

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

2027 Nomination Guide

*For Technology and Consulting Partners and Noncorporate
Entities Nominating a Manufacturing Client, Partner, or Member*

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

2027 Nomination Guide

Welcome to the 2027 season of the Manufacturing Leadership Awards! We are excited to recognize world-class accomplishments in operational digital transformation, along with the leaders who bring Manufacturing 4.0 aspirations to reality.

This guide can assist you in better understanding the program's objectives, rules, judging criteria, and how to create a successful nomination. We suggest giving it a careful review before submitting your entry.

If you have additional questions, we are happy to help. Please reach out to MLAwards@nam.org at any time.

Best of luck!

Penelope Brown

Senior Content Director

Manufacturing Leadership Council

Table of Contents

About Partner Nominations	3-4
General Program Information	5
Project Nomination Overview and Guidelines	6-9
Eligibility	6
Judging Criteria	7
Category Descriptions	8-9
Individual Nomination Overview and Guidelines	10-11
Eligibility	10
Category Descriptions	11
Judging Criteria	12-13
Program Overview and FAQ	14
Tips for Success	15
How to Create a Nomination	16
Sample Entry Forms	16

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

About Partner Nominations

Technology and consulting partners are an important part of manufacturing's digital transformation. The expertise and knowledge shared by partners is essential to Manufacturing 4.0 success. Additionally, the collaboration and networking offered through professional societies, trade associations, and similar groups allows manufacturers to make the connections that they need to succeed. We are proud to recognize these important contributions in the Manufacturing Leadership Awards.

How are partners recognized in the awards?

When a partner-submitted project is selected as a finalist, the partner that submitted that entry is also recognized as a Partner in Collaborative Innovation. Each partner is announced at the Manufacturing Leadership Awards Gala and invited to receive their trophy on stage. Partners are also included in the MLC's public awards announcements.

How many entries can a partner submit?

There are no limits on the total number of entries a partner company or organization can submit on behalf of its manufacturing clients or members, but there is a limit of one (1) partner-submitted project entry and one (1) partner-submitted individual entry per manufacturing client/partner enterprise. For example, if a partner has three manufacturing clients or members, the partner is welcome to submit one project and/or one individual entry per client or member.

Note that any single enterprise may have no more than five (5) project nominations total and is limited to three (3) project finalist selections per season, and a single enterprise may have no more than three (3) individuals nominated in a single individual category. If the number of nominations received exceeds that total, the nominated organization will be contacted to make a final determination on which entries will be submitted to the judges' panel. Refunds will be issued for nominations that are not submitted for judging.

Recognize your own manufacturing-focused executive leaders by nominating them for an individual award

In recognition of the role that partners and noncorporate entities play in Manufacturing 4.0 initiatives, these organizations are invited to nominate their own operations-focused leaders for the Digital Transformation Leadership category. There is a limit of three (3) nominated individuals from any single enterprise per individual category. Be sure to review the eligibility requirements on page 10 of this guide.

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

About Partner Nominations

What else should I know about partner nominations?

The Manufacturing Leadership Council will contact all nominees for entries that originate from partner organizations to verify that the organization or individual has given consent for the nomination. Partners will be copied on those communications. If we are unable to reach the nominee, or if they indicate that they did not consent to the nomination, the entry will be disqualified with no refund for entry fees.

Important Note: Manufacturers may also originate their own nominations for projects or individual leaders, or they may be nominated by other partners. If the number of entries received for a single enterprise exceeds the annual limit of five (5) total project nominations or three (3) individual nominations per category, the manufacturer will have final determination on which entries are submitted for judging. The partners who submitted the entries will be included on those communications. You may wish to ask manufacturing clients if they know of any other nominations originating from their organization or other partners.

If you collaborated with another technology/consulting organization on a project, you are encouraged to include them on the entry for recognition. The nomination form includes an area for adding an additional partner, if you worked with a collaborating organization.



