



## Conditions of Participation Deutscher Computerspielpreis 2021

On behalf of the **holders of the Deutscher Computerspielpreis**,

- the **Federal Government**, represented by
  - the **State Minister for Digitalisation, Ms. Dorothee Bär, MdB**,  
as well as
  - the **Federal Minister of Transport and digital Infrastructure, Mr. Andreas Scheuer, MdB**,

and

- **game – the German Games Industry Association e.V.**

the award office Deutscher Computerspielpreis calls

- Developers and publishers of high-quality computer games *made in Germany* as well as
- Developers and publishers of high-quality international games, and
- Pupils and students who have created a game prototype,

in the period from January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to propose their games or prototypes for an award.

### I. Award Office

The award office provides comprehensive support and advice to entrants on all questions relating to submission to the Deutscher Computerspielpreis.

#### AWARDBÜRO DEUTSCHER COMPUTERSPIELPREIS

Benjamin Rostalski, Tobias Lo Coco  
c/o Stiftung Digitale Spielekultur gGmbH  
Marburger Str. 2 | 10789 Berlin | Germany  
T +49 30 29 04 92 92

**E** [kontakt@computerspielpreis.de](mailto:kontakt@computerspielpreis.de)

**W** [www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de](http://www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de)

### II. Eligible Games

The following admission requirements must be fulfilled for a prize to be awarded:

#### First admission requirement:

- In the national categories (see Section III, Categories 1 to 9), games can be submitted which have been developed predominantly in Germany, i.e. as a rule at least 80% of them. This is affirmed in lieu of oath by the submitter(s). The award office will implement a plausibility check.
- In the international categories (see Section III, Categories 10 and 11), games may be submitted which have appeared internationally, i.e. in at least five of the world's most important countries of the computer and video game industry, or which will appear in



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accordance with the provisions listed below. These countries include the United States, Japan, South Korea, China, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Russia and Poland. The award office will carry out a plausibility check and, if necessary, ask the submitters for evidence, e.g. localizations or age ratings of the respective countries/territories.

## Second admission requirement:

Ensuring the protection of minors:

Every winning title of Deutscher Computerspielpreis needs to have an age rating from the Entertainment Software Self-Regulation (USK). Nominees in the category "Best Family Game" need to have an age rating of 0+, 6+ or 12+.

USK assumes the function of youth protection partner of Deutscher Computerspielpreis.

- In case of winning titles without an age rating, USK issues an age rating free of charge.
- In case of the nominees of the category "Best Family Game" without an age rating, USK issues an age rating free of charge.
- It is up to the USK to decide which kind of age rating (IARC rating or age rating according to German Youth Protection Act) is apt.

## III. Prize Categories

The Deutscher Computerspielpreis is awarded in the following **prize categories**:

- 1) Best German Game
- 2) Best Family Game
- 3) Young Talent Award: Best Debut and Young Talent Award: Best Prototype
- 4) Best Innovation and Technology
- 5) Best Game World and Aesthetics
- 6) Best Game Design
- 7) Best Serious Game
- 8) Best Mobile Game
- 9) Best Expert Game
- 10) Best International Game (without endowment)
- 11) Best International Multiplayer Game (without endowment)
- 12) Player of the Year (without endowment)
- 13) Studio of the Year
- 14) Special Jury Prize

The definitions of the price categories can be found online at [www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de/kategorien](http://www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de/kategorien).



## IV. Submission of Computer Games

A game may only be submitted once for the Deutscher Computerspielpreis.

In principle, platform ports are exempt from being submitted a second time. Exceptions can be accepted by the award office, if the port offers aspects of gameplay, depiction, controls and/or game experience that merit re-assessment by the jury.

Add-ons / Downloadable Contents (DLC), which extend the action and/or equipment possibilities of a game more than only insignificantly, may be submitted.

The submission of a game in several categories is permitted.

The submission must be received in complete by the award office by January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If copies and/or documents are sent by post, the postmark will be valid. Late submissions can be accepted by the award office only as an exception after prior consultation.

Only natural and legal persons who are entitled to the rights of use required for submission are entitled to submit entries. The submission and the procedure are carried out in German or English.

