

Prospectus of The Heinrich Rohrer Medal and Invitation to The Official Sponsors

May, 2026

The Japan Society of Vacuum and Surface Science (JVSS)

1. Purpose of the Medal

In order to celebrate the great achievements accomplished by one of the Nobel Laureates in 1986, Late Dr. Heinrich Rohrer, and also to express our deepest gratitude for his huge contribution to the research community, and finally to promote further progress in research and development in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology, an international prize named after him has been established in 2013 by The Surface Science Society of Japan (SSSJ) (at present merged as the Japan Society of Vacuum and Surface Science (JVSS)) in collaboration with IBM Research - Zurich, Swiss Embassy in Japan and Ms. Rohrer.

2. Outline of the Medal

The Heinrich Rohrer Medal is composed of the **Grand Medal** and the **Rising Medal** as described below. The Medal will be awarded every three years, at The International Symposium on Surface Science (ISSS) organized by JVSS (scheduled in 2014, 2017, 2021, 2024, 2027...). The award ceremony will be held at ISSS, and the winners are requested to deliver award lecture/talks at ISSS. The next awarding will be at ISSS-11 in November, 2027.

The details are found on <https://jvss.jp/RohrerMedal/index.html>

· The **Grand Medal** goes to researchers who have made distinguished achievements in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology based on surface science, hereby have made significant progress in science and technology. The winner of the Grand Medal should be basically one person each time. When, however, there is little to choose among the candidates on the basis of achievements, more than one candidate can share the Medal under a common topic. The winners can be collaborators. The Medal with a special framed Certificate and the cash of JPY 1,000,000 will be awarded. If the winners of the Grand Medal are more than one, the cash will be shared equally.

· The **Rising Medal** goes to researchers of 37* or less years old (as of January 1st of the award year) who have made outstanding results and are expected to continue to play active roles in the field. The winners of the Rising Medal are up to three individuals under different topics each time. The Medal with a special framed Certificate and the cash of JPY 300,000 will be awarded for each winner.

*Only for the 4th Rising Medal, this limit was changed to 38 because of the irregular interval of previous ISSS-9 due to COVID-19.

3. Selection Process

The nomination of candidates may be made by anyone qualified to evaluate, highlight, and validate the nominee's accomplishments. Any individual may submit one nominating or supporting letter for each Medal (Grand Medal or Rising Medal).

The letter formats are found on <https://jvss.jp/RohrerMedal/index.html>. The complete package of documents should be transmitted electronically as PDF files (with proper security protection) to: rohrermedal@jvss.jp before October 31, 2026.

The Award Committee is composed of international members, which is organized by JVSS.

4. Why does JVSS host The Heinrich Rohrer Medal?

Dr. Rohrer visited Japan some dozen times and played important roles as a member of various kinds of advisory/reviewing boards and steering committees of many organizations and research groups, and also delivered a huge number of lectures and talks in conferences, universities, and research institutes in Japan. Many young researchers and students were directly encouraged by personal conversation with him. Because of his lovely and frank personality, many of Japanese people love and respect him so much that the idea of a prize named after him has been arisen immediately after his death in May 2013. Since Dr. Rohrer loved Japanese nature and culture very much, he and Japan were bound by strong ties with respect.

Dr. Rohrer strongly promoted not only research on scanning probe microscopy which was his achievement for the Nobel Prize, but also research in wider areas of nanoscience and nanotechnology, with words “Nano is Different” which he used frequently in his talks. Since the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology is exactly the one that JVSS covers, JVSS is the best society in the world that hosts The Heinrich Rorer Medal.

The Heinrich Rohrer Medal is, however, not for encouraging Japanese researchers only, but is aiming at promoting activities in international community for global progress of research. Therefore, the Heinrich Rohrer Medal is operated from an international view point by collaborating with societies and research institutes in many countries.

5. Invitation to the official sponsors for The Heinrich Rohrer Medal

JVSS is inviting enterprises and companies, which are active in the fields relating to The Medal, to the official sponsors providing funds for operating the Medal. The funds are for the prize money and other expenses relating with the awarding. JVSS would like to ask each company to kindly contribute one or more units at ¥500,000 / unit. The official sponsors are stated clearly on the Web page and the certificates of the Medal. Please contact us below to ask the information and invoice for the donation.

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