Manufacturing Leadership Awards

General Program Information

2026 Program Timeline

September 15, 2026 – January 15, 2027: Nomination application period

February 2027: Nominations go to judges' panel for scoring

March 1-5, 2027: Internal scoring analysis by MLC content team

March 19, 2027: Notifications sent to entrants for score results

April 15, 2027: Public finalist announcement

June 30, 2027: Manufacturing Leadership Awards Gala and Dinner – Scottsdale, Arizona

Entry Fees

The entry fee for 2027 is \$395 per nomination. Technology and consulting partners that are members of the Manufacturing Leadership Council are eligible for up to four (4) project and four (4) individual nominations. To learn how to redeem this benefit, reach out to your membership team contact or email MLAwards@nam.org.

Online Resources and Nomination Forms

Full program details are available at <https://manufacturingleadershipcouncil.com/leadership-awards/>

All nominations must be submitted through the online platform at <https://manufacturingleadership.awardsplatform.com/>



Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Project Nomination Overview and Guidelines

Eligibility – Project Nominations

- Any manufacturer is eligible for a project nomination in the Manufacturing Leadership Awards, regardless of their location or membership status in the Manufacturing Leadership Council, Innovation Research Interchange (IRI) or National Association of Manufacturers.
- A manufacturer is defined as an organization that produces finished goods from raw materials and then sells those goods to consumers, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, or other manufacturers. Standalone products and equipment, software, transportation and logistics providers, distributors, wholesalers, and other service providers are not eligible for the awards.
- Noncorporate entities are defined as universities, government organizations, professional societies, trade associations, or similar.
- Projects must be directly tied to a company's manufacturing operations and illustrate how digital technology was integral to the project's success.
- Technology and consulting partners are permitted to submit one (1) project category entry or one (1) individual category entry per manufacturing client. Noncorporate entities that are submitting their own projects are welcome to submit up to five (5) project entries.
- Projects previously recognized by the Manufacturing Leadership Awards are not eligible for re-entry.
- A project must have reached a significant development or deployment milestone within the previous year starting with the season entry period to be eligible for the current awards season. For example, for the 2027 awards, a project should have been launched, scaled, or deployed sometime after September 1, 2025.



Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Project Nomination Overview and Guidelines

Judging Criteria – Project Nominations

Project nominations are assessed on the following criteria. It is important to note that this is how the **manufacturer's project** will be assessed vs. the partner submitting the entry – keep that in mind when creating nominations.

Process Impact: Did the project transform a key process or processes that resulted in greater efficiency, speed, cost effectiveness, or an entirely new dimension of value for the company?

Business Impact: Did the project aid in the company's growth financially, in market share, in reputation, or in customer satisfaction?

Strategic Impact: Did the project help enable and advance the company's long-term business goals, further its digital transformation, and/or expand its future growth opportunities?

Use of Technology: To what extent was the use of advanced technology key to enabling the project?

Scale of Project: Did the project encompass or hold the potential to encompass a significant percentage of the company's operational footprint?



Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Project Categories

Note that final determination on the appropriate category for a project entry is determined by the Manufacturing Leadership Council content team. Entrants will be contacted if the category under which they submitted their entry is changed.

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.

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Project Categories

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.



Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Individual Nomination Overview and Guidelines

Eligibility – Individual Nominations

- To be eligible for any category in the Manufacturing Leadership Awards, an individual leader must have a role directly tied to manufacturing operations. Nominations for individuals with roles tied to sales, marketing, business development, or similar will not be accepted.
- Individuals who have been awarded in prior seasons are not eligible for entry in the same category where they were previously recognized but are welcome to be nominated in a different individual category. (For example, a prior Next-Generation Leadership finalist or winner is eligible for entry in the Digital Transformation Leadership category.)
- Each enterprise can have up to three (3) individual nominees in each category. Technology and consulting partners may nominate one (1) individual per client organization, per category.
- An individual may be nominated in no more than one (1) category annually.
- Limit of one (1) individual per nomination.

