

The Minister's Tasmanian STEM Innovation of the Year Award 2026

Guidelines and application form



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The awards

The Minister's Tasmanian STEM Innovation of the Year Award 2026 (the Award) recognises the achievements of the state's STEM entrepreneurs and highlights the importance of innovation in growing Tasmania's community and economy.

Supported by the Tasmanian Government, Inspiring Australia, and the University of Tasmania, the Award will recognise a business or individual for their innovative STEM product, process or service that has been developed and applied during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026.

The Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards provide the finalists with an excellent opportunity to build networks and relationships, and to raise their profile. The Award, consisting of a \$5,000 cheque and trophy, will be presented at the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards reception on 10 November 2026.

Benefits to the winner and nominees

The benefits from participating in the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards are numerous.

The Awards provide:

- recognition and exposure for participating companies and individuals
- opportunities for networking and forming business and research alliances amongst participants, including other industry representatives, academics and teachers
- a platform for participants to benchmark their products and services
- a 'showcase of success stories' for Tasmanian firms and individuals that are developing innovative STEM research outcomes
- media exposure for products, participating firms and individuals.

How to apply

To enter the Minister's Tasmanian STEM Innovation of the Year Award complete this application form and submit it to the Manager of Inspiring Australia Tasmania by:

6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Eligibility

Applications are invited from businesses and individuals with an active Australian Business Number (ABN), who are primarily operating in Tasmania. Groups of individuals or consortia of businesses are also eligible to apply. Research agencies and statutory authorities funded by the Tasmanian Government are eligible whereas state government departments are not. Previous winners of this category are not eligible to apply, but previous applicants are invited to re-apply.

Judging

The judging panel members will be selected on the basis of their knowledge and expertise in the STEM research development fields.

Selection criteria

The Award will be presented for the most innovative and commercially-promising STEM product, process or service that has been developed and applied during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026.

In making its selection, the judges will consider the attributes of the proponent, the type and merit of innovation proposed, and the innovation's potential to make a social and economic impact, either through technology diffusion or commercially.

Other conditions

As a successful recipient of the Award, you may be invited to serve on the judging panel for that award category in the year following your attainment of the award. You may also be invited by the Tasmanian Government, Inspiring Australia, and the University of Tasmania to take part in a limited number of STEM engagement events, such as Science Meets Parliament, Innovation Forums, and student outreach programs if available.

Submitting an application

To enter the Minister's Tasmanian STEM Innovation of the Year Award 2026, complete this application form and submit it to Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au by:

6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Please note attachments are limited at two files (two pages only per attachment). For larger files please provide a link accessible via a website or contact the Inspiring Australia Tasmania team via details below to discuss.

Enquiries:

Manager, Inspiring Australia Tasmania

Phone: 0456 826 322

Email: Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au

Declaration

In submitting the enclosed application for entry into the Minister's Tasmanian STEM Innovation of the Year Award 2026, you warrant that,

1. You have the full power and lawful authority to submit an application form on behalf of the applicant.
2. The information contained in this application is accurate and factual.
3. You agree to abide by the Minister's Tasmanian STEM Innovation of the Year Award 2026 guidelines and terms and conditions of entry.

Application form

All applicants are directed to read the accompanying guidelines and terms and conditions before completing this application.

Applications close 6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Section A – Applicant details

1. Please complete those fields that are applicable to you or your organisation

☐ Tick box to confirm your company primarily operates in Tasmania

Applicant name* (Company or Individual)			
Trading name**			
Company ABN			
Postal address			
Suburb		Postcode	

** This is the organisation or individual's official, registered name that official correspondence will be sent to and payment will be made to if successful.*

*** This will be the wording you wish to be used in publicity and on the Award certificate and trophy.*

If you are a subsidiary or affiliate of another organisation please state the relationship:

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2. Contact details

Contact name			
Position			
Mobile Phone		Email	

3. Photo

Please attach a photo of your team/organisation - for use at the presentation ceremony if you are a finalist for the award.

4. Referral source

Where did you hear about the STEM Excellence Awards?

5. Short Bio

Please write a short biography for your organisation - for use at the presentation ceremony if you are a finalist for the award.

Maximum 150 words.

Section B – Assessment criteria

All applicants to complete.

6. Provide a brief description of your STEM product, process or service that is, what it does and why there is a market demand for it.

Maximum 200 words. Additional content will not be considered.

7. Who are the target markets and what is the estimated economic potential of this STEM product/process/service?

Maximum 200 words. Additional content will not be considered.

8. What is the advantage or uniqueness of your STEM product/process/service, in terms of
- How it benefits the target industry/research field?
 - How it has resulted in increased efficiencies?
 - How it is innovative or original?

Maximum 200 words. Additional content will not be considered.

9. What opportunities (exports, licensing, joint ventures, product development and other) have you identified for your STEM innovation in national and/or international markets?

Maximum 200 words. Additional content will not be considered.

10. Briefly describe your intellectual property (IP) and the approach you have/will have taken to protecting and exploiting that IP.

Maximum 150 words. Additional content will not be considered.

11. How will this STEM innovation impact on the general community?

Maximum 150 words. Additional content will not be considered.

Note: Save the completed PDF and email it, along with your Photo, to Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au

If you wish to include some extra supporting material (such as pamphlets or advertising material) please limit it to two appendices (two pages only per attachment). Photos of your innovation are strongly recommended.

12. Optional weblink for video files:

Terms and conditions of entry

1. All applications must be received in full by the Manager of Inspiring Australia by the closing date in these guidelines. Late applications will not be accepted.
2. Applicants will be competitively assessed on the basis of their application. The coordinators of the Awards or members of the judging panel may contact the applicants to seek further information and/or clarification.
3. Applicants must agree to abide by the decision of the judging panel.
4. All material submitted will be used solely for the purpose of applying for this Award and will not be circulated. No material relating to an Applicant's entry will be publicised without their prior approval.
5. Photographs and the Short Bio submitted in Section A of this application will be used solely for purposes related to the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards presentation ceremony.
6. The coordinating committee reserves the right to revoke an Award, re-award an Award or withdraw any application from consideration for the Award if the applicant is in breach of any of these terms and conditions.
7. Finalists should use their best endeavours to attend or be represented at the Award ceremony. Attendance by applicants at the presentation ceremony is encouraged.
8. Applicants enter the Awards at their own risk and the organiser will not be liable for any loss, damage or expense incurred by the applicant as a result of entering an application in the Awards.
9. Applicants agree to do all things reasonable to participate and/or cooperate with any promotional or media activities conducted by the organisers and sponsors in relation to the Minister's Tasmanian STEM Innovation of the Year Award 2026.
10. No contractual or other legal relationship shall arise between the members of the judging panels, the organisers, sponsors and any organisation applying for the Awards.



2026 Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards

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