

Real IT Awards

Entry Guidelines

Entry Deadline: 31 January 2020

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General entry rules & information

Submission cost?

- Submission and entry for the Real IT Awards is **free**.

Who can enter?

- ALL categories are free and open to organisations of all industry.
- **Note to Suppliers:** Your submissions **must** be based on a partnership project carried out with a customer (i.e., a public or private organisation).

Submission details

- All entered projects must be completed or have gone live between 1 November 2018 and 31 December 2019.
- The entry deadline is 31 January 2020.
- A single project may be entered for up to two award categories. Projects entered for more than one category must have separate Entry Forms.
- All entries will be considered in confidence. The Entry Form asks you to provide a separate 100 word short description that can be used publicly in Awards materials and promotions.
- If you're submitting the same project(s) into both 'Organisational' and 'Project/Innovation' categories, please complete all 'blue' and 'yellow' fields on the entry form.
- If submitting a project into two 'Organisational' Awards categories, please complete all 'blue' fields only.
- If submitting a project into two 'Project/Innovation' Awards categories, please complete all 'yellow' fields only.
- All entries must include full contact details for a nominated representative of the organisation, who may be asked to support their entries by supplying any additional information requested by the judges.
- Relevant evidence and its source should be provided and this can include printed documentation, videos and testimonials. If this information is not yet available, please demonstrate the governance processes put into place to collect it.
- The decision of the judges is final in all matters.

Submit your entry

- **Via email to:** events@citf.tech
- **Please call 0207 052 1894 if you have any questions regarding any part of the submission process**

Key dates

- Entries open: **01 October 2019**
- Entry close: **31 January 2020**
- Shortlist announced: **05 March 2020**
- Awards ceremony: **07 May 2020**

The Awards black-tie dinner and ceremony will take place at the **Hilton Bankside** in London.

What people say about The Real IT Awards

“It’s not often IT gets recognised for the value that it delivers to an organisation, but the Real IT Awards bring all-too-often hidden achievements from hard-working IT teams to the fore. Not only do they provide a brilliant forum for showcasing the excellent work that IT teams do through the year, but the benefit of attending the awards, being shortlisted or – for the lucky few – actually winning cannot be underestimated. I have personally seen significant recognition both inside and outside of my organisation thanks to the Real IT Awards. The doors opened through meeting peers from other businesses has been immeasurably beneficial. On top of all of this, my team have seen their work recognised on a national level, which provides them with an incredible sense of personal achievement.”

Tony Porritt | UK Applications Manager| SABIC UK Petrochemicals Limited

British Gas is proud to have taken part and won the Operational Efficiency Award at the prestigious and coveted 2016 Real IT Awards. This underpins our vision to be world class in our IT and transformational services and to be recognised by the esteemed Corporate IT Forum is an official recognition of our hard work, IT Strategy and delivery. It was a fantastic night for networking, recognition and meeting the industry peers who share a similar vision, working towards improving the IT landscape across the UK and overseas. Highly recommended and a must attend evening in the calendar for all IT professionals out there who wants to make a difference!

Avi Sengupta | SAP Development Manager, IS Core Systems | Centrica plc

Judging process

Our Guiding Principles

We select and invite individuals who have distinguished themselves in their field and demonstrated leadership ability and vision to be part of the judging panel. We hold our judges to the highest standards of fairness, accuracy and integrity. The entire judging process adheres firmly to these guiding principles.

Ensuring Impartiality

We make all efforts to avoid conflicts of interest in the judging process (such as inadvertently assigning a judge to evaluate an entry with which he/she is associated). At least three judges are assigned to each entry at random from within the pool of judges whose expertise is relevant. All judges are screened before being assigned an entry. All of the judges are expected to and will excuse themselves from judging an entry that may present a conflict of interest.

Equal Treatment of All Entries

Judges evaluate every entry with a discerning eye towards project scope and strategic goals. A professional execution under a limited budget is more worthy than a mediocre execution for a well-funded initiative. It is execution that matters not total project scope.

The Judging System

To evaluate entries judges utilise a points-based scoring system which allows each entry to receive a maximum of 110 points. Points have been split between five different components with two specific attributes that the submission will be scored against. Each judge will score each submission within their designated category, scores will then be combined to identify the shortlist/winner. For further information please refer to the judging criteria below.