Category Descriptions

Digital Transformation Leadership: Individual finalists in this category demonstrate excellence in their commitment to digital technology leadership to drive transformational change in their companies. Successful candidates transform their companies by helping to lead changes in culture, in how data is leveraged to improve decision-making, in how work is organized, and in how people are inspired to achieve excellence. They rise to become role models for other individuals and companies in the industry. They are experienced professionals at diverse levels of leadership within their organizations. *(Technology and consulting leaders are eligible for this category.)*

Next-Generation Leadership: This category honors remarkable manufacturing professionals who have less than 10 years of manufacturing operations career experience as of December 31, 2026. Finalists embody the leadership qualities required in the Manufacturing 4.0 era. They pioneer and execute winning strategies, inspire and manage high-performing teams, and raise awareness of the positive impacts of manufacturing on society. *(This category is limited to manufacturers only; technology and consulting partners may nominate individuals from client organizations.)*

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Individual Nomination Overview and Guidelines

Judging Criteria – Individual Nominations

Nominations will be assessed on the following criteria:

Digital Transformation Leadership

Company Impact: Did the individual's achievement significantly advance his or her company's operational digital transformation?

Industry Impact: Did or should the individual's achievement serve as a role model for other manufacturing leaders?

Manufacturing impact: Did or should the individual's achievement serve as a model for how to conduct manufacturing operations at other companies?

Next-Generation Leadership

(Note: This category is for individuals with 10 years or less of manufacturing operations career experience as of December 31, 2026.)

Disruptive Innovation Impact: Did the individual successfully promote ideas and lead projects that embodied new ways of thinking?

Collaborative Innovation Impact: Did the individual inspire others and play a significant role in creating new or unique organizational models, including cross-functional teams, that took a collaborative approach to solving problems or creating new ways of doing things?

Social Impact: Did the individual enhance the perception of manufacturing's value for other potential next-generation leaders?



Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Program Overview and FAQ

Who judges the nominations?

The Manufacturing Leadership Awards judges' panel is comprised of industry experts with extensive knowledge and experience in digital manufacturing. The panel is generally comprised of MLC members and past award winners. Each entry is assessed by three judges.

Judges do not assess any entries from their own companies, direct competitors, or any other situation that would constitute a conflict of interest. They are required to sign a confidentiality agreement before assessing any nominations.

What does it mean to be an awards finalist?

First, congratulations! You have reason to celebrate. Selection as a finalist means that your client's project or individual nomination has been shortlisted as one of the best in the category. Being named a finalist is a mark of excellence that means the judges gave the entry a top score.

Is my entry confidential?

Be assured that each entry is seen only by the judges who assess it and the MLC content team. No part of any entry is shared publicly beyond the company name and project title or individual name.

How do I pick the right category?

Every nomination is reviewed by the MLC content team before it is sent for judging to assess if it is in the best-fit category, determined by the entry's theme and outcomes and where it will be most competitive with similar entries. If it is determined that the entry should be moved to a different category, you will be informed of this change. Determination on the correct category is at the sole discretion of the MLC content team.

What do award honorees receive?

Each award finalist is provided the following:

- Opportunity to attend the Manufacturing Leadership Awards Gala and Dinner, taking place June 30, 2027, in Scottsdale, Arizona. You will be seated with your manufacturing client for associated projects.
 - Passes are \$595 for team members, \$195 for spouses/personal guest or through custom sponsorships. Please email lbisset@nam.org for more information.
- A custom awards trophy shipped directly to the address of your choice.
- Recognition on the stage at the awards gala.
- Inclusion in public announcements via social media, email, and other communications channels from the MLC and the NAM.

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Program Overview and FAQ

What happens at the Manufacturing Leadership Awards Gala?

The gala is a fun and festive black-tie event that includes a cocktail reception, sit-down dinner, and full award ceremony. All finalists are invited to walk the stage to receive their trophy. Category winners are announced at the gala along with winners of the Future of Manufacturing Award, the Small/Medium Enterprise Manufacturer of the Year, Large Enterprise Manufacturer of the Year, and Manufacturing Leader of the Year.

Do I have to be present at the gala to receive an award?

While we would love to celebrate with you in person, attendance at the gala is not required for award recognition. For anyone who cannot attend the gala, we will ship your award trophy to you directly.

How can I promote my award?

Finalists will be given social graphics and a press release template that they may use to promote their recognition. Be sure to share the good news with your employees, executive leadership, customers and partners!

What is the Future of Manufacturing Award, and how can I submit a nomination for it?

