OÜ Skype Technologies (Skype Eesti) and the Cultural Foundation of the President of the Republic signed a contract on 23 March, confirming that Skype Estonia will finance the President of the Republic's Special Sciences Award for the next three years. The special award amount is 3,900 Euros.

In the context of the President of the Republic's Special Physical Sciences Award, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, bioinformatics and gene technology are considered physical sciences. As an exception, the supervisory board of the Cultural Foundation of the President of the Republic may decide to give the award for work in another educational discipline that corresponds to the nature and intent of the special award.

The President of the Republic's Special Physical Sciences Award may be presented to people who have excelled as teachers and/or faculty members of physical sciences at any educational stage; whose students have been recognized in international competitions or achieved good results in physical sciences competitions; who have compiled physical sciences textbooks and methodological materials; or who in the course of teaching physical sciences have initiated and implemented practical innovations.

Individuals who satisfy the aforementioned criteria may nominate themselves, or be nominated by their employers, educational institutions, as well as associations working in the field of education. Candidates can also be nominated by pupils or university students, as well as pupil and university student organizations or councils.

This year's award application round will be announced in September and the award will be presented in October.

The special award was established by the Cultural Foundation of the President of the Republic in 2009.

Additional information is available at <u>www.president.ee</u>

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