



## GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards 2026 - General Information and FAQs

### General information

#### 1. What are the GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards?

The annual GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards provide us with an opportunity to recognise some of the most innovative and significant Foundry projects completed within January – December 2025, across five key thematic innovation clusters outlined below.

For more information, please contact us at [excellenceawards@gsma.com](mailto:excellenceawards@gsma.com)

Any inquiries for potential sponsorship opportunities please contact us on [excellenceawards@gsma.com](mailto:excellenceawards@gsma.com).

#### 2. What are the thematic innovation award clusters?

- *Intelligent Networks & AI-Driven Infrastructure*
- *Next-Generation Connectivity & Access*
- *Trust, Security & User Protection*
- *Enterprise Innovation & New Revenue Models*
- *Cross-Cutting Excellence*

For more details about these awards categories please refer to [our Excellence Awards webpage](#).

Please contact [excellenceawards@gsma.com](mailto:excellenceawards@gsma.com) if you have any further questions about the awards categories.

#### 3. Who won in 2025?

Here's a [recap](#) on the winners from the 2025 GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards. You will also be able to see video highlights of 2025 [here](#).

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### 1. Who's eligible to enter?

The GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards 2026 are open to any company operating in, or adjacent to, the telecoms industry worldwide, **who have completed a Foundry project / initiative within 2025** – entries can be submitted for Foundry initiatives/projects that are still in progress and completed no later than December 31, 2025.

If you have an existing Foundry project, service, or initiative in progress, let us know quickly, and we'll determine whether it can be incorporated and counted as a Foundry project.



We retain the right to withdraw any submitted applications whose project, service or initiative has not been complete by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2025.

## **2. When do entries open?**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025, at 00:00 BST

## **3. When is the submission deadline for entries?**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at 00:00 BST

## **4. Can multiple entries be submitted?**

More than one thematic cluster may be entered for the same project/service/team. More than one Foundry project can be entered per team.

Joint entries by service providers and customers are welcome too.

## **5. How an entry must be submitted?**

To enter, please ensure all submissions are in English and use our [online form](#).

Each entry should include:

1. A short description (synopsis) of no more than 100 words.
2. A long description of no more than 500 words.

Supporting materials are welcome but ensure your main entry includes all critical information within the 500-word limit.

*Please note:* Once submitted, entries cannot be edited. Please review all information carefully before submission.

## **6. What information should be submitted?**

First and foremost, winning entries will showcase exceptional success. Innovative solutions to industry challenges are highly favoured, and providing tangible evidence of customer benefits, technical performance, overall impact and sustainability is even more advantageous. Specific case studies and examples of client success, along with relevant metrics, are excellent ways to illustrate a successful solution.

Historically, all our award winners have set new levels of benefit / performance / impact and helped shape the future direction of the industry.

## **7. What are the judges looking for?**

The ideal entry will include as much of the following information as possible:

- **Eligibility:** Your product, service, or strategic initiative must have been completed or commercially launched within January – December 2025 to qualify for the 2026 GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards. (Criterion: timelines)
- **Unique / Innovative Aspects:** Highlight the unique points of the project. What sets it apart? (Criterion: innovation)



- **Project Rationale:** Explain why the project was undertaken, including the reasons, drivers, and pain points it addresses. (Criterion: Potential / Commercial use)
- **Results and Performance Metrics:** Detail the results, benefits and commercial sustainability of the project, including how they were measured. (Criterion: Achievement & recognition)
- **Overall Impact:** Include information on overall impact, if applicable. (Criterion: impact)

Additional Information: Provide any other relevant information, statistics, facts, and figures that will help us better understand the project. You can email us on [excellenceawards@gsma.com](mailto:excellenceawards@gsma.com)

## **8. What is the judging process?**

All qualifying entries are examined, discussed, and voted on by the GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards panel of independent judges.

To ensure the process is completely unbiased and objective, judges are not allowed to comment on or vote for, entries from their own institutions.

## **9. When will the shortlist for the GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards be announced?**

The shortlist will be publicly announced by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

## **10. When will the winners for the GSMA Foundry Excellence Awards be announced?**

The winners will be announced during MWC Barcelona 2026, where we will host an Awards Ceremony, followed by a networking event. Date and venue to be announced soon on [our webpage](#).

## **11. Is there an entry fee?**

There is no entry fee.

## **12. Are the applications confidential?**

We reserve the right to publish brief details of all shortlisted entries. This will be an "entry synopsis" of up to 100 words included on all entry forms and they should be written in a form that it is publicly shareable. We will retain the right to disclose the number of applications we receive.

All other information provided in the entry will be treated with the strictest confidence, for more information on how we use and protect your personal data please see our [privacy notice](#).