The Future of Manufacturing Award, formerly known as the Manufacturing in 2030 Award, recognizes projects that are especially innovative or forward-thinking in their application. They could be seen as a role model for the manufacturing enterprise of the future.

Winners of this award are determined solely by the MLC content team. All finalist nominations are automatically entered for this award.

How are the Manufacturers of the Year and Manufacturing Leader of the Year determined?

All finalist nominations are automatically entered for these awards. Determination for the winners is made solely by the MLC content team based on scoring and judges' feedback.

My entry wasn't selected as a finalist. Now what?

The awards are a competitive program and, unfortunately, some entries do not make it through to the next round. You are welcome to contact the program director to discuss the judges' feedback on your entry. Note that if your project continues to reach additional milestones, it is eligible for re-entry the following season. Likewise, individuals who were not selected as finalists are eligible for re-entry.

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

Tips for Success

The following tips can help with creating a successful partner-submitted project nomination:

- First and foremost, keep the focus on the manufacturer that is being nominated and the manufacturer's accomplishments. Create an entry that gives a holistic picture of the manufacturer's digital transformation accomplishments. Avoid excessive mentions of a specific product or service. While it is fine to mention a specific product or service as part of an overall digital transformation initiative, center the award nomination on the manufacturers' digital achievements and business improvements.
- Give as much detail as possible for projects so that the judges can make a thorough assessment of its performance and impact.
- Tell the whole story of how this has improved the manufacturer's operations and overall business. Ask the following questions:
 - What challenge is the project attempting to solve?
 - What impact has it made, especially in terms of measurable metrics and cost savings?
 - What is its realized or anticipated ROI?
 - What is its future, and how will it be scaled to other parts of the business, other operations, or other locations?
- It is understandable that financial details can be sensitive, but providing even a rough approximation of financial benefits can help the judges understand a project's true impact.
- You are welcome to include attachments including slide presentations, videos, etc. that can tell a fuller story about a project's implementation.

Consider the following with individual nominations:

- What specific things has this individual done to improve their organization and/or the manufacturing industry?
- When has this individual shown innovation, leadership, and/or inspiration to others?
- Again, give a complete picture of this individual's accomplishments. The more detail you can provide, the better for the judges to assess their achievements.

Manufacturing Leadership Awards

How to Create a Nomination

Step 1: Create an Account

- Go to <https://manufacturingleadership.awardsplatform.com/>
- Create an account using your preferred email address. You will receive a confirmation email upon creating a new account. You will need to click the link in this email to confirm your account.

Step 2: Start Your Nomination

- Upon logging in, click the Start Entry button at the bottom
- You can save your work as you go – there is no need to complete a nomination in one sitting.
- You will be asked to identify the type of entry you are submitting (project or individual), the entry category, and the type of organization that you are representing. *(Note that the MLC content team makes final determination for an entry's appropriate category based on where the entry is most competitive. If an entry's category is changed, you will be notified.)*
- See the sample nomination forms at the end of this guide for a full list of information that is required on the entry form.

Step 3: Submit Your Completed Entry

- It is recommended that you click the “Preview” button before submitting to ensure your entries are final.
- You will receive a confirmation email automatically generated by Award Force when your entry is submitted.
- If you are paying with a credit card issued by a financial institution outside of the United States, we regret that Award Force cannot support those types of payments. Please contact MLAwards@nam.org to make payment arrangements.

2027 MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP AWARDS



SAMPLE PROJECT NOMINATION FORM

FOR TECHNOLOGY AND CONSULTING PARTNERS 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 technology and consulting partners that are submitting an entry on behalf of their manufacturing clients. If the project is selected as a finalist in one of the project categories, the technology/consulting partner will be recognized with a Partner in Collaborative Innovation Award. **All nominations must be created and submitted through the online awards portal at <https://manufacturingleadership.awardsplatform.com>.**

While technology and consulting partners are not limited on the number of nominations that they can submit on behalf of manufacturing clients overall, partners may submit no more than one (1) project per manufacturing enterprise. Note that any single 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 in total. If the number of overall entries received for a single enterprise exceeds the nomination limit, all parties will be contacted as a group with the manufacturer having the final say in which projects will be presented to the judging panel. Refunds will be issued for any nominations that are withdrawn.

