

# 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**



**WIPO**



## 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](https://wipo.int/en/web/awards/global)

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Contact: [global.awards@wipo.int](mailto:global.awards@wipo.int)