

# Cookies

The European Patent Organisation (EPO) is the intergovernmental body behind epo.org. We use the easypromos platform to offer you the best possible experience when voting for the People's Choice as part of the Young Inventors Prize.

When you click on the link that directs you to the voting platform, easypromos installs the cookies below so you can vote, in accordance with your cookie settings.

A cookie is a small text file that a website stores on your computer or mobile device when you visit the site. They fall into three categories: ones that run the sites and convey our message, ones that compile statistics and ones that display videos in **social media** and **video platforms**. The first category is **required**, i.e. selected automatically. The other two are optional: you can allow one or the other, or both. Please note that your settings will determine whether all functionalities are available to you. For more information see our page on [Data protection and privacy](#).

## Necessary cookies

These are essential for site usability and security. For example, they enable the system to recognise whether you have enabled the use of cookies, which inventors you have already voted for and whether you entered the CAPTCHA code correctly to prove you are a human and not a robot. You cannot vote if you deactivate these cookies. They do not gather any information about you that could be used for marketing purposes and do not remember where you have been on the internet. They cannot be disabled. Most web browsers allow some control of most cookies through your browser settings.

## Statistics cookies

To further improve our service and websites, the platform uses a tracking tool to collect anonymised data for statistics.

## Social media – third-party cookies

The platform uses social media networks (hereinafter, “Social Networks”) such as Google, YouTube, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and LinkedIn to allow you to share content via plugin functions such as “Share” and “Like”.

These plugins are functions of the respective Social Network and can be recognised by their logo.

Please note that through the integration of the plugins, Social Networks are informed about you accessing our pages.

If you are logged in to a Social Network, that network can associate these page views with your account on the network. It might also result in information already held being combined

with the information newly collected and this being further processed under the data protection and cookie policies of the platforms concerned.

Even if you are not a member of any Social Networks, the integrated social media plugins in this website send information to Facebook to make our content better, so it is possible that company may become aware of your IP address, your browser/operating system and the address of the website or app you use to make these features work.

Please note that Social Networks may change their terms of service, purpose and use of cookies at any time. We have no influence on the scope of data collected in this way.

## **TYPES OF COOKIES:**

### **Strictly necessary (total number)**

These are essential for site usability and security.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Expiry</b>	<b>Type</b>
PHPSESSID	.engage.epo.org	User session participating in the promotion. Used for managing new participations, participant identification, fraud controls on participation, and user interface personalisation.	Session	Strictly necessary
wl_ep_login[*]	.engage.epo.org	Set when a user identifies themselves in the contest and allows the participant's session to be maintained.	Session	Strictly necessary
promo_*_lang	.engage.epo.org	The language selected by the user is saved to display promotional	Session	Strictly necessary

		content in that language.		
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### Statistical (total number)

These collect anonymised data that allow us to measure visitor traffic levels and optimise our content.

Name	Provider	Purpose	Expiry	Type
wl_ep_requests[*]	.engage.epo.org	The origin of the user is stored for the traffic source statistics system of participants.	Session	Statistical

### Social media (third-party) (total number)

Name	Provider	Purpose	Expiry	Type
fbm_*, fbmsr_*, fbssls_*, fbs_*, c_user, datr, fr, sb, wd, locale	Meta	Introduced by Meta when the user logs in with Facebook, shares content on Facebook or displays a social plugin.	1 year	Social media
personalization_id, _twitter_sess, ct0, eu_cn, external_referer, guest_id, tfw_exp	X, formerly Twitter	Introduced by X.com for the sharing functionality on X. X generates a Twitter card and introduces cookies to determine if the user has an active session in the browser and provide sharing functionality.	1 year	Social media

### **How can you manage cookies?**

You can **manage/delete** cookies as you wish - for details, see [aboutcookies.org](https://aboutcookies.org).

### **Removing cookies from your device**

You can delete any cookies already on your device by clearing the history in your browser. This will remove all cookies from any websites you have visited.

Be aware you may also lose saved information (e.g. daily authentication details, inventors already voted for).

### **Managing site-specific cookies**

For more detailed control over site-specific cookies, check the privacy and cookie settings in your preferred browser.

### **Blocking cookies**

You can set most modern browsers to prevent any cookies being placed on your device, but you may then have to manually adjust some preferences every time you visit a site/page. Some services and functionalities (e.g. authentication) may not work at all.