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 manufacturer, or if the manufacturing project contact listed on this form did not provide consent for the entry, the nomination will be automatically disqualified with no refund for entry fees. Please review complete program rules [here](#).

Manufacturer and partner company names 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 6 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

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

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? _____

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

PR Contact Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

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

Awards Coordinator Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Section 2: Technology/Consulting Partner Information

Partner Contact Information: Primary contact at the technology/consulting partner or service provider for the nominated project. This is the best individual for answering detailed questions about a project's implementation, timeline, strategic impact, etc. This contact will also receive award status notification e-mails. The contact information provided must be directly for an individual at the partner company – email addresses for general inboxes and/or main switchboard phone numbers without extensions will not be accepted. Nominations that do not include this information will be disqualified with no refund of entry fees.

Partner Contact Name:		Title:	
Company:			
Address (Number and Street):			
Address Line Two (optional) (Suite Number, Mail Stop Code, etc.):			
City:	State/Province:	Zip/Postal Code:	Country:
Phone:		E-mail:	
Website:			
Company X (formerly Twitter) URL:		Company LinkedIn URL:	

Alternate Partner Contact Information: List a second contact at the technology/consulting partner or service provider for the nominated project. This contact will receive award status notification e-mails. This must be direct contact information for an individual at the partner company – email addresses for general inboxes and/or main switchboard phone numbers without extensions will not be accepted. Nominations that do not include this information will be disqualified with no refund for entry fees.

Alternate Partner Contact Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Did you work with any additional technology/consulting organizations who are also reviewing this entry and should receive recognition for this award?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If Yes, please provide contact information for the additional partner in the fields below.

Additional Partner Contact Information: Main contact at the additional technology/consulting partner or service provider for the nominated project. This contact will receive award status notification e-mails. This must be direct contact information for an individual at the partner company – email addresses for general inboxes and/or main switchboard phone numbers without extensions will not be accepted. Nominations that omit this information will be disqualified with no refund of entry fees.

Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:
Website:	
Company X (formerly Twitter) URL:	Company LinkedIn URL:

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Executive Sponsor Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

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)*
- 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)*
- 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)*
- 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.

2027 MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP AWARDS



SAMPLE NOMINATION FORM – DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION LEADERSHIP FOR TECHNOLOGY AND CONSULTING PARTNERS SUBMITTING 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 for technology and consulting partners to complete an entry for an individual at a manufacturing client company. **All nominations must be created and submitted at <https://manufacturingleadership.awardsplatform.com>.**

Limit one (1) individual per nomination. Technology and consulting partners may submit an unlimited number of individual award nominations, but may nominate no more than one (1) individual per client manufacturing enterprise. The nominee's name and company will be announced if they are selected as a finalist. **All other information submitted on this nomination form is strictly confidential.**

Category Description

Individual finalists in the Digital Transformation Leadership category demonstrate excellence in their commitment to digital technology leadership to drive transformational change in their companies. Successful candidates transform their companies by helping to lead changes in culture, in how data is leveraged to improve decision-making, in how work is organized, and in how people are inspired to achieve excellence. They rise to become role models for other individuals and companies in the industry. They are experienced professionals at diverse levels of leadership within their organizations.

Section 1: Manufacturing Company Information

Verification Statement

I verify that I am providing direct contact information for the nominated individual and that the individual 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 individual.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

Manufacturing Company Information (Nominee's Employer)

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

Manufacturing Company Size - Number of employees: Please select one.

☐ 5,000 or more

☐ 1,000-5,000

☐ 500-1,000

☐ 100-500

☐ Less than 100

Manufacturing Company Size - 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? _____

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

PR Contact Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

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

Awards Coordinator Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Section 2: Technology/Consulting Partner Information

Partner Contact Information: Primary contact at the technology/consulting partner or service provider that is submitting this nomination. This individual should be able to answer detailed questions about this nomination and will also receive award status notification e-mails. The contact information provided must be directly for an individual at the partner company – 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 of entry fees.

