

R&D World presents:

R&D 100 AWARDS



**R&D
WORLD**

CALL FOR
NOMINATIONS:

THE 2026 R&D 100 AWARDS

Submissions open:

March 4, 2026

Deadline for submissions

(\$495/entry):

May 1, 2026

Late deadline for submissions

(\$595/entry):

June 5, 2026

To be eligible for R&D 100 Awards consideration, your product or service must have been made available to the marketplace between **January 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026.**



What is the R&D 100 Awards program?

Established in 1963, the R&D 100 Awards is the only S&T (science and technology) awards competition that recognizes new commercial products, technologies, and materials for their technological significance that are available for sale or license.

There are six regular categories in the R&D 100, listed below. There are also three special recognition categories, which follow. A given innovation can be entered in both a regular category and any of the special recognition categories — but please note that a separate entry fee is required for each nomination. Special recognition categories are awarded separately from the 100 winners that comprise the R&D 100. **An innovation may not be entered only into a special recognition category without being entered into one of the six regular categories.**

In addition, the judging panel will award finalist designations to selected top nominations. This announcement of finalists is made first, followed by the actual R&D 100 winners several weeks later. This allows all finalists and winners plenty of time to make arrangements to attend the awards banquet.

Analytical/Test

- Analytical Instrumentation (chromatography, spectroscopy, analyzers, etc.)
- Electronic Instrumentation (oscilloscopes, VOMs, spectrum analyzers, digital multimeters, probes, etc.)
- Imaging Systems/Devices (microscopes, cameras, telescopes, binoculars, optics, etc.)
- Testing Systems (hardness, materials, tensile, physical, etc.)
- Laboratory Equipment (fume hoods, cabinets, casework, lab resources, lab automation, balances/scales, centrifuges, tubing/valves, mixers, etc.)
- Life Sciences (biopharmaceuticals, DNA/RNA systems, food & beverage, genomics, proteomics, GMO, medical devices, medicine, medical implants, etc.)

IT/Electrical

- Electrical Devices (motors, switches, lighting systems, etc.)
- Information Technologies (computers, cell phones, printers, storage systems, supercomputers, computer hardware, operating systems, cloud computing, big data, data mining, data security, etc.)
- Communication Systems/Devices (wireless, broadband, networking systems, routers, wearables, lidar/radar, space communications, etc.)
- Safety & Security (sensing, detecting, monitoring, alarm systems, access point/portals, isolation systems, barriers, etc.)
- Beam Instrumentation (x-ray, neutron, proton, gamma ray, etc.)
- Lasers & Photonics (CO2 lasers, solid-state lasers, LEDs, synchrotron items, etc.)

**Mechanical/Materials**

- Chemical & Gases (chemicals, powders, rare gases, reagents, etc.)
- Energy Systems/Components (energy modeling software, fuel cells, hybrid systems, IC engines, nuclear, PV, etc.)
- Environmental Systems/Instruments (carbon capture, filtering systems, mercury capture, pH meters, precipitators, etc.)
- Materials (adhesives, alloys, ceramics, composites, metals, paints, plastics, polymers, etc.)
- Mechanical Systems (air-handling systems, gears, heating and cooling systems, pumps robotics, structural components, thermal devices, transmissions, etc.)
- Thin Film & Vacuum (deposition systems, lithography, semiconductor processing, vacuum pumps/chambers, vacuum valves, etc.)

Process/Prototyping

- Process Systems (mixing, formulating, distilling, baking, coating, etc.)
- Additive Manufacturing (3D printing, rapid prototyping)
- Supply Chain (management, operations, etc.)
- Process Improvement (design, production, distribution strategies)

Software/Services

- Military/Aerospace/Law Enforcement Devices (air traffic control tech, de-icing solutions, drones, flight simulators, forensic tools, weapons, etc.)
- Safety & Security (alarm systems, access point/portals, barriers, detecting, isolation systems, sensing, monitoring, etc.)
- Software (chemistry, process and analysis, reporting, simulation, visualization)

Other

- Any Products or Services that do NOT fall into the above stated categories.





Special Recognition: Corporate Social Responsibility

This award honors organizational efforts to be a greater corporate member of society, from a local to global level. Good works criteria may include, but aren't limited to, efforts toward carbon footprint reduction, efforts in third-world countries, better prosthetics for wounded soldiers, LEED green building certification, local fundraising efforts, scholarship programs, and involvement and/or contributions to the STEM community.

Special Recognition: Green Tech

From an engineering and societal perspective, efficiency and environmental factors play an increasingly important role in the world today. *R&D World* wants to recognize those innovations that help make our environment greener and our goal towards energy reduction closer.

