will draft the citation associated with the prize. Prize

Committee meetings will be chaired by the President of the Committee. A committee member may initiate a nomination, but will then withdraw from the final discussion and vote. Recommendations of Fizeau and Michelson awards from the Prize Committee will be submitted to the Directors of OCA and Lowell, respectively, for final selection.

Prize nominations may be emailed to Dr. Denis MOURARD (Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur), at [denis.mourard@oca.eu](mailto:denis.mourard@oca.eu). Submitted nominations are encouraged substantiate their case with as much backing material as necessary.

**Frequency of Prize**

The Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur will invite nominations for a Fizeau Prize every two years.

**Excluded Candidates**

Current officers of The Commission or its Science Organizing Committee, members of the Prize Committee, and members of the OCA Council may not be considered for the prize during their tenure in these positions.