



The submissions period for the 3rd edition of the Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez International Prize of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation is drawing to a close

- All entries must be submitted on or before 30th September 2011.
- The Award is aimed at fostering scientific study and research geared towards contextualizing the paintings of Velázquez.

Seville, September 29th, 2011.- The Focus-Abengoa Foundation wishes to remind potential applicants that the deadline for submissions of work to the third edition of the Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez International Prize is 30 September. The award seeks to highlight innovative projects and scientific studies that contribute to enriching our knowledge about Velázquez and Seville during his time.

To that effect, and in recognition and perpetuation of the efforts of Arts Historian, Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, an exemplary researcher and professor, who devoted special attention to research into Spanish and Italian Paintings and to the study of the works of Velázquez, the projects submitted for the award shall encompass literary, patrimonial and cultural perspectives of Modern Age Spain (*circa* 1500-1800).

The award, endowed with prize money of €24,000, also pays homage to the figure of Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez. His passionate and selfless collaboration with the Focus-Abengoa Foundation has made it possible for the numerous exhibitions of said Foundation, including *Three Centuries of Seville Paintings*, *Spanish Paintings Recovered by Private Collectors* or *From Herrera to Velázquez*, to be acknowledged with applause from both critics and visitors. Also, until his death in 2010, the work of Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez as Arts Consultant for the Focus-Abengoa Foundation was decisive in acquiring Velázquez's painting, *Santa Rufina* and, consequently, the birth of the *Diego Velázquez Research Centre*.

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation institutes the award as an attempt to encourage the entire scientific community to embark on exhaustive research into the historic and artistic context surrounding the works of the brilliant Velázquez. In addition to taking a closer look at the works of the Seville painter, projects for submission must significantly contribute to the areas of Arts, History, Culture, Literature and Aesthetics of the Modern Age.

All works must be sent by certified mail with acknowledgement of receipt or must be hand-delivered at the Focus-Abengoa Foundation address: Hospital de los Venerables, Plaza de los Venerables, 8 (41004 –Sevilla–). The envelope must bear the following: *III Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez International Award*.



The originals of the works must be submitted on paper, in Spanish, Italian, French, English or German, on or before 30th September 2011.

See <http://focus.abengoa.es/> for the complete conditions of entry

Focus-Abengoa Foundation

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created around the same time. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond its core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, which was created to mark the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007

From the outset, the Foundation has not only shown clear signs of interest for activities directly linked to the city of Seville, but also for all cultural activities including artistic, literary and scientific events, both at national as well as international levels. An example of such are the various competitions that the institution organizes each year aimed at providing support for creators, scientists or young students.