



FIRST EDITION

IAF AUTOMOTIVE AWARDS

Programme Standard

Integrity, recognition and evaluation requirements for the complete automotive ecosystem.

PREPARED FOR IAF ADOPTION

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Document control

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Purpose and use

Integrity, recognition and evaluation requirements for the complete automotive ecosystem.

This document forms part of one consistent five-document programme set. It does not itself announce a live season, appoint a jury or confer an award. The Standard states the programme requirements; the annual notice supplies approved dates and channels.

Normative language

Shall indicates a mandatory programme requirement; should indicates guidance; may indicates an allowed option. Category schedules and Annexes A-D are normative. Common-control identifiers AWA-01.01 to AWA-18.04 and category criterion identifiers are internal navigation codes, not separate external standards.

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Scope and operating principles

This programme covers the full automotive value chain: passenger and commercial vehicles, buses, two- and three-wheelers, specialist and off-highway applications with a clear automotive connection, parts and materials, software, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, research, testing, logistics, retail, repair, fleets, recycling, people and public-interest mobility initiatives. It recognizes achievements rather than providing a general vehicle ranking.

Nine named categories provide distinct routes for technical, human, environmental, operational, entrepreneurial and career excellence. Technology and powertrain choices are neutral. No sector-wide coverage claim relieves an entrant of defining a precise achievement and an appropriate evidence boundary.

The programme balances ambition with demonstrated results, independent judgment with reproducible decisions, and commercial viability with safety and public benefit. No award is compulsory: withholding recognition is the proper outcome when the evidence or thresholds are insufficient.

Category	Focus
Innovation & Technology Award	Original engineering that solves a material automotive problem and survives rigorous validation.
Design Excellence Award	Distinctive design that improves real use, accessibility and the complete ownership experience.
Sustainability & Green Mobility Award	Verified lifecycle improvement with transparent boundaries, resource stewardship and a fair transition.
Quality & Safety Leadership Award	Sustained leadership that prevents harm, exposes defects and improves dependable automotive outcomes.
Future Mobility Award	Practical mobility systems that connect people, goods, infrastructure and data safely and inclusively.
Supplier Excellence Award	Dependable and responsible supply performance across every tier of the automotive value chain.
Corporate Social Responsibility Award	Measurable improvements in people's lives supported by ethical conduct, participation and lasting capability.
Start-up & Entrepreneurship Award	Young automotive ventures that combine original value with verified traction and responsible execution.
Lifetime Achievement Award	A sustained personal contribution that leaves the automotive sector more capable, responsible and beneficial.

Terms and interpretation

Term	Meaning
Achievement	The bounded work and results entered in one category; not every activity of the recipient.
Applicant / recipient	The authorized submitting organization or individual / the person or entity named in the decision.
Category criterion	One of five weighted merit dimensions for the selected category.
Common control	A mandatory process, eligibility or integrity requirement; it is not a merit score.
Critical control	A control whose failure requires a hold on the affected entry or process. A high merit score cannot compensate.
Evidence cutoff	The last time at which an achievement may have occurred or an eligible result may have been produced for the season.
Clarification	Explanation or authentication of an existing in-scope fact; not creation of a new post-cutoff achievement.
Independent evidence	Evidence challenged by a competent source without a material interest in the award outcome.
Maturity	Concept, prototype, pilot or deployed status, with a declared version and operating boundary.
Recognized finalist	An entry satisfying final-stage thresholds and all applicable controls; shortlisting alone is not finalist recognition.
Winner	The confirmed highest-ranked eligible entry in a category after gates and ties have been resolved.
Business day	Monday to Friday excluding closures published in the Season Notice; deadlines state a time in UTC.
Material	Capable of changing eligibility, evidence reliance, score, rank, safety or the public meaning of recognition.
Not applicable	A justified common-control exclusion accepted by an independent reviewer; it never removes a weighted criterion.

01 Purpose, authority and award boundaries

AWA-01.01 Authorized programme

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

IAF shall appoint a programme owner and record the authority, edition, effective date and season to which these rules apply. The programme shall not open until the governing approval, operating resources and independent decision and appeal functions are in place. Adoption shall be recorded, never inferred from a document cover.

Required record: Adoption resolution; appointments; funded operating plan; publication approval.

AWA-01.02 Recognition boundary

Applies to: Both | Critical gate

Every entry and published award shall identify the recipient, achievement, primary category, season and assessed scope. An award recognizes a bounded achievement; it shall not imply unrestricted product approval, homologation, certification, guaranteed safety or continuing endorsement of an entire organization.

Required record: Entry scope; decision wording; award record; communication review.

AWA-01.03 Open and equitable access

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Members and non-members shall have equal access and identical merit rules. Nationality, organization size, revenue, brand prominence, sponsorship and attendance shall not earn points. Reasonable language, accessibility and evidence-access arrangements shall be offered without changing the criteria or weakening safety and integrity gates.

Required record: Published eligibility; accessibility arrangements; neutral allocation and scoring record.

AWA-01.04 Document hierarchy

Applies to: Operator

The Standard, including its category schedules and annexes, shall govern. The approved Season Notice shall specify dates, authorized channels and administrative arrangements within it. The Manual shall implement it; the Guide, Application and Checklist shall not alter it. Conflicts shall be corrected before launch or resolved in favor of the Standard with an equal remedy to affected entrants.

Required record: Controlled master list; release comparison; conflict and correction record.

02 Season control and transparent administration

AWA-02.01 Single season notice

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Before accepting entries, IAF shall publish one Season Notice identifying the year, opening and closing timestamps in UTC, evidence cutoff, review dates, decision notification, appeal window and announcement date. A season is an annual competition, not an assumed calendar-year evidence period. Conflicting website dates shall be corrected before launch.

Required record: Approved notice; publication snapshot; reconciled website and form versions.

AWA-02.02 Stable criteria

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Category scope, weights, thresholds, tie rules and eligibility shall be frozen before opening. Material rule changes after opening shall not disadvantage existing entrants. If a defect cannot be corrected neutrally, the affected category shall pause and reopen with reasonable notice and an opportunity to amend or withdraw. No rule shall be changed to favor an identifiable entry.

Required record: Frozen rubric; change log; impact assessment; entrant notices.

AWA-02.03 Administrative fairness

Applies to: Operator

The Secretariat shall acknowledge a submission within three business days and normally allow one common five-business-day correction window for administrative omissions. It shall distinguish missing files from missing substantive achievements. Comparable cases shall receive comparable opportunities, and all exceptions shall carry a reason and an independent approval.

Required record: Receipt and deadline log; completeness notices; exception decisions.

AWA-02.04 Commercial separation

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Payment, membership, sponsorship, media purchases and event attendance shall be separated from selection. Submission shall not create an automatic charge. Any necessary verification cost shall be explained and separately accepted before work begins, with reasonable alternatives considered. Commercial staff and sponsors shall have no access to confidential scores or power to select recipients.

Required record: Access roles; commercial separation record; separate cost authorization; sponsor terms.

03 Eligibility and defined achievement

AWA-03.01 Authorized applicant

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

The submitting person shall have authority to represent the recipient and all jointly named contributors. An individual lifetime entry shall include the nominee's explicit consent. Unsolicited third-party nominations are not accepted. Joint entries shall identify one responsible contact, agreed attribution and permission to disclose each partner's evidence.

Required record: Signed authority; contributor consents; nominee consent where applicable.

AWA-03.02 One primary category

Applies to: Entry

Each achievement shall be entered in one primary category. Separate achievements from the same organization may be entered separately if boundaries, outcomes and evidence attribution are distinct. The Secretariat may offer a documented category transfer before scoring, subject to consent; it shall not duplicate an entry across categories or create an unannounced award.

Required record: Category selection; duplicate review; achievement boundaries; transfer consent.

AWA-03.03 Maturity and eligibility period

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

The entry shall meet the category-specific maturity and reporting-period rules. It shall state concept, prototype, pilot or deployed status, the actual version and the operating contexts. A demonstrated result shall not be represented as a forecast, or a forecast as a result. A concept-only entry cannot receive an award under this edition.

Required record: Milestone dates; configuration; operating history; category eligibility evidence.

AWA-03.04 Scope completeness

Applies to: Entry

Define the product, site, programme, service, team or individual assessed; the geography and users; the baseline and result periods; and all material exclusions. Explain the automotive connection of adjacent technologies. A narrow successful sample shall not be presented as evidence for unassessed products, markets or an entire corporate group.