Digital games that have been released or will be released after the end of the submission phase of the previous award period and no later than the day of the award ceremony of this year's award can be submitted. **For clarification, the release date of the game must be between January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

Games in Early Access or Open Beta Phase can be submitted as well. Accordingly, they are exempt from later re-submission. It is up to the submitting party to decide at which development stage to submit their game(s).

If a game has not been completed until the relevant jury meeting, it must be in a sufficiently playable and assessable condition at that time. This will be assessed by the award office. If the submitted title is not sufficiently suitable for assessment, the award office will seek an advisory discussion with the submitters and, if necessary, postpone the game by mutual agreement for the following award period (DCP 2022) if no technically satisfactory solution can be found. In addition, the expert jury is free to defer a title that has not yet been sufficiently completed for evaluation to a possible submission in the following award period. The title is therefore deemed not to have been submitted, so that the ban on multiple submissions does not apply in this case.

The submission is made using a tool available online at [www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de](http://www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de). Submitters first set up a user account. In a second step, a series of information and assets about the game are queried, which can be made available directly online.



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A submission must be justified in each case to facilitate a comprehensible selection process. The reasons should refer to the category definition ([www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de/kategorien](http://www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de/kategorien)).

In the category "Best Innovation and Technology", in addition to games, other innovations and technologies can be submitted, provided the innovation originates in Germany and is related to computer games. **In these cases, it is mandatory to contact the award office to discuss the details of the submission.** For submissions in this category, the concrete innovation or technology must be described in all submissions to be considered by the jury.

The submission of games is free of charge. The award office must be provided with **eight copies of the submitted game per category per game**. These are required for the following purposes:

- One copy for technical review,
- One copy for content review,
- Four copies for expert jurors in the category,
- One copy for presentation at the jury meeting and
- One copy for the archive of Deutscher Computerspielpreis at the International Computer Game Collection.

Games are judged by a jury of four experts. Up to three games per category are nominated, i.e. they are proposed to the main jury for an award.

If a game is nominated, additional copies may be required for the main jury. The award office will contact the submitters of nominated games and request additional copies and/or codes. If the additionally requested copies are not made available in time for the main jury, the game may not win.

At the end of the submission process, the submitter(s) must generate a PDF with the affidavit (see "Affidavit"). This must be signed and sent to the award office by post or e-mail or uploaded via the submission tool by the closing date January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. After submission, the affidavit can also be created again in the profile under "My submissions" for all submitted games.

Attention: **If the affidavit is missing, the submission is incomplete and cannot be considered.** Questions regarding the affidavit should be directed to the award office via mail or telephone.

## V. Submission for the Young Talent Award: Best Debut

A debut game is a game of a developer who has brought a relevant game onto the market for the first time or whose game will be published by the day of the award ceremony (April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021) in accordance with the rules of the prize. The game does not have to be the very first game of the development team.

Otherwise, the general submission requirements for games are valid (see Section IV).



## VI. Submission for the Young Talent Award: Best Prototype

A prototype may only be submitted once. A prototype may, even if it has been awarded a prize in a previous year, be submitted once *as a finished game* in a later year.

Pupils and students of German educational institutions can submit prototypes in the category "Young Talent Award". Individuals as well as groups can submit entries. Company spin-offs of students as well as start-ups and hobbyists **who have not yet published a game commercially** may also submit entries. (Games which have been developed within the frame of one's studies are not presumed as "commercially published" in the above sense even if they are offered publicly against payment.)

At least 80% of the prototype's must have been developed in Germany.

Submitted prototypes may not be published until the date of the award ceremony (April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021) and may not be submitted as a finished game in any other category. However, common non-commercial publication of prototypes on platforms such as itch.io are permitted.

The submission of a prototype in the category Young Talent Award excludes the submission of games in other categories of Deutscher Computerspielpreis in the same award period. **For clarification: Whoever submits a prototype may not submit a game in another category in the same year and vice versa.**

The submission will be made using a tool available online at [www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de](http://www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de). Submitters will first set up a user account.