Partner Contact Name:		Title:	
Company:			
Address (Number and Street):			
Address Line Two (optional) (Suite Number, Mail Stop Code, etc.):			
City:	State/Province:	Zip/Postal Code:	Country:
Phone:		E-mail:	
Website:			
Company X (formerly Twitter) URL:		Company LinkedIn URL:	

Alternate Partner Contact Information: List a second contact at the technology/consulting partner or service provider for this nomination. This contact will receive award status notification e-mails. This must be direct contact information for an individual at the partner company – email addresses for general inboxes and/or main switchboard phone numbers without extensions will not be accepted. Nominations that do not include this information will be disqualified with no refund of entry fees.

Alternate Partner Contact Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Section 3: Contact Information for Individual Nominations

Award Nominee Contact Information: Contact information for the individual being nominated.

Award Nominee Name:		Title:	
Company:			
Address:			
Address Line 2 (Optional) (Suite number, mail stop, etc.)			
City:	State:	Zip/Postal Code:	Country:
Phone:		E-mail:	
Nominee LinkedIn profile (optional):			

Award Sponsor Contact Information: Individual from the nominee's manufacturing organization who is sponsoring this nomination or who can act as a reference for the nominated individual.

Award Sponsor Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Section 4: Nominee Information

1. Describe this individual's achievements in digital transformation leadership. How has this person been a driving force in advancing their company's digital transformation goals, including demonstrating digital acumen in improving processes, adopting new technologies, and/or creating digital roadmaps or new organizational models?
2. How have this individual's efforts been of benefit to their company or institution?
3. In what ways have this individual's achievements served as a role model for other manufacturing leaders in their company or institution?
4. How could this individual's achievements serve as an example for other manufacturing companies and the way they conduct their operations?
5. Provide a brief biography or CV of this nominated individual. Include details on education, career history, and any awards or recognition they have received.

2027 MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP AWARDS



SAMPLE NOMINATION FORM – NEXT-GENERATION LEADERSHIP

FOR TECHNOLOGY AND CONSULTING PARTNERS NOMINATING AN INDIVIDUAL FROM 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 for technology and consulting partners to complete an entry for an individual at a manufacturing client company. **All nominations must be created and submitted through the online awards portal at <https://manufacturingleadership.awardsplatform.com>.**

Limit one (1) individual per nomination. Technology and consulting partners may submit an unlimited number of individual award nominations, but may nominate no more than one (1) individual per manufacturing enterprise. The nominee's name and company will be announced if they are selected as a winner. **All other information submitted on this nomination form is strictly confidential.**

Category Description

This category honors remarkable manufacturing professionals who have less than 10 years of manufacturing operations career experience as of December 31, 2026. Finalists embody the leadership qualities required in the Manufacturing 4.0 era. They pioneer and execute winning strategies, inspire and manage high-performing teams, and raise awareness of the positive impacts of manufacturing on society.

Section 1: Manufacturing Company Information

Verification Statement

I verify that I am providing direct contact information for the nominated individual and that the individual 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 individual.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

Tenure Requirement for Next-Generation Leadership Award

I verify that the individual nominated for this award has 10 years or less of manufacturing operations career experience as of December 31, 2026. (Note: Individuals who do not meet this age requirement are eligible for the Digital Transformation Leadership category.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

Manufacturing Company Information (Nominee's Employer)

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

Company Size - Number of Employees: Please select one.

☐ 5,000 or more

☐ 1,000-5,000

☐ 500-1,000

☐ 100-500

☐ Less than 100

Company Size - 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? _____

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

PR Contact Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

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

Awards Coordinator Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Section 2: Technology/Consulting Partner Information

Partner Contact Information: Primary contact at the technology/consulting partner or service provider that is submitting this nomination. This individual should be able to answer detailed questions about this nomination and will also receive award status notification e-mails. The contact information provided must be directly for an individual at the partner company – 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 of entry fees.

Partner Contact Name:		Title:	
Company:			
Address (Number and Street):			
Address Line Two (optional) (Suite Number, Mail Stop Code, etc.):			
City:	State/Province:	Zip/Postal Code:	Country:
Phone:		E-mail:	
Website:			
Company Twitter URL:		Company LinkedIn URL:	

Alternate Partner Contact Information: List a second contact at the technology/consulting partner or service provider for this nomination. This contact will receive award status notification e-mails. This must be direct contact information for an individual at the partner company – email addresses for general inboxes and/or main switchboard phone numbers without extensions will not be accepted. Nominations that do not include this information will be disqualified with no refund of entry fees.