Special Recognition: Market Disruptor

This award is designed to highlight any product or service from any category that has truly changed the game in any industry. No matter what the specific product or service is, the focus should be on industry impact. Was your innovation a game changer in the last year?





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R&D WORLD'S PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

R&D World's Professional Awards spotlight individuals and teams from around the world who have advanced the field of research and development — while making a positive impact on their organization and society in general.

GENERAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To nominate a person or team for an R&D World Professional Award, please submit:

- A nomination letter (no more than 800 words).
- The candidate's Curriculum Vitae (up to four pages) or (for team nominees) each team member's CV (again, up to four pages each).
- Up to five secondary letters of support (no more than 400 words each). Secondary letters should focus on different aspects of the candidate(s). For the Leaders awards, at least two secondary letters must be from people who currently report to — or have in the past reported to — the candidate.
- One page listing previous personal achievements or honors awarded to the candidate or team.
- A high-resolution photo of the candidate or (for team nominations) a group photo or separate photos of all team members.

Note that in determining winners, judges will give the most attention to the past three to five years of candidates' careers. More than one winner per category may be awarded based on the total number of submissions and the judges' resulting scoring ranges. Self-nominations are not allowed. Fees and deadline dates for R&D World's Professional Awards are the same as the traditional and Special Recognition categories.

R&D Researcher of the Year

The Researchers of the Year award will recognize engineers and scientists doing exceptional work as part of a team or small group. Prospective winners will be evaluated on previous awards and recognitions, volunteer work, mentorship, and other outreach participation.



2025 R&D Researcher of the Year: Hongyou Fan, Ph.D., Sandia National Laboratories

R&D Leader of the Year

This award celebrates R&D leaders who have consistently performed exceptional work and successfully managed teams, laboratories, departments, or organizations to reliably deliver scientific and technological achievements. Entrants will be judged on their past performance over the long and short term; how they've given back to the industry (through mentoring, volunteer work, or other extra efforts); and feedback from current and prior direct reports and colleagues.



2025 R&D Leader of the Year: Dr. Thomas Lograsso, Ph.D., Ames National Laboratory



R&D WORLD'S PROFESSIONAL AWARDS CONTINUED...

R&D Team of the Year

This award celebrates R&D teams that have collectively contributed to their fields and consistently demonstrated the ability to leverage members' different strengths. Teams will be judged on their overall track record of producing technological successes and how well they demonstrate the ability to foster a collaborative environment of mutual respect.

R&D Sustainability Innovator of the Year

The Sustainability Innovators of the Year award honors R&D pacesetters who have helped their organizations prioritize sustainability in their processes and final products. Entrants will exhibit a personal passion for sustainability along with colleague-verified dedication to initiating and upholding these initiatives.



2023 R&D Sustainability Innovator of the Year: Bob Robinson Maughon, SABIC

R&D Technician of the Year

This award celebrates R&D technicians who have consistently performed exceptional work and demonstrated the ability to execute projects in both individual and team settings. Nominees should exemplify professionalism and a dedication to their field; technological achievement where applicable as demonstrated by awards and other recognitions; and support of the industry through mentoring, volunteer work, or other extra efforts. Special consideration will be given to nominees who have become indispensable to their organization.



2025 R&D Technician of the Year: Richard Tapper, The Dow Chemical Company



What does the submission form ask for?

The online submission form asks for a variety of information, and the submitter can upload supporting documents, images, videos, and more. The basic information asked for includes:

- Category selected
- Name of the primary submitting organization
- Name(s) of co-developing organization(s), if applicable
- Product/service brand name
- When the product was introduced to the market
- If subject to regulatory approval, has it been approved?
- Price of product/service in U.S. dollars?
- Short product description
- Type of submitting institution
- Submitter's relationship to the entered product/service
- Photo(s), up to four
- Video(s), up to six
- What does the product or technology do?
- How does the product operate?
- How does it improve upon competitive products or technologies?
- Optional: matrix or table of how key features compare to existing products
- Limitations of your product
- Summary of your entry
- Support letters from other organizations that verify the product's successful use in the field
- Optional additional supporting documents, up to three
- Principal investigator(s) from each of the submitting organizations
- Full list of development team
- Various contact information for company, the individual submitter, marketing team
- Organization's logo and social media handles
- Payment information

Other frequently asked questions

Interested in submitting an exceptional product or process to the R&D 100 Awards but aren't sure how to get started?

Why should I enter?

Since 1963, the R&D 100 Awards program has identified and celebrated the top 100 revolutionary technologies of the past year. Submitting your product or process to be considered by our panel of expert judges could earn it a place among an amazing group of finalists and winners from the last 60 years. Past R&D 100 Awards recipients include established Fortune 500 companies and federally funded research institutions, as well as academic and government labs and smaller companies. Their leading products, technologies and services will make a difference in a wide range of industries and together represent a bright future for science and innovation in the years to come. Current and past winners share in the pride of achievement and global recognition that an R&D 100 Award offers. Submit your entry online at <https://rd100.secure-platform.com/a>.

