

**The Corporate  
IT Forum.**



## **Entry Guidelines**

**Entry Deadline: 02 February 2018**

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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 open to organisations with turnover in excess of £150m or equivalent for public sector organisations.
- All Corporate IT Forum member organisations are eligible for entry regardless of the organisation's turnover.
- **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 2016 and 31 December 2017.
- The entry deadline is 02 February 2018.
- 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:** [awards@corporateITforum.com](mailto:awards@corporateITforum.com)
- **Please call 07872 011387 if you have any questions regarding any part of the submission process**

## Key dates

- Entries open: **19 October 2017**
- Entry close: **02 February 2018**
- Shortlist announced: **15 March 2018**
- Awards ceremony: **17 May 2018**

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 02 February 2018, each submission is checked to ensure compliance with our entry requirements. Then, for each of the 20 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 & Goals	20	Clearly defined & communicated team strategy & goals for success	10
		Delivery of effective strategy & measurement against goals	10
Value to the Business	30	Impact on business capabilities	15
		Impact on the ROI	15
The Team	30	Effective collaboration both within the team & with the wider business	15
		Overall approach to establishing & maintaining a high performing team	15
Performance	20	Operational impact	10
		Management of costs, resources, governance / risk	10
Presentation	10	Supporting evidence	5
		Quality of submission	5

## For Project & Innovation Categories (7 – 20):

Component	Component Points	Attributes	Attribute Point Split
Concept	20	To the organisation: new / disruptive approach	10
		To the industry / marketplace in terms of capabilities enabled or delivered	10
Value to the Business	40	Impact on business capabilities	20
		Impact on the ROI	20
Capabilities & Features	20	Identifying & meeting business needs	15
		Enabling new, enhanced or additional capabilities	5
Quality of Implementation	20	Operational impact	10
		Management of costs, resources, governance / risk	10
Presentation	10	Supporting evidence	5
		Quality of submission	5

### Next Steps:

Complete the entry form at: <http://www.real-it-awards.co.uk/categories.php> and email it, with supporting information to: [awards@corporateITforum.com](mailto:awards@corporateITforum.com) by **2 February 2018**.

## Award categories

**Only organisations with turnover in excess of £150m or equivalent may enter**

### ORGANISATIONAL AWARDS

#### 1. Technology Partnership of the Year

Awarded to Technology teams that demonstrate how to build & maintain effective partnerships with either single or multiple suppliers. Submissions should demonstrate how the partnership has delivered and sustained success over time and has specifically met and exceeded business expectations. Entrants need to describe how the partnership has been successfully managed, for example, establishing clearly-defined governance or showing how they identified where value is not being realised and the appropriate actions taken. Collaborative management/governance and leadership should be clearly represented.

#### 2. Technology Team of the Year

The award will recognise a multi-functional team that has been established for the delivery of a product/project that can demonstrate how they have worked collaboratively to bring tangible benefits to their business through its successful planning, clear communication, strong commitment and leadership in their day-to-day operation. This category acknowledges teams that drive best practice through governance frameworks, stakeholder engagement process, change management and cultural changes.

#### 3. Technology Product/Project Team of the Year

This award recognises a Technology project team that worked collaboratively to design, develop, implement and measure the benefits of a business project and achieved its goal through its successful planning, clear communication, strong commitment and leadership throughout the life of the project. Entrants need to demonstrate how they driven best practices through governance frameworks, stakeholder engagement process, performance management and cultural changes.

#### 4. Best Place to Work in Digital

This award recognises an organisation that has made significant progress in attracting and retaining the best talent to support the Digital Enterprise through diversity, gender balance, apprentice/graduate schemes and other initiatives that make it a great place to work.

#### 5. Technology Development Programme of the Year

This award recognises an Organisation that has put in place an effective development programme to promote a culture of continuous learning within their organisation. This could be an Apprenticeship or Graduate Scheme, promotion of soft-skill development for their employees or a variety of different approaches which have increased the overall skills and capabilities of the team.

#### 6. Services Company of the Year

Awarded to recognise excellence in the provision of Technology Services. This category recognises a supplier of hardware, software and/or Technology services that has achieved significant business success in the past 12 months and can demonstrate high levels of customer satisfaction and business benefits from the users of its products and services.



