**SEPnet Public Engagement Awards Criteria**

* There are three categories to the awards, Projects, Individuals and Research Groups.
* Projects, individuals and research groups can be nominated for more than one award however a nomination form for each award is required.
* Projects, individuals and research groups can be nominated in successive years for the same award. However winners will not receive the same award twice.
* Each award has their own form.
* Outreach Officers, Public Engagement staff and anyone working on Outreach or Public Engagement at 0.5FTE or higher are ineligible for the Individual Awards.
* Please note School’s Outreach activities not based on research are not eligible for any award.
* Nominations must be received by midday on **Wednesday 18 October 2017**.

**Projects**

Nominations for awards in this category should be for a single project run by an individual or a team. Projects would take place within the last two years, with some form of output, outcome or long-term impact since September 2015.

Projects nominated in this category can include researchers from outside SEPnet and / or physics research, as long as at least one member of the project’s core team is based at a SEPnet Outreach Partner, including the associate members (Reading, St Mary’s and Oxford) and is carrying out physics research.

***Innovation Project Award***

This award recognises projects which have delivered interesting and innovative ways in which the public has engaged with physics research. Nominated projects will have had a target public, set aims & objectives, and an evaluation measuring outcomes and if appropriate long-term impact. Projects can include any form of engagement based on physics research with any audience.

Good nominations will include two or more of the following:

* Working with audiences who normally don’t engage with physics research.
* A thorough evaluation of the project and its outcomes and long-term impact.
* Unusual and innovative ideas for engagement.

***Impact Project Award***

Projects will have generated long-term impact from their research through any channel involving engaging with the public – including knowledge transfer, working with user groups, debates and many more.

The nominations in this category should be for a particular project resulting in visible impact where impact is defined as a benefit to, change within or influence on a group. The impact may relate to wealth and/or job creation, environment and/or resource use, health, treatments and/or lifestyle choices, improving safety including influencing safety standards, influencing end-user practices, influencing aspiration and/or study/career choices, changing public understanding and/or appreciation of physics, influencing policy and/or infrastructure or service provision.

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

* Evidence of the long-term impact achieved.
* Evidence of the reach of the impact.
* Evidence of the significance of the impact.

**Individuals**

The nominations for awards in this category should be for a single individual based at a SEPnet Outreach Partner, including the associate members (Reading, St Mary’s and Oxford) who is carrying out some form of physics research.

***Communication Award***

This award recognises an individual’s ability to communicate their own research through different channels including broadcast media (television, radio or film), writing for print or online journalism and public speaking (festivals, lectures, debates or panel discussions).

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

* Working across a range of media types.
* Engagement at a national or international level.
* Regular contributions to high profile events such as festivals, lectures, debates and panel discussions.
* Ability to communicate their research to different types of audiences, giving evidence on how each audience is considered.

***Achievement Award***

This award recognises an individual’s record of sustained excellence in engaging different audiences with research through a range of activities.

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

* At least ten years of engagement activity.
* Evidence of supporting others in their department with their own engagement activity.
* Engagement with a variety of audiences, through a range of different channels.
* Engaging at a wider strategic level.

***Newcomer Award***

This award recognises an individual who is new to engagement (started within the last two years) and has made an impact that could include any type of engagement activity or project linked to their research. The nominees in this category are likely to be early in their research career and should have taken part in a significant project and/or a range of different engagement types.

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

* Initiating and leading on an engagement project or activity.
* A variety of engagement types.
* Developing their own activities.
* Clear evaluation of the activity.

**Research Groups**

For the purpose of the awards a research group is defined as a collection of academics, normally based within a single department at one of the SEPnet Outreach Partners, including the associate members (Reading, St Mary’s and Oxford), working in an emerging or established area of expertise. This should line up with how your institution defines a research group. Nominations can be written by anyone within the research group but must have the approval of their head of group.

***Best embedding of PE within a Research Group Award***

This award recognises a research group that has a well embedded culture of public engagement based on their research.

Good nominations will include evidence for three or more of the following:

* A clear strategy for public engagement activity with some form of formal oversight for delivery of the strategy.
* Co-ordinated group-wide public engagement activity rather than simply a collection of ad-hoc activity.
* Public Engagement champions within the group who support others to carry out public engagement activities.
* Staff and students are supported for accessing professional development, training and informal learning to develop their skills and knowledge of engagement.
* PE is rewarded & recognised in formal and informal ways.
* The research group has assessed need & committed resources to supporting a wide range of different publics to access its facilities and activities, and to systematically seek their involvement.