How many entries do you typically get?

While the *R&D World* team keeps the exact number of entries confidential, we can share that the number of entries is well into the hundreds and increases significantly each year.

**Do labs and big companies have an advantage?**

Upon first glance at our list of R&D 100 Award recipients from previous years, it might seem that federally funded research facilities and large corporations have an advantage when it comes to winning an R&D 100 Award. We're happy to share that in this case, looks are deceiving — some of our most interesting and surprising breakthrough innovations have come from smaller, newer companies that have shown the ability to innovate independently.

The R&D 100 Awards were created to level the playing field and honor the greatest inventions of the year, regardless of their origins. We ensure that the group of judges who participate come from all walks of R&D life, from small businesses and universities to major laboratories and firms. One of the most important aspects of the R&D 100 Awards is the diversity and expertise of its judges, which ensures a balanced and fair judging process. We do not allow anyone who may have a conflict of interest with any given entry to participate as a judge on that submission.

Does anyone have access to my submission materials besides the editors and the judges?

We take pride in the fact that any materials submitted with an entry to the R&D 100 Awards are for the judges' eyes only. Any exceptions are noted on the submission form, such as short descriptions of the products and photos that may be used in the *R&D World* magazine, website, or newsletters.

Why do I have to pay an entry fee?

There are two reasons why we charge an entry fee for submissions to the R&D 100 Awards: to help ensure the integrity of the pool of entrants and to cover the internal production costs of such an amazing black-tie event.

Can I submit a product in multiple product categories?

Yes. You can submit a single product in as many categories as you would like. However, it is important to note that the mission of the R&D 100 Awards is to identify and honor the top 100 new technologies of the year. Therefore, your product can only win in a single product category. However, a single entry can win in both a standard category and a Special Recognition Category.

Please also note that the entry fee applies for each award category in which a single product is entered.

How do the Special Recognition categories work?

These categories are additions to entering the R&D 100's six regular categories. If you are entering something in one of the six regular categories, you may also enter it in any Special Recognition categories for an additional submission fee. You cannot enter something in a Special Recognition category without first entering it in a regular category.

I entered my product last year but did not win. Can I enter again?

Yes. You can enter your product again if it is still eligible. However, we recommend that you only opt to do so if you have made improvements to your product. If you have questions about resubmitting your product for the 2026 R&D 100 Awards, please contact the team at pheney@wtwhmedia.com.

**How can I ensure that my submission aligns with what the judges are looking for?**

Nobody knows your innovation as well as you. It is all about how you present your invention and ensuring that you have a completed submission that fits the stated guidelines for each category entered. If you have any other questions about your submission, please feel free to email us at pheney@wtwhmedia.com.

Who are the “principal investigators” and “development team” members?**Why do you need their information?**

The principal investigators should include those who led the project/product development. Think of it as synonymous with team leader/leaders. The development team should include anyone that was involved in the development of the project/product that you'd like to make sure receives recognition. This information is judges' use only. Your team members will not be contacted, and the information will not be published. Team members also will not be contacted — this is purely for the use of the judges. Once your entry is recognized your team can celebrate.

Who should the support letters be addressed to?

While these letters will be uploaded digitally and not physically mailed, they can be addressed to:

Paul J. Heney

VP, Editorial Director

R&D World

1111 Superior Ave., #1120

Cleveland, OH 44114

What is your company's DUNS number?

WTWH Media LLC's DUNS number is 010102293.

What do the judges say about my entry?

We have a simple rule when it comes to the independent experts that we ask to contribute their opinions on the entries. What's said in the R&D 100 judging room stays in the R&D 100 judging room. This is an important rule that helps ensure the impartiality and confidentiality of our awards process.

Can I win first place?

One of the things that makes the R&D 100 Awards so unique is that there is no “first place winner” or rankings. The R&D 100 Awards is a place where the R&D community can come together to celebrate and recognize the top 100 innovations of the past year. Winning an R&D 100 Award places you into an elite group of innovators that all share the same winner's title.

When do we find out if we won?

Finalists for the 2026 R&D 100 Awards will be announced in a press release on www.rdworldonline.com on or about August 12, 2026. The announcement of the R&D 100 Award winners will follow roughly a week later. To keep up with the latest details, please follow the R&D World X (formerly Twitter) account at [@RD100Awards](https://twitter.com/RD100Awards).

What is the dress code for the awards dinner?

The R&D 100 Awards Banquet is a black-tie event, tentatively scheduled for November 2026 in Scottsdale, Arizona. More details will be announced later in the year.