By adhering to the specific guidelines and criteria of this system judges are able to maintain the highest degree of fairness, accuracy and integrity; competently and effectively evaluate entries; and, deliver clear results. It is possible that more than one entry may qualify to win the same category.

Each category winner is scored again by the panel judges against the judging criteria to select the overall winner.

Decisions made by judges are final. The judges' decisions cannot be appealed.

Shortlists

After the entry deadline on 31 January 2020, each submission is checked to ensure compliance with our entry requirements. Then, for each of the 23 award categories, entries are shortlisted by our judges, scoring each entry against the judging criteria.

Judging criteria

Our judges evaluate entries across all categories based on following components and attributes:

Organisational Categories (1 – 6):

Component	Component Points	Attributes	Attribute Point Split
Strategy	30	Clearly defined & communicated strategy and vision, a clear link with the overall business strategy	15
		Alignment of high-level goals with people and processes	15
Value to the Business	30	Clear benefit realized by the customer of a project in either monetary or non-monetary terms	15
		Impact on KPIs of the business/service (e.g. turnover, productivity, profit)	15
Collaboration	20	Fostering a team environment to effectively focus on delivering value to the business	10
		Overall approach to creating positive, inclusive culture	10
Performance	20	Achieving Performance measures and targets / internal and external feedback	10
		Management of costs, resources, governance / risk	10
Presentation	10	Supporting evidence	5
		Clarity	5

For Project & Innovation Categories (7 – 23):

Component	Component Points	Attributes	Attribute Point Split
Concept	30	Approach and a clear solution to a challenge/need/opportunity	10
		Level of innovation	20
Value to the Business	30	Clear benefit realized by the customer of a project in either monetary or non- monetary terms	15
		Impact on KPIs of the business/service (e.g. turnover, conversion, profit)	15
Capabilities & Features	20	Potential for sustainability and scale	15
		Enabling new, enhanced or additional capabilities	5
Quality of Implementation	20	Communication, testing and evaluation, training	10
		Effective management of costs, resources, governance / risk	10
Presentation	10	Supporting evidence	5
		Clarity	5

Next Steps:

Complete the entry form at: <https://www.real-it-awards.com/entries/> and email it, with supporting information to: events@citf.tech by **31 January 2020**.

Award categories

ORGANISATIONAL AWARDS

1. Enterprise Team of the Year

This award will recognise a multi-functional team that has worked collaboratively to bring tangible benefits to their business. This category invites submissions from teams that drive best practice and gain results via a positive, inclusive culture. Please share how you use any governance frameworks.

2. Product Team of the Year

This award will go to a technology product team that can demonstrate success in product delivery through effective team working. Please share how the team was established, the approaches taken to ensure a one-team approach to product delivery and how this has impacted their ability to deliver a high-quality product.

3. Partnership of the Year

Awarded to an organisation that demonstrates how to successfully establish & maintain an effective partnership between an in-house technology team and either single or multiple suppliers. Please demonstrate how the partnership has met business expectations and sustained success over time. You should also clearly represent collaboration, governance and business achievements.

4. Diversity and Inclusion in Action - NEW

Demonstrate how your team is building a work environment where everyone is treated respectfully and fairly and embedding diversity and inclusion in its culture. Show how the team can all add to the organisation's commitment to diversity and inclusion with creating and securing access to resources and opportunities.

5. Project Team of the Year

This award recognises a team that has been successfully established to deliver a specific project. The team is likely to include personnel from across the business and potentially 3rd parties and can demonstrate how they have created a high performing organisation to deliver the project.

6. Legacy System Migration

This award goes to an organisation that has successfully migrated a legacy system. Tell us how you helped transform your business by replacing a system that no longer effectively supported your business processes and creating something new that creates the right user experience. Tell us how you overcame workflow issues, achieved user acceptance for the changes, made technology provider choices and ultimately delivered on expectations.

PROJECT AWARDS

7. Project of the Year (total budget > £250K)

The judges will be looking for technology projects that demonstrate delivering value to the customer, effective management and delivery approaches. Measurements of success, including metrics, are critical components of any submission. For this category the total spend for the project is over £250K.

