Brussels, October 1st, 2017

Rules for awarding Solvay Awards
(2017-2021)

1. The Solvay Group awards on an annual basis “Solvay Awards” to PhD graduates who have successfully defended their thesis the previous year in the Faculty of Sciences or Engineering School of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) or of the Vrije University Brussel (VUB).

By awarding this prize the Solvay Group wishes to:
- maintain privileged relations with the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), which are both located in Brussels where the group has its headquarters;
- encourage young people to train and undertake research in science and technology, fields in which research is essential for the development of current and future industrial activities;
- stimulate the inventiveness of talented PhD graduates and encourage them to think of how their work can contribute to societal progress.

PhD work submitted for evaluation can be of a basic or applied nature but should have focused, from a physical or chemical perspective, on one of the following themes: (i) the investigation and understanding of matter (structure, properties, transformation, chemical reactivity, material science) (ii) the study of the mechanisms and chemistry of life (iii) new production technologies, (iv) new resources, energy storage and generation (iv) environmental sciences and sustainable development.

2. The amount of the prize awarded to the laureates is set at 3,000 €.

3. The Chair of the Solvay Award jury (Solvay Group) manages the submissions and presides over the evaluation sessions. The number of awards and evaluation of the candidates are left to the discretion of the jury, within the budget allocated by Solvay.
The jury is composed of representatives from the Solvay Group and an academic from each university (ULB / VUB). The two academics assist in the management of the jury, at the request of the Chair.
4. Each year, before January 31st, the Deans of the Faculties of Sciences (ULB and VUB) and of the Engineering Schools (ULB and VUB) send to Chair of the Solvay Award jury the files of their candidates who defended their thesis during the previous calendar year. The Solvay Awards are conferred on the basis of excellence criteria and the applicants with a good scientific and academic profile will have to furthermore demonstrate their ability to communicate.

5. Each Faculty submits electronically a file for each candidate which contains
   - Cover letter addressed by the candidate to the Solvay Awards Jury
   - Completed application form
   - Detailed curriculum vitae
   - A summary (in English) of the thesis (Max 4 pages starting with the title of the Thesis)
   - A short synopsis “My thesis in 100 words”
   - A high definition photo
   - A pdf copy of the thesis (full text)
   - A reference letter submitted by the thesis supervisor advocating the candidate’s merits

Each Faculty also sends a list with the names of their respective candidates.

All the documents are sent before Jan 31 of each year to Michèle Huart (michele.huart@solvay.com).

6. Only applicants who have defended their thesis in the year (year N) preceding the application (January N+ 1) are admissible.

7. The 30-min auditions (in English) are held at Solvay Headquarters (310 rue de Ransbeek, 1120 Bruxelles) between May 20 and June 10 each year. Each candidate will be asked to
   - communicate the objectives, results and conclusions of their thesis to non-specialist scientists. (10 min)
   - demonstrate the applicability of their work, or the short/long term potential impact of their work on industry or society. (10 min)
   - answer questions about their work and its applicability/impact (10 min).
8. The candidates and faculty Deans are informed of the outcome of the deliberations by the Solvay Awards Jury Chair.

9. The Solvay Awards Prize giving Ceremony is held during the “Public Lectures” organized by the Solvay International Institutes of Chemistry and Physics in October of the year $N + 1$ or $N + 2$.

10. These rules are valid for a period of five years (thesis defended 2017-2021)

Solvay S.A

General Manager Research and Innovation

Jury Chairman

Nicolas Cudré-Mauroux

Paul Baekelmans

NB: This document replaces the previous agreement between Solvay and ULB/VUB.