Required record: Scope map; versions and sites; exclusions; representative population description.

04 Admission integrity and material concerns

AWA-04.01 Truthful and lawful participation

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

The applicant shall confirm rights to submit and lawful operation of the claimed activity. Material safety, environmental, labor, privacy, fraud and ownership concerns relevant to the entry shall be disclosed with status and remedy. Private evidence may support these disclosures; public allegations alone shall not be treated as established findings.

Required record: Declaration; permissions; concern register; current response and remedy evidence.

AWA-04.02 No material unresolved harm

Applies to: Both | Critical gate

An unresolved condition credibly indicating serious ongoing harm, deliberate deception or material illegality in the assessed scope shall place the entry on hold. A competent independent reviewer shall assess relevance and evidence, seek the applicant's response and record whether admission can proceed. A high score cannot override an unresolved integrity gate.

Required record: Risk triage; response; independent finding; recorded hold or release decision.

AWA-04.03 Honest attribution

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

Claims shall distinguish the entrant's contribution from joint work, purchased technology, earlier work and third-party delivery. Disclose related-party transactions, financial support and evidence produced by interested parties. Fabricated references, manipulated data, plagiarism and covert influence shall lead to investigation and may lead to exclusion or withdrawal of an award.

Required record: Contribution map; rights and funding record; original evidence; reference checks.

AWA-04.04 Equal treatment of adverse history

Applies to: Both

A past incident, recall or failed trial shall be assessed in context, including transparency, causal learning and effectiveness of remedy. Concealment is a separate concern. Admission or exclusion shall rest on relevant verified facts, current residual risk and consistent rules, with reasons and an opportunity to respond.

Required record: Incident chronology; corrective evidence; consistent-case comparison; reasoned decision.

05 Independent governance and competence

AWA-05.01 Separated functions

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

The programme shall separate administration, merit scoring, verification, award confirmation and appeals. A person shall not confirm or hear an appeal of their own assessment. A three-person Decision Committee and a separate three-person Appeals Panel shall be appointed with competence and independence records. Sponsorship and fundraising shall remain outside these functions.

Required record: Role and access matrix; appointments; declarations; decision and appeal rosters.

AWA-05.02 Competent multidisciplinary panels

Applies to: Operator

Each category shall combine relevant technical or domain expertise with user, operational and responsible-practice judgment. Appointments shall consider geographic and professional diversity without quotas determining results. Jurors shall demonstrate competence in evidence review, numerical interpretation, uncertainty, confidentiality and the category's specific risks.

Required record: Competence matrix; experience review; training and calibration records.

AWA-05.03 Review quorum

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Three independent jurors shall score each eligible entry in preliminary review. Finalists in a category shall be assessed by the same five unconflicted final jurors, each scoring all five criteria. If a conflict or withdrawal breaks this common panel, replace the affected juror and rescore the complete finalist cohort before comparison.

Required record: Assignment roster; conflict checks; completed score sheets; replacement history.

AWA-05.04 Decision authority limits

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

The Decision Committee shall verify compliance and confirm the computed result with all three members present and at least two agreeing. It may return a flawed process for correction or withhold an award on a documented gate failure; it shall not substitute a preferred candidate or alter valid merit scores. The chair has no casting vote over merit.

Required record: Independent review; quorum; computation; confirmation or remand reasons.

06 Conflicts, gifts and influence controls

AWA-06.01 Conflict disclosure

Applies to: Both | Critical gate

Jurors, verifiers, decision makers and appeal members shall disclose employment, consultancy, ownership, investment, close personal ties, litigation, material competition and recent collaboration involving entrants. The lookback shall be three years, with current and foreseeable interests also covered. Indirect interests and parent or subsidiary relationships shall be considered.

Required record: Signed disclosure; organization relationships; ongoing updates; independent screening.

AWA-06.02 Recusal and restricted access

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

A conflicted person shall have no access to the affected entry, discussion, scoring or decision. A material competitive conflict may require recusal from the whole category. The impartiality officer shall record scope, substitute and access removal. The applicant and conflicted person shall not decide whether the conflict is acceptable.

Required record: Recusal decision; access removal; substitute appointment; unaffected quorum.

AWA-06.03 No inducements or private lobbying

Applies to: Both | Critical gate

Entrants and programme personnel shall not offer or accept gifts, contingent payments, private hospitality or favors intended to influence the award. Routine evaluation travel shall be arranged through the Secretariat under documented terms. All case-specific communications shall use the controlled channel and be visible to the responsible review function.

Required record: Conduct commitments; gift and contact log; travel arrangements; influence reports.

AWA-06.04 Protected reporting

Applies to: Operator

A confidential route shall accept concerns about manipulation, retaliation or bias from entrants, workers and jurors. Reports may be anonymous where feasible. Information shall be restricted to those investigating it; identity disclosure shall be justified and lawful. Good-faith reporting shall not reduce merit scores or trigger retaliation.

Required record: Reporting route; triage log; access restrictions; non-retaliation review.

07 Submission, configuration and change control

AWA-07.01 Complete evidence pack

Applies to: Entry

Submit the common application sections, one selected category module, a claim-to-evidence index, relevant measurement records and the signed declaration. Public and confidential material shall be clearly separated. An authorized concise English summary shall accompany evidence in another language; significant translation uncertainty shall be resolved before scoring.

Required record: Application; selected module; evidence index; translations; declarations.

AWA-07.02 Frozen assessment baseline

Applies to: Both | Critical gate

At the published cutoff, the Secretariat shall freeze a dated entry manifest containing file names, versions, content fingerprints and scope. Assessors shall use this baseline plus logged authorized clarifications. A later change to product, software, service, claim or evidence shall be identified and assessed for comparability before use.

Required record: Baseline manifest; timestamps; change requests; assessor acknowledgments.

AWA-07.03 Controlled clarification

Applies to: Operator

Questions shall identify the claim and evidence gap, a common response deadline and whether only explanation or existing records may be supplied. Clarification may authenticate pre-cutoff achievements; it shall not introduce a newly achieved result after the cutoff. Material questions and answers shall be shared with every assigned assessor.

Required record: Question log; response dates; evidence provenance; equal-treatment record.

AWA-07.04 Withdrawal and material update

Applies to: Entry

Applicants may withdraw through the authorized channel. They shall promptly report material safety, integrity, scope or ownership changes discovered after submission and before publication, and later when they affect a granted award. The Secretariat shall retain the decision trail and revise the case state rather than erase the history.

Required record: Withdrawal request; update notices; state history; retention decision.

08 Measurement and evidence integrity

AWA-08.01 Traceable claims

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

Every material claim shall have a unique identifier, a defined unit or qualitative outcome, an accountable source, a measurement or evaluation method, a baseline and result period, and linked evidence. State boundaries, sample selection, excluded observations, uncertainty and verification status. Dashboards and executive statements alone do not establish traceability.

Required record: Claim register; source records; method; sample and exclusion log; verification notes.

AWA-08.02 Comparable outcomes

Applies to: Entry

Use functionally comparable baselines and disclose changes in volume, mix, exposure, location and operating conditions. Present absolute and normalized outcomes where each is material. Quantitative improvement shall state the calculation; qualitative change shall use a transparent coding or evaluation method and corroboration. Do not imply causation from correlation alone.

Required record: Baseline reconciliation; denominators; calculation workbook; qualitative coding; limitations.

AWA-08.03 Evidence strength and uncertainty

Applies to: Both | Critical gate

For each criterion, the verifier shall assign E0 to E4 using Annex A. The performance rating shall be capped by the evidence level: E0=0, E1=1, E2=3, E3=4 and E4=5. Missing evidence is not not-applicable. Confidentiality may change the access method, but it shall not remove the obligation to verify a material claim.

Required record: Criterion evidence register; justified tier; uncertainty analysis; controlled-access findings.

AWA-08.04 Negative and independent evidence

Applies to: Entry

Disclose unsuccessful trials, contradictory results, significant complaints and limits of representativeness. Independent corroboration shall come from a competent person or source without a material interest in the outcome; payment for a fixed verification service shall be disclosed. The panel shall test independence and methods rather than rely on a title or document badge.

Required record: Full result set; adverse evidence; verifier independence; method review; reconciled findings.

09 Technology, safety and future readiness

AWA-09.01 Bounded safety case

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

For technologies affecting safety, identify hazards, operating limits, foreseeable misuse, exposed people and credible failure responses. Link controls to relevant tests and residual-risk acceptance. A demonstration shall use safe conditions and authorized personnel. Awards assessment shall never require an unsafe road trial or uncontrolled exposure to prove an ambitious claim.

