

# 2026 Manufacturing Leadership Awards



## SAMPLE PROJECT NOMINATION FORM

### FOR EXTERNAL PR AND MARKETING FIRMS NOMINATING A PROJECT ON BEHALF OF A MANUFACTURING CLIENT

This sample nomination form for the Manufacturing Leadership Awards can be used as a reference for gathering required information to complete an entry. This form is for external PR and marketing firms that are submitting an entry on behalf of a manufacturing client. **All nominations must be created and submitted through the online awards portal at <https://manufacturingleadership.awardsplatform.com>.**

Note that each manufacturing enterprise may have no more than five (5) project nominations and can be a finalist for no more than three (3) awards per year. Note that ALL nominated manufacturing companies will be contacted before a nomination is submitted to the judging panel to verify consent and awareness of the awards entry. If this cannot be verified, the nomination will be automatically disqualified with no refund for entry fees.

Manufacturing company name and the project title are included in public awards announcements and on award trophies; each project nomination form must include a project title that is approved for public release. **All other information submitted on this nomination form is strictly confidential.**

**Select the category for which you are submitting this nomination:** Please select one. See page 5 of this application for [category descriptions](#). Note that the MLC editorial team has final decision on the appropriate category for each nomination.

- ☐ Artificial Intelligence Vision and Strategy
- ☐ Business Model Transformation
- ☐ Collaborative Ecosystems
- ☐ Digital Supply Chains
- ☐ Engineering and Production Processes
- ☐ Enterprise Integration and Technology
- ☐ Operational Excellence
- ☐ Sustainability and the Circular Economy
- ☐ Transformational Business Cultures

## Section 1: Manufacturing Company Information

### Verification Statement

I verify that I am providing direct contact information for the nominated manufacturing company and that the manufacturing company has consented to this nomination. (Notice: A YES statement is required for this entry to meet eligibility requirements. This statement will be confirmed with the nominated manufacturing company.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### Manufacturing Company (Nominee) Information

<b>Manufacturing Company Name:</b>			
<b>Headquarters Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>	<b>State/Province:</b>	<b>Zip/Postal Code:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
<b>HQ phone:</b>			
<b>Website:</b>			
<b>Company X (formerly Twitter) URL:</b>			
<b>Company LinkedIn URL:</b>			

**Number of employees:** Please select one.

- ☐ 5,000 or more
- ☐ 1,000-5,000
- ☐ 500-1,000
- ☐ 100-500
- ☐ Less than 100

**Annual Revenues:** Please select one. Note: This information is kept strictly confidential and is only used as a data point for tracking entries by company size. For project nominations, this data is used in consideration for identifying small/medium enterprises and large enterprises for Manufacturer of the Year award candidates.

- ☐ Over \$10 billion
- ☐ \$1 billion - \$10 billion
- ☐ \$500 Million - \$1 Billion
- ☐ \$100 Million - \$500 Million
- ☐ Under \$100 Million
- ☐ Confidential

What does this company manufacture and what is its industry sector? \_\_\_\_\_

**Manufacturer Communications/PR Contact Information:** List an individual at the manufacturing company who can assist with communications/PR and any marketing or promotional efforts.

<b>Communications/PR Contact Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<b>Company:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>

**Awards Coordinator Contact Information:** If the manufacturing company has an Awards Coordinator, please list contact information below.

<b>Awards Coordinator Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<b>Company:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>

## Section 2: Marketing/Public Relations Firm Contact Information

**Marketing/PR Firm Contact Information:** Primary contact at the PR/marketing firm that is making the nomination. This contact will receive award status notification e-mails. This must be direct contact information for an individual at the marketing/PR firm – email addresses for general inboxes and/or general business (main switchboard) phone numbers will not be accepted. Nominations that do not include this information will be disqualified with no refund for entry fees.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<b>Company:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>

**Alternate Marketing/PR Firm Contact Information:** Please provide an alternate marketing/PR contact for this nomination.

<b>Alternate PR/Marketing Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<b>Company:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>

## Section 3: Contact Information for Project Nominations

**Project Contact Information - Manufacturer:** The following form is for providing contact information for individuals at the client manufacturing company with primary responsibility for the project. The Project Contact should be an individual who is the best contact for answering detailed questions about a project's implementation, timeline, strategic impact, etc.

Note that the Manufacturing Leadership Council will contact ALL nominated manufacturing companies to verify consent and awareness of any awards entry submitted on another company's behalf. If the MLC cannot make direct contact with the individual listed at the manufacturer, or if that individual did not provide consent for this entry, the nomination will be automatically disqualified with no refund for entry fees.

<b>Project Contact Name:</b>		<b>Title:</b>	
<b>Company:</b>			
<b>Address (Number and Street):</b>			
<b>Address Line Two (optional) (Suite Number, Mail Stop, etc.):</b>			
<b>City:</b>	<b>State/Province:</b>	<b>Zip/Postal Code:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>E-mail:</b>	

**Primary Project Location:** List the project's primary physical location: street address, city, state, ZIP code, and country. If the project took place over multiple locations, list one as a primary location.

<b>Address (Number and Street):</b>			
<b>Address Line Two (optional) (Suite Number, Mail Stop, etc.):</b>			
<b>City:</b>	<b>State/Province:</b>	<b>Zip/Postal Code:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>E-mail:</b>	

**Executive Sponsor Contact Information:** The executive-level individual at the manufacturing company who led sponsorship of the project. Contact must be VP level or higher. This must be direct contact information for an individual at the manufacturing company – email addresses for general inboxes and/or general business (main switchboard) phone numbers will not be accepted.

