



**ADVANCED
FACTORIES**
EXPO & CONGRESS

10
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

5-7 mayo 2026
Fira de Barcelona



CALL FOR AWARDS

NEXT-GEN OF AUTOMATION

www.advancedfactories.com

IA | IoT | Automation | Robotics | Intralogistics | Greentech | IT/OT

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01. FACTORIES OF THE FUTURE AWARDS 2026

The **Factories of the Future Awards 2026** are intended to recognize the work, leadership and transformation of those companies that are committed to innovation in industrial automation and digitization, focusing on the areas of business model, new products, equipment, communication management, operational processes, marketing or customer experience.

02. AWARDS ORGANIZER

The **Factories of the Future Awards 2026** are organized by Advanced Factories.

The evaluation and pre-selection process will be carried out in collaboration with a technical committee formed by international experts.

03. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The **Factories of the Future Awards 2026** are aimed at all companies, universities, suppliers, executives, business schools, researchers, analysts, journalists, startups, accelerators, technology parks, innovation centers, etc. that are committed to innovation and constant improvement in emerging processes in the new era of Industry 4.0, as well as to disseminate ideas and experiences that are increasingly consolidated in the industrial sector.

Any organization is eligible for these awards, provided that it attests to its candidacy. The mission of these awards is to encourage and promote innovation in industrial automation, so there is no major restriction to participation for individuals and organizations in the Factories of the Future Awards 2026, provided that this premise is met..

[ENVÍA TU PROPUESTA](#)

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04. AWARD CATEGORIES

A. Leadership in the Digital Transformation of the Industrial Plant

This award recognizes industrial companies that have carried out digital transformation by incorporating Industry 4.0 technologies into their operations or management areas. The submitted project must be implemented by the application deadline. The impact on productive efficiency, sustainability, and talent attraction is evaluated. It is necessary to include the technical details of the solutions implemented in the application.

B. Best Industrial Team or System for the Factory of the Future

This award recognizes supplier solutions that enable the implementation of advanced machinery, machine tools, or innovative digitization, automation, or robotics systems as a key element for the competitiveness of client companies. It is a mandatory requirement that the products or services have already been implemented in at least two companies by the application deadline, indicating the competitive advantages they have provided.

C. Best Automation and Robotics Project in an Industrial Plant

This category is intended to reward companies, industries, implementers, or manufacturers of automation or robotics solutions that have developed projects in the last two years that can be considered a benchmark in the automation or robotization of a production line or industrial plant.

D. Most Disruptive Startup in the Industrial field

This award recognizes newly created companies or entrepreneurial projects with a track record of less than 4 years, offering a value proposition in the industrial and manufacturing technologies sector. The award is given to both technology providers and users within the industrial sector.

E. Best Research and Development Project

This category is intended to reward research and development projects in the fields of artificial intelligence applied to manufacturing processes and industrial production. Projects that demonstrate transformative impact through the use of machine learning technologies in transversal applications such as computer vision, maintenance, virtual assistants, contactless solutions, and/or their combination with automation or robotics solutions will be highly valued. The project scope includes industrial implementations, pilots, and proof-of-concept studies. The application must specify the project's start and end dates, though the project does not need to be completed.

F. Excellence in Sustainability, Eco-Development and Circular Economy

This category aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recognizes the best projects in industrial sustainability. Initiatives and solutions that promote the development of more efficient and sustainable processes, product life cycle optimization, recyclability, and reuse of products or waste may be submitted. Solutions that support decarbonization, reduction of the carbon footprint of the final product, and its production process will also be considered. The achieved impact will be positively valued.

05. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must be submitted **before March 22nd** through [this form](#) and must accept the terms and conditions included in the on-line form.

The proposal should consist of an abstract of less than 200 words. An executive summary of less than 800 words explaining the vision and objective of the project, the description of the innovation in relation to the state of the art and the positive impacts according to the target industry profile will be considered. The inclusion of the deployment plan carried out with a description of the necessary resources (talent -roles, skills-, equipment) and the changes it represents for the companies in which the project is implemented will be positively valued..

The proposal may be supplemented with attachments and photographs in a document of less than 5MB. The form and complementary documents must be submitted in Spanish, Catalan or English (proposals in other languages will not be considered).

06. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by the jury of experts according to the criteria of disruption and leadership. The proposal will be structured in such a way that it can be identified:

- The technological, sectoral and challenge scope of the project
- the value proposition
- Innovative and disruptive nature of the project
- Human team participating in the project

The description of the evolution of the project and its escalation schedule will be valued.

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07. EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process is divided into two phases:

PHASE 1: Compliance with the regulations and pre-selection

The Congress Director and the Advanced Factories organization will carry out the first evaluation to check if the entered proposal meets the defined requirements and selection criteria. The evaluation process will be carried out by the members of the Expert Committee individually and will be used to choose the finalists in each of the categories.

The shortlisted candidates will be informed as of April 11th, 2026. If necessary, and exceptionally, the organization will request additional information to the candidate's proposal..

PHASE 2: Selection of winners

The Committee of Experts will meet the days prior to the Gala Awards Ceremony, evaluate the finalist projects and select the winner of each category. Any award category may be declared void by the International Committee. The Committee may change the nomination to a different category if it deems it more appropriate.

08. KEY DEADLINES

All proposals must be submitted **before March 22nd, 2026**.

The results of the proposals **will be announced starting April 6th, 2026**.

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09. PRIZES

The **Factories of the Future Awards 2026** will honor the winners with the following awards:

- **Individual invitation to attend the Awards Ceremony** for each of the finalists in each category.
- Delivery of the **award accrediting the prize** obtained and the corresponding category.
- **Dissemination** of each of the awards to the accredited media in Advanced Factories 2026 and in the event's social networks.

10. INDUSTRIAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Participants are responsible for the authorship of the proposal submitted, he/she is the owner of the intellectual and, where appropriate, industrial rights. The participant undertakes not to violate intellectual property rights, industrial property rights, copyright and/or image rights, and assumes full responsibility for third parties: the organization is released from all liability.

If the proposal is a finalist, the participant authorizes the organization to disseminate, reproduce and publish his/her proposal in any format and by any means to publicize the **Factories of the Future Awards 2026**.



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11. DATA PROTECTION

Due to the confidential nature of the information provided, the organizers, the coordinator and the members of the Technical and International Committees of the awards guarantee to preserve the identity of the participants and the content of their projects.

This also includes any information about their current status or development.

Once the project is selected as a finalist, the organizers of the awards may make public all details considered as public (name of the project, responsible organization, person in charge, web pages, description, purpose and category).



12. CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions or suggestions regarding this **Call for Awards** or the **Factories of the Future Awards 2026**, please contact us at:

- Phone: 00 34 93 492 38 02
- Email: congress.af@barter.es

If you are also interested in exhibiting or in learning about different **Advanced Factories** participation options, please contact us at:

- Phone: 00 34 919 551 551
- Email: exhibit@advancedfactories.com

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