A playable prototype (as a permanent download link via Dropbox, Google Drive etc.) including installation instructions and a description of the game content must be submitted. Design and scope are optional.

The submission must be received in complete by the award office by January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If copies and/or documents are sent by post, the postmark will be valid. Late submissions can be accepted by the award office only as an exception after prior consultation.

Entrants in the category Young Talent Award: Best Prototype declare on an additional form (affidavit) and under oath that they have made the prototype by themselves and only with the help of the designated tools, and that all features/aspects of the prototype, which have been taken from either this way or from the sense of other available works, have been identified by accurate information.

**Attention: If the affidavit is missing, the submission is incomplete and cannot be considered.** Questions regarding the affidavit should be directed to the award office by telephone.



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Five projects will be nominated for the Young Talent Award: Best Prototype and the winner will be awarded with prize money. The remaining four nominees will receive a nomination fee.

## VII. Proposal for Gamer of the Year

The prize without endowment "Gamer of the Year" is awarded to eSports Athletes, Let's Players or (ordinary) gamers who have distinguished themselves with special achievements. This can be a gaming performance, but also a commitment to the media games, the community or society in general. A clear relationship to computer and video games must be given.

For the category Gamer of the Year, any person may submit reasoned proposals within the published submission deadline.

A complete proposal includes:

- Contact details of the proposer (for queries):
  - Name
  - Mail address
  - Telephone number
- Nominating of a Gamer of the Year:
  - Name or alias
  - Social media account(s), e.g.
    - YouTube
    - Twitch
    - Facebook
    - Twitter
    - Instagram
    - or website(s)
  - Link to the performance(s) to be evaluated by the jury
  - Justification for the proposal (at least 600 characters)

The award office provides a suitable suggestion tool for this on [www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de](http://www.deutscher-computerspielpreis.de).

## VIII. Award Winners and Use of Prize Money

Award winners may be natural or legal persons. The prize and the associated prize money will be awarded to the developer and, if applicable, the publisher of the awarded computer game. The developer will receive 70 percent of the prize money and the publisher 30 percent of the prize money.

In the case of co-productions in which foreign developers or publishers are also involved, only the developer(s) or publisher(s), who are paying their taxes in Germany will receive the prize and the associated prize money. The exceptions are the international categories, where foreign developers or publishers can also receive prizes. However, these categories are not endowed.



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The date of submission is decisive for the allocation of prize money between developer and publisher. Any existing co-publishers or co-developers must be notified to the award office at the time of submission. Parties that are added later, i.e. after submission, will not be considered for the awarding of the prize money.

For games, the prize money or nomination fees respectively will be paid out under the condition and subject to the following:

- the awarded game will be released by April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the latest,
- the awarded game in the category Best Family Game gets the necessary USK 12+ age release,
- the award-winner submits a declaration of commitment to the Federal Government by completing a form confirming that the prize money will be used in its entirety for the development of a new computer game complying with the admission requirements and quality criteria of Deutscher Computerspielpreis, and
- the award-winner agrees in written to provide the BMVI with a suitable proof of use for the prize money within two years of payment of the prize money or otherwise to reimburse it.
- The prize money or nomination fees are estimated to be paid based on the De-minimis-Directive No. 1407/2013 of the EU-Commission of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 regarding the application of Articles 107, 108 of the EU-Contract with respect to De-minimis-subsidies.

In the case of prototypes, the prize money or nomination fee will be paid out under the following conditions and proviso:

- the award-winner submits a declaration of commitment to the Federal Government by completing a form in which it is confirmed that the prize money will be used in its entirety for the implementation of the prototype or parts of it or for the development of a new, different computer game, and
- the award-winner agrees in written to provide the BMVI with a suitable proof of use for the prize money within two years of payment of the prize money or otherwise to reimburse it.
- The prize money or nomination fees are estimated to be paid based on the De-minimis-Directive No. 1407/2013 of the EU-Commission of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 regarding the application of Articles 107, 108 of the EU-Contract with respect to De-minimis-subsidies.

## **IX. Award Ceremony**

The award ceremony will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Berlin as an online event.