



2026 ASC INNOVATION AWARDS

Innovation Awards Program

This document is the nomination package explaining the award, its venue, rules and process.

2026 Innovation Award Sponsored by:



Key Dates

Call for Entries to ASC: September 2025

Closing Date for Award Submittals to ASC: **January 31, 2026**

Judging Completed by: February 28, 2026

ASC to Inform Winners by: March 10, 2026

Awards Ceremony: April 20-22, 2026 (at the ASC Annual Conference)

The ASC Innovation Awards Program

The ASC Innovation Awards Program is designed to recognize innovative adhesive and sealant product developments. The award identifies significant impact chemistries that contribute to downstream industries' unmet needs and advancements in technology. The award is intended to foster and encourage innovation across the Adhesive & Sealant Industry and academia. Raw material suppliers, manufacturers of adhesives and or sealants, and academics can submit for the award. The award can also be submitted collectively between raw material supplier and manufacturer, raw material supplier and academia, or manufacturer and academia. One combined entry shall be submitted for that scenario.

Recipients of the award will demonstrate the value proposition of the novel chemistry and added value in a field application or improvement in design and chemical process. This is an annual award. There will be one category per year that will be presented at the ASC Annual Convention.

ASC, along with the Board of Directors and Membership Committee, has developed this award under the long-range plan objective, "Innovation". ASC will help accelerate innovation by recognizing leading efforts by the industry and academia through this prestigious awards program.

This nomination package contains explicit instructions on how to enter the competition. **Entries must be received no later than January 31, 2026.**

Award Category:

- For the 2026 competition, there is one award category. 2026 Innovation Award - (Voted Best Innovation)
- ASC will also recognize the first and second runners-up.
- The winner and runners-up will be requested to be present at the convention in order to be recognized; and to present at a speaking track dedicated to featuring the three innovations

To be eligible for an award, a nominated technology must meet the scope of the ASC Innovation Awards Program by meeting each of these five criteria:

1. It must be a **development** with a significant chemistry component
2. It must have a **significant milestone** in its development within the past five years
3. The innovation must be **described in detail** in the submittal package

4. The innovation will have a clearly communicated end-user **value proposition** and supporting evidence of **market insight and potential impact**
5. Show how the innovation was **validated**

Note: Submittal summaries and titles of the development may be used in the ASC preliminary and on-site programs used to promote the event. ASC will not share the entire submittal packages outside of judges and ASC staff.

Award Selection Criteria:

Nominated chemistry technologies that meet the scope of the program will be judged on how well they meet the following five selection criteria (A- E). Submittals should have a concise deliverable with supporting evidence.

A. Science and Innovation

(Judging Weight 30%)

The nominated chemistry technology should be innovative and of scientific merit.

The technology should be, for example:

- Original (i.e. never employed before) and
- Scientifically valid; that is, can the nominated technology or strategy stand up to scientific scrutiny through peer review? Does the nomination contain enough chemical detail to reinforce or prove its scientific validity? Has the mechanism of action been clarified via scientific research?

B. Applicability and Impact

(Judging Weight 10%)

The nominated chemistry technology should have a significant impact. The technology may be broadly applicable to many chemical processes or industries; alternatively, it may have a large impact on a narrow area of chemistry. Commercial implementation can help demonstrate the applicability and impact of a technology. Nominations for pre-commercial technologies should discuss the economic feasibility of the technology.

The nominated technology and submittal language should offer three advantages:

- A practical, cost-effective approach to its application/intended use

- One or more technical innovations that are readily transferrable to other processes, facilities or industry sectors
- A remedy to a real environmental or industry unmet need

C. Impact of the Technology Relative to the State of the Art

(Judging Weight = 30%)

- Degree to which the innovation demonstrates an awareness of the relevant market and the competing commercial and emerging technologies and identifies how the proposed concept/technology is likely or is advancing in the marketplace
- Degree to which the submittal supports claims of commercial viability with respect to the technology and chemistry
- Adequacy of information regarding the performance of the technology, cost considerations, market potential and an assessment of the competitive market

D. Qualifications, Experience and Capabilities

(Judging Weight: 20%)

- Extent to which the capabilities, experience, and qualifications of the organization and its partners are consistent with and support the innovation
- Extent to which the necessary business and technical management for supporting a high likelihood of success of the project have been identified
- Adequacy of support as evidenced by letters of commitment from anticipated organization members, partners, suppliers, and customers
- Extent to which the proposed business plan is sound with clearly defined roles and processes as well as clearly identified risk mitigation strategies
- Quality and experience of the performance and development team

E. Significant Milestone

(Judging Weight 10%)

A technology must have reached a significant milestone within the past five years. Some examples are:

- i. Critical discovery made
- ii. Results published
- iii. Patent application submitted or approved
- iv. Pilot plant constructed

How to Enter:

1. Basic Information:

- **Award nominations are due to the ASC by January 31, 2026.**
The award will be presented at the **2026 ASC Annual Convention & