Research & Development

CATEGORY INFORMATION

Category Description

Recognises technology-led research and development that advances knowledge, capability or technical understanding and demonstrates potential for real-world application.

This category focuses on research-driven digital and technology solutions, including early-stage development, prototypes or applied research, where there is a clear pathway toward practical use, translation or broader impact.

What Fits This Category (Examples)

Example technology and digital innovation solutions include (but are not limited to):

- Applied research projects or research-led technology development;
- Novel algorithms, models, methods or architectures;
- Prototypes, proofs-of-concept or experimental systems;
- Research addressing significant technical or societal challenges;
- Research with potential for commercialisation, translation or deployment;
- University-led, collaborative or industry-partnered R&D initiatives.

Eligibility & Context

Entries may be led by universities, research institutions, industry, start-ups or collaborative partnerships, where the work demonstrates a clear research contribution and a credible pathway toward real-world application.

Solutions may be at early or advanced stages of development, provided there is evidence of technical rigour and relevance beyond purely theoretical research.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. The Problem & Opportunity

How clearly is the research problem, challenge or opportunity defined, and why does it matter?

This criterion will be judged on:

- the significance of the problem or knowledge gap being addressed,
- relevance to real-world, industry, societal or technological challenges,
- and the potential value created by advancing understanding or capability.

2. The Solution & Technology

How effectively does the research apply technology or technical methods to address the problem?

This criterion will be judged on:

- the technical approach, methodology or system design,
- appropriateness, rigour and quality of the research and development work,
- and how well the technology supports the intended outcomes.

3. Applicability & Impact

How applicable is the research to real-world contexts, and what evidence is there of impact or potential impact?

This criterion will be judged on:

- clarity of the pathway to application, translation or deployment,
- evidence such as prototypes, validation, trials, partnerships or use-cases,
- and the potential impact on industry, government, society or future innovation.

4. Innovation & Uniqueness

To what extent does the research represent a novel or distinctive contribution?

This criterion will be judged on:

- originality of the research or technical approach,
- advancement beyond existing knowledge or methods,
- and the extent to which the work opens new opportunities or directions.