## PROJECT AWARDS

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

This category recognises outstanding projects/products that have transformed how their organisations do business using Digital technologies, delivering increased revenue, brand recognition or other business benefits. Judges will be looking for innovative approaches or ideas and smart ways of integrating into legacy/heritage backend systems. For this category the total spend for the project/product is over £250K

### **8. Project of the Year (total budget up to £250K)**

This category recognises outstanding projects/products that have transformed how their organisations do business using Digital technologies, delivering increased revenue, brand recognition or other business benefits. Judges will be looking for innovative approaches or ideas and smart ways of integrating into legacy/heritage backend systems. For this category the total spend for the project/product is up to £250K

### **9. Mobile App of the Year**

Awarded to mobile apps that run on mobile phones, tablets or other devices with built-in 3G or 4G capability. These apps should show an innovative use of the technology on the device, and possibly of on-line services.

### **10. Agile Project of the Year**

This category recognises outstanding products/projects that have been delivered using Agile Methodologies and have in turn delivered rapid business capabilities that have allowed their businesses to change their ways of working or route to market. Judges will be looking for approaches that have led to early releases of capability and business benefit

### **11. Operational Efficiency**

This category honours the delivery of simplification, higher productivity or improved process speed. Entrants need to show that they found the optimum balance between cost and quality and have utilised technology and business processes in the best possible way.

### **12. Cloud Project**

This award recognises Technology teams that have effectively selected, implemented and managed a cloud solution that focused on business objectives. Solutions could include IaaS, PaaS or SaaS, Private Cloud, Public Cloud or Virtual Private Cloud. Entrants need to illustrate systematic transformation of the appropriate application and/or infrastructure components measured by clear quantifiable benefits.

### **13. Service Improvement**

This category recognises Technology teams that have driven improvement in business operation and/or customer experience using their knowledge, insight and understanding of how Technology services contribute to the Business. Entrants need to demonstrate they have improved quality of service to external/internal customers by offering greater capability or choice.

### **14. Turning Data into Insights**

Honouring Technology products/projects that illustrate the most effective use of previously unharnessed or new or complex sources or data within Big Data, Social media analytics, advanced predictive analytics and prescriptive analysis, and in-memory analytics. This category seeks to identify a project that demonstrates innovative use of data, tools and business knowledge to produce information that is of value to the business as a whole,

enabling business leaders to evaluate the economical implications of actions, increase understanding of customer trends and identify high value actions.

## **INNOVATION AWARDS**

### **15. Innovation in Technology**

This award recognises delivery of clear pioneering and transformative technology, such as IoT or Data Science etc., showcasing what IT has done to advance the potential of applications and/or technology so that they can be used to drive better efficiency and productivity as well as the outcomes and performance of an organisation. Technology teams need to demonstrate they have recognised innovations that are driven either externally or internally by R&D. Products/Projects should clearly demonstrate specific business impact.

### **16. Collaborative Enterprise**

This award recognises projects that have demonstrated an effective delivery of collaborative technologies (inter department or inter business location or group), for example, to support intelligence gathering, knowledge sharing, learning or training. Technology teams need to demonstrate how technology helps underpin knowledge workers' effectiveness and expertise by creating a more flexible and manageable environment. The approach should foster not only innovation and agility but also efficiency and scalability and 'cross-fertilisation' of ideas.

### **17. Infrastructure as an Enabler**

Awarded to Technology teams that demonstrate high effectiveness in handling future infrastructure needs in Technology and/or the business, at optimal cost and with minimal impact on BAU to support the Business in its requirements or desire for innovative change. The project should enable the Business to function successfully (from a technology perspective) for a reasonable period to come whilst delivering clear Business benefit. Projects could be anything from Data Centre/Server rationalisation or IaaS deployment to end user device deployment.

### **18. Game Changer of the Year**

This award recognises Technology Teams that have initiated/supported the delivery of innovative working practices to the Business that changes the way it operates. Technology teams need to demonstrate that they have actively responded to business needs by offering solutions or services that have helped to drive change in the Business supported by proven technology.

### **19. Innovation in Cyber Security & Compliance**

This award recognises innovative approaches in the area of Cyber Security or Compliance. This could include development of a Security Awareness Programme, a robust approach to preparation for GDPR, innovative ways your security function offered value to your business in order to be seen as an enabler rather than a blocker or developing creative ways to improve controls across the business.

### **20. Best Use of Emerging/New Technology**

This award will recognise an organisation where Emerging/New Technologies have been successfully deployed to meet a business need. This could include Machine Learning, IoT or other growing/upcoming technologies. It may well have been developed in conjunction with a trusted vendor.

### **21. Special Achievement**

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