Required record: Hazard register; operating limits; control-to-test links; safe demonstration plan.

AWA-09.02 Digital and artificial-intelligence integrity

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

For software, connected or learning systems, identify the evaluated version, data provenance, evaluation separation, cyber threats, privacy impacts and accountable release owner. Test relevant failure, bias, drift and misuse conditions. State human supervision, override, update integrity and rollback. Generative output shall not substitute for authentic measurement records.

Required record: Version and data record; evaluation protocol; security tests; monitoring; rollback and oversight evidence.

AWA-09.03 Lifecycle and infrastructure dependencies

Applies to: Entry

Identify dependence on energy, connectivity, external software, specialist skills and critical components. Show maintenance, accessibility, service support, secure retirement and data handling at end of service. Future readiness shall mean a credible tested path and responsible support commitments, not a prediction that an unbuilt ecosystem will appear.

Required record: Dependency map; maintenance and support plans; recovery exercises; retirement controls.

AWA-09.04 Forecast discipline

Applies to: Entry

Separate measured, modeled and forecast results throughout the application and publicity. Models shall disclose assumptions, calibration, uncertainty, sensitivity and limits. Emerging technologies shall be assessed through their demonstrated maturity and bounded contribution. Potential may inform feasibility, but unachieved benefit shall not be scored as measured impact.

Required record: Labeled result types; model record; sensitivity cases; public claim review.

10 Environmental and human responsibility

AWA-10.01 Lifecycle boundaries

Applies to: Entry

Material environmental claims shall identify relevant upstream, operational and end-of-life effects, functional unit and geography. Report burden shifts, output changes, purchased claims and modeled avoided effects separately. Claims shall be limited to the measured boundary; broad words such as clean, circular or zero-impact require precise qualification.

Required record: Boundary and activity data; allocation rules; material trade-offs; qualified wording.

AWA-10.02 Accessibility and affected users

Applies to: Entry

Identify intended and foreseeably affected users, including those excluded by cost, disability, language, location or digital access. Collect proportionate feedback and test relevant accessibility needs. Explain adjustments and residual exclusions. Claims of universal access shall not be inferred from a small homogeneous sample.

Required record: User and stakeholder map; representative study; accessibility results; exclusion rationale.

AWA-10.03 Worker and community safeguards

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

Activities within the assessed scope shall protect workers and affected communities from coercion, exploitation, retaliation and material preventable harm. Identify responsible sourcing and subcontracting risks relevant to the achievement. Assess grievances and remedies; philanthropic benefit shall not compensate for unresolved severe harm in the same scope.

Required record: Safeguarding and sourcing review; grievance outcomes; worker or community corroboration.

AWA-10.04 Responsible transition

Applies to: Entry

Describe skills, affordability, repair access and distribution of benefits and burdens as the solution expands or replaces existing activities. Involve affected parties where material. Plans shall identify owners, resources and follow-up indicators; aspirational statements without action shall not count as implemented social or environmental benefit.

Required record: Transition plan; consultations; funded actions; follow-up outcomes; access conditions.

11 Jury preparation and independent review

AWA-11.01 Common calibration

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Before live scoring, each panel shall score the same two synthetic or de-identified cases using the published rubric. Discuss evidence tiers, performance anchors, category boundaries and bias. Correct misunderstandings and retain the calibration record. No target distribution of winners or scores shall be imposed.

Required record: Calibration cases; individual ratings; resolved interpretations; training attendance.

AWA-11.02 Independent first scores

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Jurors shall first score separately, with evidence references and criterion-specific reasons, before seeing peer scores. The system shall retain original submissions and all later changes. A presentation may clarify evidence but shall not award points for production quality, personal charisma, language fluency or access to prominent advocates.

Required record: Time-stamped independent score sheets; rationales; presentation protocol; change history.

AWA-11.03 Controlled moderation

Applies to: Operator

Moderation shall resolve factual misunderstandings, inconsistent evidence tiers and missing information without forcing consensus. A criterion spread of three or more points, or an individual total spread greater than 15 points, shall trigger documented review. Jurors may revise their own ratings with reasons; no chair may silently overwrite another juror's score.

Required record: Spread report; moderation minutes; clarification; individually authorized revisions.

AWA-11.04 Complete and reproducible scoring

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

All five category criteria shall receive a score from every required juror. Abstentions shall be handled through recusal and replacement, never as zero or a reduced denominator. The Secretariat shall validate weights, evidence caps, completeness and roster before aggregation. Missing category criteria shall not be removed or reweighted.

Required record: Complete score matrix; roster; cap and formula checks; independent calculation review.

12 Scoring, thresholds and comparison

AWA-12.01 Fixed formula

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

For criterion k, each juror's integer rating from 0 to 5 shall not exceed its evidence cap. The panel rating is the median of the three preliminary or five final ratings. Total S equals the sum of each published weight multiplied by the panel rating divided by five. Retain unrounded values; display S to one decimal only.

Required record: Five-criterion matrix; published weights; tier caps; median calculation; unrounded total.

AWA-12.02 Stage thresholds

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Shortlisting requires S at least 70 and every criterion median at least 2, with all admission gates passed. Recognized finalist status requires final S at least 75, every median at least 3, every criterion supported at E2 or above, and all applicable controls closed. Winner eligibility requires final S at least 85, the same minimums and E3 or above for both the first tie-priority criterion and at least one other criterion.

Required record: Gate sheet; evidence levels; preliminary and final totals; criterion minimums.

AWA-12.03 Fair category comparison

Applies to: Operator

Rank entries only within their primary category. Consider scale, context, exposure and maturity through the published criterion descriptors, without bonus points for size or speculative scale. Awards shall not combine scores across categories into an overall ranking. If capacity limits shortlisting, publish the cap before launch and include all entries tied at its boundary.

Required record: Within-category ranking; context notes; prepublished capacity limit; boundary-tie handling.

AWA-12.04 Tie and no-award rule

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Treat final totals within 0.5 points as tied. Compare unrounded mean juror ratings first on the category's first tie-priority criterion and then its second. If still equal, a new independent three-person panel shall rescore all tied entries from the same frozen evidence and the same formula and gates. If still tied, declare no single winner; do not use a chair vote, sponsorship or popularity to break it. No award shall be made when no entry meets the winner threshold.

Required record: Tie calculations; priority order; fresh panel record; no-award rationale.

13 Verification and finalist assessment

AWA-13.01 Risk-based verification

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Every shortlisted entry shall undergo a documented verification plan covering all material claims, with deeper checks for decisive, novel, high-risk or contradictory claims. Verify identity, version, source authenticity and material denominators. The method may combine controlled records, interviews, witnessed tests, site visits and customer or beneficiary confirmation.

Required record: Verification plan; claim sampling; source checks; traceability; verification findings.

AWA-13.02 Equivalent verification access

Applies to: Both

The Secretariat shall agree safe and proportionate access to evidence, protecting intellectual property and vulnerable participants. Equivalent remote or controlled-room methods may be used if they establish the same confidence. If a material claim cannot be verified, reduce its evidence tier or withhold the relevant outcome; do not grant an automatic exemption.

Required record: Access agreement; alternative method justification; confidentiality controls; unresolved limitations.

AWA-13.03 Final assessment baseline

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Before final scoring, issue one common verified dossier version to all five final jurors, including limitations, adverse findings and logged responses. Confirm the final roster is unconflicted across the cohort. Final scoring shall be a fresh assessment of that dossier; preliminary scores shall not be averaged into the final total.

Required record: Final dossier manifest; juror acknowledgment; final roster; independent score sheets.

AWA-13.04 Correction and applicant response

Applies to: Operator

Provide the applicant a factual-finding summary and five business days to correct factual errors or identify existing overlooked evidence. This is not a negotiation over scores. Record all revisions, reasons and effects on the dossier. No recognized finalist or winner shall have an unresolved material finding or pending verification item.

Required record: Finding notice; response; closure evidence; revised dossier; status decision.

14 Confirmation and controlled results

AWA-14.01 Independent confirmation

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

The Decision Committee shall review eligibility, conflicts, evidence closure, complete scores, formula, thresholds, ties and exact recognition wording. It shall confirm or remand with reasons. A category winner shall be the highest-ranked winner-eligible entry after the tie procedure. A single eligible entrant may win only if every threshold is met; competition size does not lower the bar.