8. Project of the Year (total budget < £250K)

This award recognises technology projects that demonstrate delivering value to the customer, effective management and delivery approaches. Measurements of success, including metrics, are critical components of any submission. For this category the total spend for the project is up to £250K

9. Best Technology 'For Good' Project - NEW

This award is aimed at organisations who are using technology to positively improve the lives of others. Perhaps you have enhanced access to information, created an environment for people to communicate, developed a product that has enabled access to care or has enhanced the world we live in. Whatever it is – we want to hear about it!

10. Operational Efficiency

This category honours an organisation that has successfully addressed a compelling operational need or challenge and through that achieved higher productivity or improved speed of delivery. Show how you found the optimum balance between cost and service quality and have utilised technology and business processes in the best possible way.

11. Delivering Excellent Customer Experience

This award recognises technology divisions who put their customers at the heart of everything they do, anticipating customer needs, tailoring business processes to best serve customers and exceeding their expectations.

12. Continuous Service Improvement

Your submission should demonstrate clearly how the team has worked together to constantly improve customer service and how they have created an environment of ongoing commitment to the continuous improvement of service in support of organisational objectives.

13. Turning Data into Insights

This award recognises a team that has been successful in helping an organisation make better decisions due to improved business insights. Please share how you did this through data including previously unharnessed data, tools and business knowledge. The outcome may be cost savings, improved margins and competitive advantage.

14. Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Project of the Year

This award recognises the successful deployment of Artificial Intelligence and/or Machine Learning to address business challenges. Please show us how you used this technology to creatively engage with your customers or employees, to automate business processes or gain insight through data analysis.

15. Excellence in Application Modernisation

This award recognises an organisation that has transformed its application landscape in order to better position their business to adapt at speed to changing requirements. Please describe the starting point of this transformation, the need for change, the approach taken and your successes to date, while also describing the potential future plans.

INNOVATION AWARDS

16. Best Use of New Technologies

This award recognises delivery of clear pioneering and transformative technology that has been used to drive better efficiency and productivity as well as overall business performance. Please show how your products/projects clearly demonstrate specific business impact.

17. Innovative Use of Cloud Technologies

This award recognises technology teams that have successfully used cloud technologies to drive transformation within their business. Whilst many organisations are deploying cloud solutions as their default approach, there are organisations that have recognised that innovative use of cloud technology delivers capabilities to the business that historically would have been impossible either due to cost, complexity or other inhibiting factors. Judges will be looking for 'out of the box' thinking and the benefits delivered to the business.

18. Modern Technology Infrastructure

Awarded to a team that helps run the enterprise with efficiency and at optimal cost by utilising modern products, technology and services to handle infrastructure needs.

Show us how your infrastructure can manage workflows, improve customer service, provide greater computing and storage capabilities and increase your speed to market in a dependable and secure way.

19. Product Innovation

This award recognises outstanding product innovation. Please demonstrate how you have implemented a new or significantly improved/redesigned a product. You may have created new functionality or components to make your product stand out from the rest.

20. Inspirational Team of the Year – NEW

Tell us how your technology team has inspired others – perhaps by their exemplary commitment to getting a project delivered, by encouraging the advancement of others or by achieving the unexpected. Wow us with your inspiring values and behaviours!

21. Best Use of Technology to Drive Sustainability - NEW

Awarded to an organisation whose products, services or processes reduce damaging environmental effects via the sustainable use of resources, activities that protect the environment or they may create major energy efficiency improvements. Judges will look for leadership, innovation, as well as commitment to take responsibility for the impact the company has on the environment and social wellbeing.

22. Transformation of the Year- NEW

This award recognises organisations that have pushed the boundaries towards transforming their business. Tell us about the power and impact of the work you have done, creating excellence in your workplace and demonstrate how this has led to significant change and transformation. This could be in the areas of customers, employees or processes for example.

23. Best Disruptive Team of the Year- NEW

To reward teams who had the courage to think beyond the norms using their skills and expertise, bringing new perspectives and insights as well as embracing any failures as learning points for catalysts of change.

24. CITF Membership Award

This award will be given in recognition of outstanding contribution to CITF. There will be no submissions by entrants for the category.