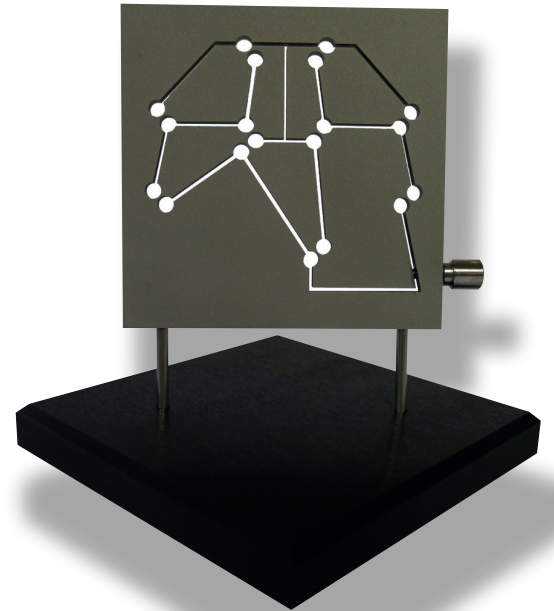


The Wim van der Hoek Award is an annual prize awarded to the student with the best graduation project in the field of mechanical engineering. In 2026 the prize will be awarded for the 21th time.



Who will you recommend for the Wim van der Hoek Award 2026

Recommend your best graduate before September 4, 2026

We are requesting technical universities and colleges in the Netherlands and Flanders to submit their students' graduation reports before 4 September. An expert jury assesses the reports and selects the nominees from them; In the evening (September 21, 28 and October 5) these nominees give a presentation to the jury via Teams, who then chooses a winner based on presentation and report. The winner will be announced on November 19 at the Precision Fair.

The winner will receive 1000 euros, an original trophy and a framed certificate. The other nominees will receive a certificate. All nominees may submit an abstract for the DSPE Conference 2027 and if awarded the opportunity to give a lecture or display a poster (with or without demonstration), participate in the DSPE Conference 2027 free of charge (date September 22 and 23 2027).

Background

The prize is intended to bring greater attention to the area of design in mechanical engineering. The name of the prize refers to Emeritus Professor Wim van der Hoek, who from 1962 to 1985 laid the foundations for the unique Dutch method of design in mechanical engineering at TU Eindhoven.

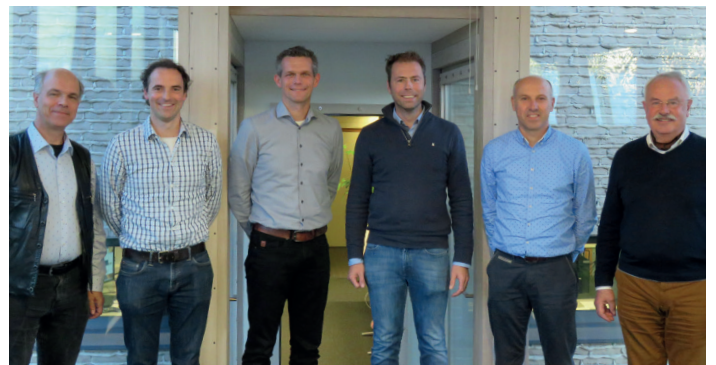
Criteria

Graduation reports from the academic year 2025/2026 may be submitted if the graduation date is between 1 Augustus 2025 and 31 July 2026.

When assessing the graduation reports, the quality of the design, substantiation and innovativeness of the chosen solutions are the criteria, as well as the possibility to serve as an example in the book Construction Principles. Candidates must be nominated by the graduation supervisor, graduation teacher or lecturer/professor

Sponsors

The trophy has been manufactured by Leiden Instrument Makers School LIS; the prize money is offered by Casimir Institute TU/e.



The jury

The 2026 jury consists of: Chairman Jos Gusing (MaromeTech), Johan Vervoort (Vervos), Marc Vermeulen (ASML), Maurice Teuwen (JPE), Hans Steijaert (Vanderlande Industries) Wouter Voegesang (VH Consult).

Who will you recommend for the Wim van der Hoek Award 2026?

Submission before 4 September

Please send the following information about the nominee to info@dspe.nl:

1. Digital copy of their graduation report
2. Profile of the nominee, including a description of his/her skills and personality (max. 250 words).
3. Personal email address and phonenumber of the nominee.
4. Passport photo in colour of the nominee.

Please explain clearly what we may and may not mention in DSPE's communications. Points 2 and 4 are used for announcing the nominee through various communication channels.

After the assessment of the nomination by the jury, you will receive a message whether you are among the nominees.

At www.dspe.nl you can read more about previous winners and what the jury is looking for.

Presentation

The ceremony for the Wim van der Hoek Design Engineer Prize 2026 will take place on Thursday, 19 November 2026,



The winner of the Wim van der Hoek award 2025 Wietse Maas TU/e.



The trophy is shaped after the so-called parallel-slit mechanism. When the screw on the lower-right is turned the mechanism will move allowed by the elastic hinges. The geometry has been chosen such that the 2 edges of the parallel-slit (middle upper position) will move in parallel very accurately. This principle is applied in many sorts of precision equipment and products.



at 16:15 on the last day of the Precisiebeurs Precision Fair in the Brabanthallen Den Bosch. The nominees, their parents, supervisors and fellow students are cordially invited. In the afternoon at 11:30 we invite the nominees and their graduation supervisors and the jury at the stand of the DSPE for a lunch together. You will receive a personal invitation in October.

Contact

Jos Gusing

☎ +31 (0)6 51 99 41 90

@ jos.gusing@marometech.nl

Julie van Stiphout

☎ +31 (0)6 54 30 87 03

@ info@dspe.nl

Sponsors: 


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