Required record: Confirmation checklist; ranking and tie record; decision minutes; signed authorization.

AWA-14.02 Reasoned notification

Applies to: Operator

Applicants shall receive their outcome, criterion medians, total, evidence limitations, principal reasons and appeal route before public announcement. Individual juror identities linked to votes and competitors' confidential information shall remain restricted. A failure to win is not a finding that the applicant is unsafe or unfit outside the assessed scope.

Required record: Private notice; score summary; reasons; appeal instructions; confidentiality check.

AWA-14.03 Publication and no-award transparency

Applies to: Operator

Publication shall identify the season, category, recipient, bounded achievement, decision date and a concise evidence-based rationale. Publish recognized finalists only after their own threshold is satisfied. A no-award result shall be stated honestly. No unannounced medal, rating, special mention or overall title shall be created after entries have been seen.

Required record: Approved public record; threshold check; recipient identity; publication log.

AWA-14.04 Record integrity and corrections

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Assign a unique award record identifier and maintain states for confirmed, under review, suspended and withdrawn outcomes. Corrections shall retain the original decision trail, date and reason. A public verification record shall disclose current award status and assessed scope without exposing confidential evidence or unnecessary personal information.

Required record: Award register; version and state history; correction record; public verification content.

15 Appeals, complaints and due process

AWA-15.01 Accessible appeal route

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

An applicant may appeal within 10 business days of receiving a reasoned outcome on procedural error, conflict, material factual mistake or misapplication of these rules. Disagreement with a properly applied expert judgment alone is insufficient. An appeal shall not require payment and shall not cause retaliation. The notice shall identify the issue and available supporting evidence.

Required record: Appeal route; notice date; admissibility grounds; receipt; non-retaliation record.

AWA-15.02 Independent appeal determination

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

The separate three-person Appeals Panel shall have no earlier case role or relevant conflict. It shall acknowledge within three business days and aim to decide within 20 business days after the complete file, notifying reasons and a new date if delayed. It may uphold, correct procedure or order independent reassessment, but shall not award a prize by preference.

Required record: Independent roster; full record; reasoned determination; remedy and deadline tracking.

AWA-15.03 Complaints and whistleblowing

Applies to: Operator

Complaints about conduct, discrimination, data handling or programme integrity may be submitted at any time. The Secretariat shall acknowledge within three business days, classify urgency and route independently. Safety or evidence-fraud reports shall trigger immediate triage. A complaint shall not automatically reopen a merit decision unless it identifies a material defect.

Required record: Complaint and concern register; risk triage; investigator independence; corrective action.

AWA-15.04 Interim protection and remedy

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Where credible information could invalidate an announced or imminent award, the Decision Committee shall consider a proportionate hold or suspension and notify the recipient of reasons. Give 10 business days to respond unless urgent protection requires an earlier interim step. A final withdrawal shall follow evidence review, reasoned notice and an appeal opportunity.

Required record: Interim decision; response opportunity; investigation; withdrawal or reinstatement record.

16 Award identity, marks and communication

AWA-16.01 Exact award claim

Applies to: Entry | Critical gate

A recipient shall use only the approved IAF Automotive Awards identity, category, season and achievement wording. It shall not imply an organization-wide certification, continuing safety guarantee, endorsement of unrelated products or universal legal compliance. A prototype or pilot limitation shall remain visible wherever the award is promoted.

Required record: Approved claim and artwork; representative uses; scope and maturity wording.

AWA-16.02 Controlled mark licence

Applies to: Operator

IAF shall issue a written, non-transferable permission for the authorized award identity, with recipient, scope, artwork, permitted media, change control and withdrawal conditions. No winner mark may be used before confirmation. The public season remains part of the identity; historic recognition shall not be presented as a current-year award.

Required record: Licence record; artwork approval; issue date; recipient acknowledgment.

AWA-16.03 No purchased merit or endorsement drift

Applies to: Both | Critical gate

Award announcements shall distinguish optional sponsorship, exhibition, editorial or event arrangements from merit outcomes. Declining a commercial offer or ceremony attendance shall not reduce recognition. Co-branding shall not imply that a sponsor judged, verified or owns the award or that IAF endorses every activity of the recipient.

Required record: Communication approval; separate agreements; sponsorship disclosure; misuse checks.

AWA-16.04 Misuse correction

Applies to: Both

The programme shall monitor reported misuse and request proportionate correction. A recipient shall stop inaccurate claims promptly and confirm action within five business days of notice. Persistent or deliberate misuse may trigger suspension or withdrawal under due process. Record corrective notices and preserve an accurate public history.

Required record: Monitoring log; correction notice; changed material; follow-up and escalation.

17 Confidentiality, records and service resilience

AWA-17.01 Minimum necessary data

Applies to: Both | Critical gate

Collect only information needed for eligibility, evaluation, integrity and contact. Separate public summaries from confidential technical, commercial and personal evidence. Avoid collecting raw identity documents, identifiable medical information or detailed beneficiary data where verified redaction or aggregation is sufficient. Record the lawful basis, notice and access permissions before processing.

Required record: Data inventory; applicant notice; redaction; purpose and access record.

AWA-17.02 Secure handling and human accountability

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Restrict access by role, use protected transfer and storage, and log downloads and decisions. Confidential entries shall not be placed in unapproved public tools or used to train general-purpose systems. Automation may assist administration or anomaly detection only with validation and human review; it shall not autonomously select, exclude or award an entry.

Required record: Access and tool approvals; activity logs; automation validation; human sign-off.

AWA-17.03 Retention and defensible deletion

Applies to: Operator

Retain decision, score, appeal and consent records for five years after the final season outcome, subject to a documented lawful hold or a shorter overriding duty. Delete unnecessary duplicate and raw personal data sooner. Preserve a minimal public award history while recognition remains represented. Disclose actual retention and deletion arrangements in the Season Notice.

Required record: Retention schedule; hold register; deletion records; public-history rationale.

AWA-17.04 Incident and continuity response

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Define response to data loss, leakage, cyber incidents, disrupted submission channels and corrupted scores. Preserve evidence, restrict impact and make required notifications without delay. Restore from tested backups and independently reconcile affected submissions and calculations. A system outage shall trigger an equal, published deadline remedy rather than selective late admission.

Required record: Incident playbook; restoration test; reconciled records; equal deadline remedy.

18 Post-award assurance and programme improvement

AWA-18.01 Material-event reporting

Applies to: Entry

A recipient shall inform IAF within five business days after becoming aware of a material fact that may invalidate the award basis, with immediate contact for urgent serious harm. A later business change alone shall not erase historic achievement; relevance to the original scope, evidence and claims shall be assessed before changing award status.

Required record: Recipient obligation; event notices; relevance assessment; status record.

AWA-18.02 Risk-based follow-up

Applies to: Operator

During the 12 months after publication, review reported concerns and a documented risk-based sample of award claims and public uses. Confirm the decision basis and scope remain accurately represented. Historical recognition remains dated; the programme shall not imply continuous product surveillance or a renewable certification scheme.

Required record: Sampling plan; public claim checks; event review; corrective follow-up.

AWA-18.03 Season review and transparency

Applies to: Operator

After each season, review participation, recusal, score dispersion, verification findings, appeals, accessibility, delays and misuse. Publish aggregate outcomes and significant procedural improvements without confidential entry details. Examine whether rules unfairly favored organization size, geography or presentation quality and correct future processes with evidence.

Required record: Annual review; aggregate report; bias and access analysis; improvement actions.

AWA-18.04 Future change and version control

Applies to: Operator | Critical gate

Review emerging technologies, human and environmental needs and operational learning before the next season. Consult affected stakeholders on material changes and test revised criteria using synthetic cases. Publish a new controlled edition or revision before use; retain prior editions so that historic awards remain assessable against the rules that governed them.

Required record: Consultation; pilot rubric results; revision approval; archived editions; launch readiness.

Category schedules - application rules

Each selected category has five mandatory merit criteria whose weights total 100. All five apply; the panel interprets them within the declared achievement, maturity and context. Weighted criteria cannot be marked not applicable. The common controls protect eligibility and process integrity and do not add points.

The metric examples identify useful evidence, not universal numerical pass marks. An entrant shall select meaningful indicators and justify methods, baselines and limitations. Physical products, services and qualitative achievements may use different forms of evidence while meeting the same reliability and independence principles.

The two tie-priority numbers in each schedule identify criteria in order. The first also identifies the criterion requiring at least E3 for winner eligibility, together with at least one other criterion. The evidence-cap and threshold rules apply to every category.

