



IAF Excellence in Industry Award

2026 Call for Nominations



The IAF Excellence in Industry Award is intended to distinguish commercial industry organizations, members, or non-members of the IAF worldwide, for introducing innovative space technologies to the global marketplace and is recognized throughout space industry for successfully executing a landmark space mission.

Who may nominate?

- Members of the IAF Industry Relations Committee and IAF Entrepreneurship and Investment Committee
- IAF Industry Member Organizations in good standing
- IAF Officers (President, Vice Presidents, Executive Director)

Who can be nominated?

The IAF Excellence in Industry Award calls for nominations annually but will only be presented when nominations of exceptional merit are received. Commercial industry organizations, IAF or non IAF Members, are eligible for nomination.

Nominees are commercial industry organizations; they are understood as the part of the economy that is not state controlled and is run for profit. They encompass all for-profit businesses that are not owned or operated by the government.

Government owned or sponsored organizations are not eligible for consideration.

Nominations shall be made for commercial industry organizations in two categories:

1. Large companies employing more than 500 persons and
2. Small and medium companies employing fewer than 500 persons and not belonging to larger industry groups.

This Award will be granted to an industry organization in each of the two award categories and is not intended to recognize an individual in the organization. The IAF will invite the CEO of the industry organization awarded in each of the two award categories to attend the IAC to receive the IAF Excellence in Industry Award.

Only one application per industry organization per year will be accepted. An industry member organization may self-apply or be nominated by any other IAF industry member organization. A submission which is not successful in any given year may be resubmitted for later years.



Nomination package shall contain:

- A **citation** of industry contribution to growth of global space industry
- **Landmark achievements** in innovative space technologies and missions
- **Noteworthy accomplishments** in successfully executing major space events
- The **size category** for the nominee: large or small / medium sized company
- Declaration of nominee **shareholding structure** so to properly identify compliance with the above-mentioned criteria

The IAF Excellence in Industry Award nominations will be reviewed by the IRC Award Subcommittee who will then make a recommendation for the recipients in each of the two award categories to the IAF Honours and Awards Committee and the IAF Bureau during the IAF Spring Meetings. The final approval rests with the IAF Bureau.

The award consists of a statue and a certificate which will be presented to the chief executive or senior executive officer of the awarded organization in each of the two award categories. The executive will be invited to the IAC of the year of induction.

Selection criteria:

The awardee should be an Industry organization recognized across global space community for outstanding and sustainable advancements in civil space, showing the following merits:

- Industry organization is distinguished as the leader in developing and executing landmark commercial and civil space missions;
- Organization is industry role model for collaboration and cooperation in the global space industry workforce;
- Senior leadership and organization's workforce exemplify commitment to diversity;

Nominations will be judged on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of commitment to highest standard of excellence in mission planning and execution;
- Recognition of exemplary mission performance across global space industry;

Nomination documents must be received by IAF Secretariat by **Friday 6 February 2026, 23:59 CET**, via email at award@iafastro.org.

If email is not available, please contact alessandra.dargenio@iafastro.org.