

WIPO Global Awards 2026

The UN Awards for Innovative and Creative Businesses



Presented by the **World Intellectual Property Organization** (WIPO), the UN agency for innovation and creativity

From health and digital technologies to creative industries, environmental, and agrifood innovations, these Awards celebrate startups and SMEs that:

- Transform **ideas into successful commercial ventures**
- Achieve business growth through smart **IP strategies**
- Contribute **to economic, social, cultural** and/or **environmental** development

Applications open **January 15 – March 31, 2026**

Scan the QR code for more information



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Why the WIPO Global Awards matter

Celebrating on the global stage innovation, creativity, smart IP strategies and impact

10 Company Awards (5 startups & 5 SMEs)

1 New Award: SMEs in Sport (World IP Day theme)

2 Special Mentions: Best Woman Entrepreneur, Best Youth Entrepreneur

By applying, you can:

- **Be recognized** at the Awards ceremony in Geneva with visibility **across 194 countries**; attend a two-day workshop, and other exclusive events.
- Receive a **six-month tailored 1:1 mentorship** on IP commercialization and business development.
- Connect with **investors, corporates, and innovation hubs.**
- Join a **prestigious community of business pioneers.**

No fees.



"This award highlights how innovation, persistence, and support from the right community can turn bold ideas into solutions that empower millions and create real impact."

Aishwarya Karnataki, CEO, Glovatrix (India),
Winner 2025 and Best Youth Entrepreneur 2025





How to apply

Who can apply?

- Registered **startups** and **SMEs** from all **194 WIPO Member States**
- With a maximum of 300 employees and \$15M annual revenue
- Offering an innovative or creative **product or service** protected (or in the process of being protected) through **IP rights** (patent, trademark, copyright, industrial design, trade secrets, etc.)
- With proven **commercial** traction (secured partner, business sale, or investor)

Evaluation Criteria

1. BUSINESS CASE & IP PORTFOLIO

How your product/service fits in the market and how well your IP protects it.

2. IP COMMERCIALIZATION STRATEGY

How you use your IP rights to commercialize your work at the regional/international level.

3. IP CULTURE

How much your team and company value and use IP in everyday work.

4. IMPACT FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

How your work contributes to economic, social, cultural and/or environmental development.

Roadmap to the Awards & Beyond

1. Application
Period

January 15 - March 31

2. Announcement
of Finalists

May

3. International
Jury
Deliberations

June

4. Announcement
of Winners &
Awards
Ceremony

July

5. Acceleration
& Strategic
Business
Support

6+ months

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Success stories

Healinno Tech — Health (China) – Winner 2024

Surgical robot for minimally invasive treatment

Mentorship Impact: Accelerated IP filings in the US, Europe, and Asia and saved 50% on IP budget; Secured USD 5M investment.

Flexxon — ICT (Singapore) – Winner 2023

AI-powered cybersecurity solutions

Mentorship Impact: Obtained a single patent that protects their innovation across many EU countries at once; Expanded collaborations in Europe and the US.

Lactips — Environment (France) – Winner 2023

Bio-based, biodegradable plastic alternative

Mentorship Impact: Strengthened IP and sustainability pitch; Raised €16M and accelerated global expansion.

Ready to apply?

Whether you protect your brand with **trademarks**, **copyright** your creative works, or hold **patents** on inventions, this is your chance to be recognized on a global stage.

wipo.int/en/web/awards/global

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Contact: global.awards@wipo.int