Code	Award category	Weights / tie priorities
IT	Innovation & Technology Award	30/25/20/15/10 2 then 4
DE	Design Excellence Award	25/30/20/15/10 2 then 3
SG	Sustainability & Green Mobility Award	30/20/20/15/15 1 then 5
QS	Quality & Safety Leadership Award	30/25/20/15/10 1 then 4
FM	Future Mobility Award	25/20/25/15/15 1 then 3
SE	Supplier Excellence Award	30/20/20/20/10 1 then 4
CR	Corporate Social Responsibility Award	30/20/25/15/10 1 then 3
SU	Start-up & Entrepreneurship Award	25/25/20/15/15 2 then 5
LA	Lifetime Achievement Award	30/25/20/15/10 1 then 4

IT | Innovation & Technology Award

Original engineering that solves a material automotive problem and survives rigorous validation.

Eligible scope

Vehicles and powertrains; batteries, charging and energy systems; electronics, chips, sensors, software and artificial intelligence; manufacturing, testing, repair and recycling technology.

Admission and result period

A functioning prototype, completed controlled pilot or deployed solution shall exist by the evidence cutoff. Pure concepts, patents without demonstrated function and promotional simulations alone are not eligible.

A material new achievement or improvement within the 24 months preceding the entry deadline; disclose earlier development and deployment history.

Category requirements

IT-01 Originality and technical advance | 30%

Identify the specific technical barrier, the prior baseline and the entrant's contribution. Demonstrate a material advance through reproducible comparisons, including competing design approaches and unsuccessful tests. Novelty shall concern useful function rather than an unverified first-in-the-world claim.

Evidence: Architecture and version record; comparative test protocol; contribution map; ownership or licence evidence.

IT-02 Demonstrated benefit | 25%

Quantify the improvement in safety, performance, energy, cost, access or productivity against a declared baseline under comparable conditions. Report sample size, exposure, uncertainty and adverse trade-offs. A pilot result shall retain its pilot boundary; a projected fleet benefit shall not become a measured outcome.

Evidence: Raw or sampled results; baseline reconciliation; test conditions; adverse-result log.

IT | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

IT-03 Engineering readiness and scale | 20%

Show integration, manufacturability, maintainability, resource constraints and a supported deployment path. Assess component availability, infrastructure dependency, repair and end-of-support obligations. A technically ambitious prototype may demonstrate disciplined readiness without claiming production reliability it has not established.

Evidence: Prototype configuration; integration tests; production or service plan; support and dependency register.

IT-04 Responsible technology and resilience | 15%

Demonstrate safety reasoning, misuse resistance, cybersecurity and human accountability appropriate to the technology. For learning systems identify training and evaluation boundaries, failure monitoring, override and rollback. Verify degraded operation and recovery rather than relying on an architectural diagram alone.

Evidence: Hazard and threat records; negative testing; failure recovery; accountable release approval.

IT-05 Lifecycle value and knowledge transfer | 10%

Account for materials, energy, service life and end-of-life impacts of the innovation. Explain who can adopt it, required skills, affordability and avoidable lock-in. Protect legitimate intellectual property while providing enough evidence for independent assessment and useful transfer of learning.

Evidence: Lifecycle assumptions; repair and retirement plan; skills and adoption evidence.

Metrics and future application

Task success and failure rate; energy per defined task; latency distribution; cost per validated output; operating exposure; repair time; material use per functional unit.

Adaptive software, autonomous industrial systems, advanced cells, bidirectional energy, secure computing and future communication architectures remain eligible through the same evidence and risk rules.

Assessment caution: A patent, a funding round or a polished demonstration is not proof of performance. Compare equivalent functions and freeze the tested hardware and software.

Tie priorities: criterion 2 then criterion 4. All five criteria remain mandatory.

DE | Design Excellence Award

Distinctive design that improves real use, accessibility and the complete ownership experience.

Eligible scope

Exterior and interior design; controls and digital interfaces; commercial and specialist vehicles; components, charging equipment, tools, service spaces and mobility experiences.

Admission and result period

A full-scale usable prototype, representative interactive demonstrator or released design shall be available for evaluation. Renderings alone cannot establish ergonomic, accessibility or usability performance.

A new design or substantial redesign demonstrated within 24 months before the entry deadline.

Category requirements

DE-01 Design originality and coherence | 25%

Evaluate the clarity of the design intent, visual and tactile coherence, contextual relevance and purposeful differentiation. Explain how the solution serves its users and operating environment. Expensive materials, brand familiarity and spectacle shall not substitute for resolved design quality.

Evidence: Design brief; alternatives; physical or interactive demonstrator; design decision history.

DE-02 Usability, ergonomics and inclusion | 30%

Demonstrate completion of realistic user tasks across representative abilities, body sizes, ages and contexts. Include ingress, reach, visibility, comfort, cognitive load and accessible alternatives as relevant. Record recruitment, excluded users, failed tasks and assistance provided during testing.

Evidence: User study protocol; participant profile; task results; accessibility findings; remedial changes.

DE | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

DE-03 Functional safety and interaction quality | 20%

Show that design choices protect attention, reduce foreseeable misuse and provide intelligible feedback in normal and degraded conditions. Assess tactile and visual differentiation, urgent actions, physical fallback and unsafe distraction. Attractive presentation cannot compensate for an unresolved safety problem.

Evidence: Interaction hazard review; critical-task tests; visibility and feedback checks; degraded-mode results.

DE-04 Material and lifecycle responsibility | 15%

Justify materials, finishes, durability, cleaning, repair and disassembly. Evaluate the effect of aging and real use on appearance, touch and function. Environmental claims shall be traceable to the actual design and supply route rather than a generic material label.

Evidence: Material inventory; durability and cleaning results; repair/disassembly study; sourcing evidence.

DE-05 Execution and enduring value | 10%

Assess production or implementation feasibility, consistent quality, serviceability and adaptation to diverse markets. Explain the achieved relationship between experience and total user burden, including maintenance and learning. Provide evidence of transfer from design intent to representative execution.

Evidence: Build tolerances; production samples; service evaluation; ownership or usage study.

Metrics and future application

Independent task completion; critical errors; time and attention per task; comfort findings; accessible-user coverage; repair steps and time; durability after specified exposure.

Adaptive cabins, multimodal interfaces, inclusive automated travel, augmented information and materials with changing properties require controllable behavior and explicit user consent.

Assessment caution: Do not select only favorable participants or infer accessibility from appearance. Aesthetic preference is assessed alongside documented functional outcomes.

Tie priorities: criterion 2 then criterion 3. All five criteria remain mandatory.

SG | Sustainability & Green Mobility Award

Verified lifecycle improvement with transparent boundaries, resource stewardship and a fair transition.

Eligible scope

Vehicles, energy and fuels; manufacturing and logistics; materials and batteries; repair, reuse, remanufacturing and recovery; mobility services and infrastructure.

Admission and result period

An operational pilot or deployed programme shall have completed at least one defined reporting cycle. Forecast-only reductions and purchased environmental claims without operational improvement are not sufficient.

Report a comparable baseline and a completed result period of at least three months within the preceding 24 months; explain seasonality and provide a full seasonal cycle where it materially affects the result.

Category requirements

SG-01 Measured lifecycle improvement | 30%

Define the functional unit and boundaries from relevant upstream inputs to operation and end-of-life. Quantify gross burdens, reductions and uncertainty under matched conditions. Show both absolute and intensity measures where output changes. Report avoided emissions and purchased instruments separately from measured operational reductions.

Evidence: Boundary map; activity data; calculation factors and dates; reconciliation; sensitivity analysis.

SG-02 Circularity and material integrity | 20%

Demonstrate longer useful life, repair, verified reuse, remanufacturing or actual material recovery. Reconcile inputs and outputs, yields, contamination and destination. Technical recyclability shall not be presented as achieved collection or recovery. Avoid double counting between stages and participants.

Evidence: Material balance; custody records; repair outcomes; recovery destination and yields.

SG | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

SG-03 Resource and ecosystem stewardship | 20%

Assess energy, water, waste, pollution and locally material ecosystem effects. Identify burden transfers and rebound from growth or lower costs. Distinguish renewable supply arrangements from physical changes in consumption and consider stress at the location and time of use.

Evidence: Metered activity; local impact review; waste destinations; pollution controls; rebound analysis.