Alternate Partner Contact Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Section 3: Contact Information for Individual Nominations

Award Nominee: Contact information for the individual being nominated.

Award Nominee Name:		Title:	
Company:			
Address:			
Address Line 2 (Optional) (Suite number, mail stop, etc.)			
City:	State:	Zip/Postal Code:	Country:
Phone:		E-mail:	
Nominee LinkedIn profile (optional):			

Award Sponsor Contact Information: Individual from the nominee's manufacturing organization who is sponsoring this nomination or who can act as a reference for the nominated individual.

Award Sponsor Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Section 4: Nominee Information

1. Describe this individual's professional achievements so far and potential for the future. How has this individual been a driving force behind a team, company, or community?
2. How has this individual successfully promoted ideas and led projects that embodied innovation and new ways of thinking?
3. In what way could this individual's achievements be seen as influential for the manufacturing industry and in enhancing the perception of the industry's value?
4. How has this individual played a role in creating unique organizational models or teams that took a collaborative approach to solving problems or created new ways of doing things?
5. Provide a brief biography or CV of this nominated individual. Include details on education, career history, and any awards or recognition they have received.

2027 MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP AWARDS



SAMPLE NOMINATION FORM – DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION LEADERSHIP

FOR TECHNOLOGY AND CONSULTING PARTNERS NOMINATING AN EMPLOYEE

This sample nomination form for the Manufacturing Leadership Awards can be used as a reference for gathering required information to complete an entry. **All nominations must be created and submitted through the online awards portal at <https://manufacturingleadership.awardsplatform.com>.**

This form is for technology and consulting organizations that are submitting a nomination for one of their own employees. Organizations may nominate up to three (3) of their own employees per individual category per year.

Limit one (1) individual per nomination form. The nominee's name and company will be announced if they are selected as a finalist. **All other information submitted on this nomination form is strictly confidential.**

Category Description

Individual finalists in the Digital Transformation Leadership category demonstrate excellence in their commitment to digital technology leadership to drive transformational change in their companies. Successful candidates transform their companies by helping to lead changes in culture, in how data is leveraged to improve decision-making, in how work is organized, and in how people are inspired to achieve excellence. They rise to become role models for other individuals and companies in the industry. They are experienced professionals at diverse levels of leadership within their organizations.

Section 1: Technology/Consulting Company Information (Nominee's Employer)

Full Technology/Consulting Company Name:			
Headquarters Address:			
City:	State/Province:	Zip/Postal Code:	Country:
HQ phone:			
Website:			
Company X (formerly Twitter) URL:			
Company LinkedIn URL:			

Company Size - Number of employees: Please select one.

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

Company Size - 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

How does this company serve manufacturers specifically? _____

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

PR Contact Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

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

Awards Coordinator Name:	Title:
Company:	

Phone:	E-mail:
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Section 2: Contact Information for Individual Nominations

Award Nominee: Contact information for the individual being nominated.

Award Nominee Name:		Title:	
Company:			
Address:			
Address Line 2 (Optional) (Suite number, mail stop, etc.):			
City:	State:	Zip/Postal Code:	Country:
Phone:		E-mail:	
Nominee LinkedIn profile (optional):			

Award Sponsor Contact Information: Individual from the nominee's manufacturing organization who is sponsoring this nomination or who can act as a reference for the nominated individual.

Award Sponsor Name:	Title:
Company:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Section 3: Nominee Information

1. Describe this individual's achievements in digital transformation leadership. How has this person been a driving force in advancing their company's digital transformation goals, including demonstrating digital acumen in improving processes, adopting new technologies, and/or creating digital roadmaps or new organizational models?
2. How have this individual's efforts been of benefit to their company or institution?
3. In what ways have this individual's achievements served as a role model for other manufacturing leaders in their company or institution?
4. How could this individual's achievements serve as an example for other manufacturing companies and the way they conduct their operations?
5. Provide a brief biography or CV of this nominated individual. Include details on education, career history, and any awards or recognition they have received.