<b>Executive Sponsor Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<b>Company:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>

## Section 4: Project Information

- Project Title.** Please provide a title for this project that is approved for public release. This is how the project will be announced at the Manufacturing Leadership Awards Gala, will appear in award announcements issued by the NAM and MLC, and will appear on award trophies. The title must clearly describe the project's results in 10 words or less. Incorrectly formatted titles will be sent back for revision.  
  
Examples:  
"A Digital Thread for a Full-Solution Provider"  
"Improving Quality and Productivity with IoT-Driven Smart Manufacturing"  
"Empowering Sustainability, One Supply Chain at a Time"
- Project Abstract.** Please provide a description of the project being nominated, including the reasons for the project's origin and the benefits it has delivered. *(250 word limit)*
- Project Timeline.** Please provide a list of key dates for the project's development, launch, and completion. Indicate phases still to be implemented, if applicable.
- Process Impact.** Describe how this project transformed a key process, improved performance, improved cost effectiveness, and/or created an entirely new dimension of value for the company. *(400 word limit)*
- Business Impact and ROI.** Describe how this project aided in the company's growth financially or relative to market share, reputation, or customer satisfaction, as well as project cost in terms of financial or other resources, the hard and soft benefits realized, and if possible financial returns and metrics on specific process improvements. *(400 word limit)*

6. **Strategic Impact and Scale.** Describe how this project helped advance the company's long-term business goals, further its digital transformation, and/or expand its future growth opportunities, as well as the project's scale or potential scale across the company's operational footprint. *(400 word limit)*
7. **Achievements and Innovation.** Describe how the project improved the company's competitiveness or allowed it to deliver and realize greater value, as well as what was innovative about this project or its outcome. Include any additional recognition through other awards programs, industry groups, institutions, etc. *(250 word limit)*
8. **Supporting Technologies.** Please list the key technologies and services, if any, that were used to support this project. *(Examples: design/development applications such as CAD, PLM, simulation/visualization; enterprise applications software such as ERP and CRM systems; IoT platforms; control/automation systems; networking and communications technologies; data/analytics applications; advanced robotics; professional services, etc.)*

## Project Category Descriptions

**Artificial Intelligence Vision and Strategy** - Finalists in this category have developed operational and/or corporate strategies for the use of AI to advance business goals such as greater efficiency, speed, agility, and new product/service discovery. They have developed and communicated a future-focused vision for AI and have orchestrated AI strategy across the organization to achieve consistency and impact.

**Business Model Transformation** - This category recognizes achievement in using advanced technologies for strategic business model innovation such as discovering new products, creating service-based revenue opportunities, and deploying new business operating models and systems. Successful projects demonstrate leadership and business culture shifts, internal and external collaboration, metrics to measure success, and the ability to leverage core manufacturing strengths to maximize competitiveness. They also exhibit manufacturing readiness and supply chain alignment to rapidly leverage new opportunities.

**Collaborative Ecosystems** – This category recognizes organizational efforts at utilizing M4.0 technologies to enhance internal and external cross-functional collaboration to boost productivity, satisfy customer requirements, accelerate innovation, achieve greater speed and agility, or build strategies to further growth. Manufacturing organizations recognized with this award create corporate structures and policies that support a collaborative enterprise both internally and with partners, vendors, customers and other external entities.

**Digital Supply Chains** – This category honors those who have created digitally powered supply networks that are flexible, responsive, and resilient. Finalists in this category have developed strategies for predicting and minimizing disruptions, while also rethinking and reengineering how they source materials, manage suppliers, deliver products, and service customers. They demonstrate efficiency in managing the overall value chain and maximizing customer value. They have also developed or embraced best practices for sharing data across key suppliers, partners, and customers.

**Engineering and Production Processes** – This category recognizes outstanding achievement in faster and more flexible product design and game-changing process improvements, including the embrace of agile, model-based engineering and advanced technologies such as AI, automation, advanced robotics, and 3D printing. Successful projects improve efficiency and quality, increase responsiveness, bring new products to market faster, and reduce costs.

**Enterprise Integration and Technology** – Finalists in this category orchestrate innovative corporate IT, OT, engineering, and communications strategies and systems to integrate the shop floor to the top floor. Successful projects demonstrate a holistic approach to technology deployment to create common operating systems, platforms, and data sharing strategies to help establish an integrated enterprise.

**Operational Excellence** – Finalists in this category implement continuous improvement projects and harness M4.0 technologies and processes to reduce costs, streamline processes, reduce waste, improve quality, and enhance overall equipment effectiveness. Top-scoring projects demonstrate commitment over time, measurable results, and enhanced performance of the organization as a whole.

**Sustainability and the Circular Economy** – Finalists in this category have made significant progress in embracing manufacturing processes, supported by digital technologies, that minimize emissions, conserve energy, reduce waste, and are economically and environmentally safe and sound for employees, communities, and consumers. They undertake ambitious sustainability initiatives, seek innovative methods for product and materials reclamation, and show a broad and deep commitment to sustainability through product design and end-of-life strategies, meaningful metrics, and/or

sustainable practices both internally and across supply networks. And they have demonstrated a commitment to help drive a more circular industrial economy.

**Transformational Business Cultures** – This category honors organizations that have reimagined traditional manufacturing organizational cultures to create a digital-first mentality in how they think, plan and act in managing operations. They create cultures that foster a continuous learning environment to leverage the potential of advanced technologies to improve the organization. Finalists in this category encourage decisions at the lowest level possible, demonstrate excellence in employee upskilling and reskilling, and cultivate a mindset of flexibility and ownership among the workforce.

SAMPLE