SG-04 Durable and transferable implementation | 15%

Show accountable ownership, finance, maintenance, supplier participation and repeatability. Identify conditions under which benefits persist or fail. Test assumptions for expansion to different electricity mixes, transport distances, climates and utilization rates without treating projections as achieved results.

Evidence: Implementation records; recurring monitoring; deployment constraints; alternative scenario analysis.

SG-05 Fair transition and claim integrity | 15%

Demonstrate workforce preparation, responsible material sourcing, affordable access and engagement with affected communities. Record concerns and remedies. Publish balanced boundaries and limitations; a broad green claim shall not conceal a narrow improvement or unresolved material harm.

Evidence: Worker and community evidence; sourcing review; training outcomes; approved claim wording.

Metrics and future application

Absolute and per-unit energy, water and emissions; useful life; repair completion; collected mass; recovered usable mass; verified recycled input; affordability and workforce outcomes.

Battery second life, digital material records, low-impact chemistry, climate adaptation and energy-integrated mobility are judged by actual boundary-specific results.

Assessment caution: Do not mix operational reductions, modeled avoided impacts and offsets in one headline. State denominator, geography, time and uncertainty.

Tie priorities: criterion 1 then criterion 5. All five criteria remain mandatory.

QS | Quality & Safety Leadership Award

Sustained leadership that prevents harm, exposes defects and improves dependable automotive outcomes.

Eligible scope

Product and process safety; vehicle and infrastructure quality; testing, inspection and validation; fleet operations, service networks, software releases and worker protection.

Admission and result period

At least 12 consecutive months of relevant operating results shall be available by the evidence cutoff, including field failures and corrective actions. A new unproven product alone is not sufficient for this leadership category.

Use the latest complete 12-month result period ending no more than six months before the entry deadline, with a comparable baseline and disclosed exceptional events.

Category requirements

QS-01 Safety and quality outcomes | 30%

Demonstrate reductions in harm, defects, failures or customer burden with credible exposure denominators. Separate detection improvements from occurrence changes. Include severity, near misses and reporting coverage. Zero reported incidents is not itself proof of a safe system.

Evidence: Exposure-normalized results; failure and injury records; warranty trends; data completeness analysis.

QS-02 Prevention and validation discipline | 25%

Show hazard-based design and process prevention, representative validation, traceable acceptance criteria and controlled changes. Include boundary conditions, vulnerable users and foreseeable misuse. Explain how independent challenge identified weaknesses before release and how findings changed the design or process.

Evidence: Hazard-to-test traceability; validation results; process controls; change approvals.

QS | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

QS-03 Learning and corrective effectiveness | 20%

Demonstrate prompt containment, causal investigation, verified corrective action and effective communication. Include recalls, service campaigns and lessons from suppliers and users. A recall disclosed and managed responsibly shall be assessed on response quality rather than automatically treated as a disqualification.

Evidence: Case chronology; root-cause analysis; containment records; recurrence checks; communication evidence.

QS-04 Leadership and speak-up culture | 15%

Show executive accountability, competent resources, protected reporting and escalation independent of production pressure. Test whether adverse information reaches decision makers and affected users. Reward transparent learning and effective safeguards, not the suppression of inconvenient indicators.

Evidence: Escalation examples; protected reporting records; competence evaluation; resource decisions.

QS-05 Continuity and sector contribution | 10%

Demonstrate that improvements survive staff, supplier and technology changes. Share useful learning without exposing personal or sensitive data. Evaluate resilience, support availability and practical transfer across plants, fleets or service operations while maintaining the original evidence boundary.

Evidence: Sustained trend; transferred controls; continuity exercises; documented learning use.

Metrics and future application

Severe events per defined exposure; defect and warranty rates; escape rate; detection coverage; closure effectiveness; recurrence; time to contain; training competence.

Software-related defects, mixed human/automated work, new energy hazards, aging fleets and complex supply dependencies require continuing validation and rapid escalation.

Assessment caution: Do not reward a low complaint count without assessing reporting access. Include unfavorable data and distinguish a management process from its measured outcomes.

Tie priorities: criterion 1 then criterion 4. All five criteria remain mandatory.

FM | Future Mobility Award

Practical mobility systems that connect people, goods, infrastructure and data safely and inclusively.

Eligible scope

Shared, public, rural and on-demand mobility; connected and automated services; freight and last mile; vehicle-infrastructure integration; mobility data and payment ecosystems.

Admission and result period

A representative operational pilot or deployed service shall have completed an evaluation with actual users or a justified safe surrogate. A concept film or city-scale forecast without service evidence is not eligible.

A completed operating or pilot cycle of at least three months within the 24 months before the entry deadline, including relevant peak, off-peak and degraded conditions.

Category requirements

FM-01 Mobility and access outcomes | 25%

Measure useful trips or deliveries, reliability, accessibility, time and affordability against a relevant alternative. Include underserved users and failed requests. Growth in app registrations or vehicle count alone shall not be treated as improved mobility or public benefit.

Evidence: Trip or delivery records; access and fare analysis; baseline travel study; user outcomes.

FM-02 Interoperability and service integration | 20%

Demonstrate reliable exchange across vehicles, infrastructure, operators, payment and user channels. Define interfaces, data ownership and failure responsibilities. Evaluate switching, portability and recovery from a missing partner without forcing unsafe or exclusionary user behavior.

Evidence: Interface and end-to-end tests; partner agreements; portability and outage exercises.

FM | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

FM-03 Safety, security and trustworthy operation | 25%

Define operating boundaries, human oversight, emergency intervention, secure data handling and accountability. Test loss of connectivity, incorrect data, cyber incidents and foreseeable misuse. Automated service claims shall state conditions and supervision rather than imply unrestricted autonomous capability.

Evidence: Operating-domain record; intervention tests; threat review; incident and privacy controls.

FM-04 Deployment viability and resilience | 15%

Assess infrastructure, maintenance, staffing, economics and dependency on temporary subsidies. Explain performance in climate extremes and disrupted supply. Show a realistic scale path supported by operations rather than a citywide extrapolation from a small favorable trial.

Evidence: Unit service economics; maintenance records; stress scenarios; dependency and scale plan.

FM-05 System-wide sustainability and inclusion | 15%

Assess induced travel, empty running, modal substitution, energy and use of public space. Include users without smartphones, bank accounts or high digital literacy where relevant. Explain whether benefits displace burdens onto workers, neighborhoods or other travelers.

Evidence: Network impact analysis; empty-distance data; alternative access testing; stakeholder feedback.

Metrics and future application

Completed and failed journeys; waiting-time distribution; accessible-trip success; cost per useful trip; occupancy; empty distance; outage recovery; energy per passenger- or tonne-distance.

Cooperative automation, connected freight, rural access, multimodal orchestration and public-space adaptation are assessed through bounded operational evidence.

Assessment caution: A fast connection or attractive app does not prove useful mobility. Demonstrate the whole service and include users who could not complete it.

Tie priorities: criterion 1 then criterion 3. All five criteria remain mandatory.

SE | Supplier Excellence Award

Dependable and responsible supply performance across every tier of the automotive value chain.

Eligible scope

Material, component, tool, software, equipment, logistics, engineering and service suppliers; micro-enterprises through major groups; aftermarket and remanufacturing networks.

Admission and result period

At least one verifiable automotive customer delivery or operating programme and 12 consecutive months of performance shall be evidenced. The category includes all supply tiers; applicant size and direct access to a vehicle manufacturer are not eligibility conditions.

Latest complete 12-month customer performance period ending no more than six months before the entry deadline; separate new and mature programmes.

Category requirements

SE-01 Quality and delivery reliability | 30%

Reconcile delivery and defect measures to customer records, including accepted exclusions and changes in volume or mix. Assess service responsiveness and repeated failures. A favorable single customer statement shall not obscure material poor performance elsewhere in the declared scope.

Evidence: Customer scorecards; shipment denominators; defect reconciliation; service and return records.

SE-02 Value creation and co-development | 20%

Demonstrate useful engineering or service contributions, total cost improvement and collaborative problem solving. Attribute benefits fairly between partners and show that savings did not transfer hidden risk, inventory burden or poor working conditions to another party.

Evidence: Joint development evidence; cost-to-value comparison; customer validation; contribution record.

SE | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

SE-03 Resilience and change capability | 20%

Show visibility of critical sub-tiers, continuity arrangements, controlled substitutions, capacity response and recovery exercises. Assess cybersecurity and concentration dependencies for digital and physical supply. A backup source on paper is insufficient without demonstrated readiness.

Evidence: Risk map; recovery tests; approved substitutions; capacity and continuity evidence.

SE-04 Responsible sourcing and workforce | 20%

Demonstrate traceability proportionate to material risk, fair workforce treatment, environmental improvement and remedies for adverse findings. Examine subcontracting and temporary labor. Assurance statements alone do not replace evidence that detected issues were corrected.

Evidence: Sourcing traceability; labor review; corrective outcomes; environmental activity data.

SE-05 Transparency and shared improvement | 10%

Show accurate communication, prompt disclosure of deviations, documented learning and practical support to smaller partners. Evaluate transfer of capability and continuity of customer relationships without treating commercial size or bargaining power as evidence of excellence.

Evidence: Deviation notifications; improvement logs; training outcomes; partner feedback.

Metrics and future application

On-time-in-full delivery with stated exclusions; defects per shipped unit; warranty burden; response and recovery time; approved change failures; supplier risk closure; resource intensity.

Semiconductor concentration, software dependencies, critical minerals, circular parts and distributed production require traceable ownership and exercised recovery routes.

Assessment caution: Do not confuse inspected quality with delivered quality or remove late orders from the denominator. Customer confidentiality can be protected through controlled verification.

Tie priorities: criterion 1 then criterion 4. All five criteria remain mandatory.

CR | Corporate Social Responsibility Award

Measurable improvements in people's lives supported by ethical conduct, participation and lasting capability.

Eligible scope

Fair work and inclusion; skills and education; road-user protection; community access and wellbeing; responsible restructuring; public-interest automotive partnerships.

Admission and result period

An operational programme with a completed reporting cycle and direct evidence from affected people shall exist. Donations, publicity or participation counts without demonstrated outcomes are insufficient.

At least one six-month programme cycle completed within the prior 24 months, with longer follow-up where the claimed social outcome takes longer to emerge.

Category requirements

CR-01 Demonstrated social outcomes | 30%

Distinguish activities, outputs and outcomes. Establish the affected population, baseline, follow-up and plausible contribution of the programme. Include attrition, adverse outcomes and distribution of benefits; total spending or attendance is not a substitute for changed life or work conditions.

Evidence: Outcome study; baseline and follow-up; population and attrition record; beneficiary corroboration.

CR-02 Equity, access and participation | 20%

Show that affected people shaped priorities, delivery and evaluation. Identify barriers related to disability, gender, age, location, language or economic position without collecting unnecessary sensitive data. Explain who was left out and how exclusion was addressed.

Evidence: Accessible consultation; participation record; distribution analysis; adjustment evidence.

CR | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

CR-03 Ethics, safeguarding and remedy | 25%

Demonstrate fair work, freedom from coercion, protection of vulnerable participants and accessible grievance routes. Separate support from marketing pressure. Record how complaints, exploitation risks and unintended harm were handled and independently challenged.

Evidence: Safeguarding plan; consent process; grievance and remedy evidence; independent review.

CR-04 Sustained capability and partnerships | 15%

Assess funded continuity, local capability, skills transfer and meaningful partnership roles. Explain exit arrangements so that beneficiaries are not abandoned when the award cycle or sponsor funding ends. Partnership logos shall not substitute for delivered responsibilities.

Evidence: Programme commitments; competence outcomes; partner delivery record; continuity and exit plan.

CR-05 Transparency and learning | 10%

Publish balanced methods, limitations and lessons without exposing private beneficiary information. Demonstrate changes made because of feedback or disappointing results. Claims about social reach shall avoid duplicate counting and distinguish direct beneficiaries from indirect audiences.

Evidence: Public summary; counting rules; evaluation changes; de-identified feedback.

Metrics and future application

Outcome attainment and retention; access barriers removed; fair-work changes; skills applied after training; grievance resolution; distribution of benefits; sustained participation.

Automation-related transitions, digital exclusion, just reskilling, accessible mobility and workforce wellbeing require long-term outcomes rather than one-off campaigns.

Assessment caution: Do not score donations or media reach as social impact. Protect children and vulnerable people; use redacted and aggregated evidence wherever possible.

Tie priorities: criterion 1 then criterion 3. All five criteria remain mandatory.

SU | Start-up & Entrepreneurship Award

Young automotive ventures that combine original value with verified traction and responsible execution.

Eligible scope

Vehicle and component ventures; software and data; energy, infrastructure and materials; testing, service, circularity and mobility business models.

Admission and result period

The venture shall be less than 10 years old at the entry deadline, measured from the earliest incorporated entity carrying on substantially the same business. Spin-outs shall disclose parent support and control. A working minimum viable offer and independently corroborated user or customer traction are required.

Show inception-to-date context and material progress in the preceding 24 months. Report the full available operating history if shorter, without implying missing years of results.

Category requirements

SU-01 Problem relevance and differentiated value | 25%

Demonstrate a genuine automotive need, a focused customer or user problem and a defensible contribution. Compare real alternatives, including doing nothing. Intellectual property, insight, execution or ecosystem position may support differentiation; novelty claims shall be evidenced.

Evidence: Problem research; alternatives; functional demonstration; contribution and rights record.

SU-02 Verified traction and customer value | 25%

Distinguish paid activity, unpaid pilots, reservations, letters of interest and recurring use. Show retention, conversion and delivered benefit with denominators and time windows. Funding, valuation, followers and unaudited forecasts shall not substitute for customer evidence.

Evidence: Pilot or sales records; de-identified user cohorts; customer confirmation; retention data.

SU | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

SU-03 Viable and disciplined growth | 20%

Explain unit economics, cash needs, supply and support capacity and a realistic route to scale. Separate actual costs from future assumptions. Identify concentration, infrastructure and licensing constraints; growth shall not depend on unresolved safety or deceptive claims.

Evidence: Cost model; sensitivity cases; runway ranges; deployment capacity; constraint register.

SU-04 Team and execution capability | 15%

Assess relevant competence, complementary roles, ownership of decisions and learning from failed hypotheses. Explain key-person dependencies, hiring and succession. Founder visibility or access to investors is not a proxy for an effective and accountable team.

Evidence: Delivery milestones; competence and responsibilities; learning record; capability-gap plan.

SU-05 Responsible venture and durable value | 15%

Show proportionate safety, privacy, cybersecurity, fair-work and environmental controls at the current maturity. Demonstrate clear customer terms, support commitments and an orderly failure or exit plan. Responsible ambition requires honest limitations and ownership of resulting risks.

Evidence: Risk and release controls; user terms; incident route; support and exit plan.

Metrics and future application

Active and retained users; repeat customers; pilot-to-paid conversion; realized margin or cost per service; milestone delivery; deployment defects; support response; funding runway range.

New ventures in artificial intelligence, energy flexibility, circular components and mobility access receive equal consideration when a working offer and responsible traction are demonstrated.

Assessment caution: Do not present bookings as revenue, reservations as users or a large valuation as product impact. Disclose related-party transactions and parent-company support.

Tie priorities: criterion 2 then criterion 5. All five criteria remain mandatory.

LA | Lifetime Achievement Award

A sustained personal contribution that leaves the automotive sector more capable, responsible and beneficial.

Eligible scope

Engineering, science, design, manufacturing, services, workforce development, public-interest leadership, entrepreneurship and institution building connected to automotive mobility.

Admission and result period

An individual shall have at least 20 years of documented relevant service. Submission shall be made by the individual or an expressly authorized representative with the individual's written consent. Unsolicited third-party and posthumous nominations are outside this edition.

A career portfolio with dated milestones spanning at least 20 years; distinguish enduring results from current reputation and verify the continuing legacy at the evidence cutoff.

Category requirements

LA-01 Enduring contribution and impact | 30%

Identify specific personal contributions with evidence of lasting benefit to engineering, safety, quality, access, environment or industry capability. Attribute team and institutional work fairly. Fame, job title and length of service alone shall not establish exceptional achievement.

Evidence: Career milestone portfolio; contribution evidence; dated outcomes; independent testimony.

LA-02 Technical or institutional leadership | 25%

Demonstrate sound judgment through difficult decisions, capability building and responsible change. Explain context, alternatives, setbacks and corrective learning. Influence may be local or global; assess the depth and durability of contribution rather than the size of the employing institution.

Evidence: Decision cases; programmes established; long-term results; corroborating records.

LA | Category criteria and evidence (continued)

LA-03 Mentorship and knowledge legacy | 20%

Show development of people, open learning, succession and transfer of expertise. Corroborate mentoring outcomes with participants and evidence of independent capability. Count quality and continuity of contribution rather than speeches, honorary roles or audience size.

Evidence: Mentee accounts; skills and succession outcomes; teaching or knowledge-transfer records.

LA-04 Integrity and professional responsibility | 15%

Assess conduct across the claimed career, handling of adverse events and treatment of colleagues and affected communities. Investigate credible concerns fairly and offer a response. Unresolved material integrity concerns prevent recognition; unsupported allegations are not automatically findings.

Evidence: Conduct review; response and remediation records; independent career references.

LA-05 Lasting relevance and collaboration | 10%

Show that the legacy supports future generations, constructive cooperation and adaptation to changing mobility needs. International visibility is not required if the contribution is exceptional and transferable. Avoid credit based only on association with prominent organizations or prior awards.

Evidence: Continuing use of work; collaborative outcomes; successor testimony; future capability evidence.

Metrics and future application

Verified years and milestones; sustained adoption or capability; people developed; outcomes continuing after departure; independent corroboration; evidence of responsible decisions.

Recognition should reward a legacy that equips future practitioners to address changing technology and societal needs without rewriting historical context.

Assessment caution: At least three independent career references are required, including one person able to verify mentorship. Previous awards, publicity and senior titles are context, not proof.

Tie priorities: criterion 1 then criterion 4. All five criteria remain mandatory.

Annex A - Evidence and performance anchors

Normative. Assign the evidence tier before accepting the criterion rating. The effective rating is the lower of the performance judgment and the tier cap. A tier is not a bonus and does not automatically earn its maximum score.

Tier	Cap	Evidence quality	Required basis
E0	0	Unavailable or unusable	No relevant supporting record, unverifiable provenance or a material contradiction that prevents reliance.
E1	1	Assertion or indicative support	Narrative, selected illustration or interested-party statement without enough method and source data for a reliable check.
E2	3	Traceable internal evidence	Dated, scoped records with a transparent method, baseline, denominator, limitations and repeatable internal calculation or evaluation.
E3	4	Independent corroboration	E2 plus competent independent checking of material claims through original records, controlled witnessing or corroborating users, customers or affected people.
E4	5	Robustly corroborated and representative	E3 plus independent challenge of representative samples, repeated conditions or sustained results, with reconciled uncertainty and negative evidence. Qualitative claims may qualify through documented triangulation across independent records and perspectives.

Rating	Anchor	Interpretation
0	No demonstrated merit	The criterion has no relevant support, is contradicted, or contains an unresolved fundamental defect.
1	Limited or preliminary	A plausible intention or isolated result exists, but the contribution, delivery or benefit is weakly demonstrated.
2	Developing	Some credible benefit is shown, with substantial gaps in coverage, execution, independence or representativeness.
3	Strong and substantiated	A useful, well-executed contribution is demonstrated in its declared context; limitations are understood and controlled.
4	Exceptional within scope	A material advance and sound execution are independently corroborated; significant risks and trade-offs are well managed.
5	Outstanding and durable	An exceptional contribution is convincingly sustained or reproduced under representative challenge, with transferable learning and no material hidden limitation.

Quantitative and qualitative equivalence

Independent corroboration does not require a purchased certificate. A competent verifier may inspect original records, witness a representative test or triangulate independent participants and dated records. Lifetime contribution and social outcomes may achieve E4 through rigorous qualitative corroboration. The method must challenge material claims and explain limitations; a stack of testimonials from interested parties remains weak evidence.

Annex B - Calculation and award gates

Normative. For each criterion k , let $w(k)$ be its published percentage and $r(j,k)$ the integer rating assigned by juror j after the evidence cap. Let $m(k)$ be the median of the completed panel ratings. Calculate $S = \text{SUM} [w(k) \times m(k) / 5]$. Weights total 100; S is out of 100. Do not round intermediate values.

Stage	Required conditions
Preliminary shortlist	Three jurors; $S \geq 70$; every median ≥ 2 ; admission and integrity gates passed. Any prepublished capacity rule is applied within category, including all entries tied at the cutoff.
Recognized finalist	Five-person final panel; $S \geq 75$; every median ≥ 3 ; every criterion E2 or above; every applicable control closed; material findings resolved.
Winner-eligible	All finalist conditions; $S \geq 85$; first tie-priority criterion E3 or above and at least one other criterion E3 or above.
Confirmed winner	Highest-ranked winner-eligible entry in the category after ties, independent confirmation and the appeal opportunity.
No award	No qualifying entry, unresolved merit tie after the specified process, or a material unresolved programme failure that prevents a defensible decision.

Worked calculation - illustrative only

IT criterion	Weight	Median	Contribution
1	30	5	30
2	25	4	20
3	20	4	16
4	15	4	12
5	10	4	8
TOTAL	100		86

With tiers E4, E3, E3, E3 and E3, these medians respect the caps. The entry is winner-eligible only if every other gate passes; the number 86 alone is not a decision. If criterion 1 is only E2, its rating is capped at 3 and the total becomes 74, below the recognized-finalist threshold.

Ties and exceptional panel

Totals within 0.5 are compared using the unrounded mean rating on the first tie-priority criterion, then the second. If equal, three new independent jurors rescore the tied entries using the same dossier. This is the sole exception to the normal five-person final panel. Reapply formula, gates and priorities. An unresolved tie results in no single winner; no unannounced co-winner or chair casting vote is allowed.

Annex C - Applicability and finding rules

Normative. Use C (conforming), NC (nonconforming), P (pending verification) or NA (not applicable) for common controls. An unselected result is incomplete. C requires an evidence reference and verifier rationale. NA requires a scope-specific reason and independent approval. NA shall never mean missing evidence, budget limits or an inconvenient requirement.

Control type	Applicability rule
Operator	Assessed for the season. A case assessor may reference the approved season assessment; the control is not silently marked NA for each applicant.
Entry	Assessed for each entry. A conditional technology or activity control may be NA only where its triggering feature and relevant risks are absent from the assessed scope.
Both	Entry-specific obligations and programme handling are both checked; the evidence must establish each applicable part.
Critical	Failure or pending material verification places the affected entry or process on hold. These controls cannot be waived by scores or commercial approval.
Category criterion	All five in the selected category apply. Other category modules are outside that entry's selected scope; do not redistribute weights.

Closure and escalation

Every NC shall state the requirement, observed fact, evidence, consequence, owner and required closure evidence. Every P shall name the missing verification, owner and due date. All applicable NC and P results shall be resolved before finalist recognition or winner confirmation. Operator failures affecting fairness shall pause or remediate the affected cohort, not be disguised as deductions from an individual entrant's merit score.

Categories without suitable entries

IAF may accept entries from any covered automotive segment, but shall not force recognition in every segment or category. A programme-level deficiency shall be corrected with an equal remedy; if a trustworthy comparison cannot be restored, the affected award shall be withheld with reasons.

Annex D - Season authorization and public record

Normative. Before launch, the programme owner shall complete a controlled Season Notice and obtain a governing resolution. The operational team shall verify each item below. The notice may set administrative details but shall not alter the category criteria, weights or threshold rules of this edition.

Required item	Minimum published or controlled content
Authority and scope	Season year; governing edition; approval reference; effective date; nine named categories; owner and accessible contact route.
Time and submission	Opening and closing UTC timestamps; evidence cutoff; correction process; authorized upload and enquiry channels; business-day calendar.
Assessment	Review and verification windows; finalist assessment; any shortlist capacity cap; independent roles; rubric access; conflict route.
Decision and remedy	Private notification; 10-business-day appeal window; announcement after relevant appeals; complaint and material-event channels.
Information	Privacy notice and contact; confidential-evidence route; access and retention; optional publicity handling.
Recognition	Exact award identities; category and year requirements; verification record; misuse and withdrawal process.
Readiness sign-off	Named owner, impartiality review, calculation validation, technical recovery test and recorded governing approval.

Minimum public award record

Record identifier; programme and season; recipient and joint attribution; category; exact achievement and maturity; assessed geographic and temporal scope; confirmation and publication dates; concise rationale; limitations; current status; correction history and contact. Confidential scores and personal evidence are not automatically public.

Release alignment

Before effective use, replace inconsistent legacy category restrictions, competing calendars, alternative voting methods and inconsistent programme names with the approved edition and Season Notice. This edition broadens supplier eligibility to all automotive tiers and uses authorized individual submissions for the lifetime category. These changes apply prospectively after adoption.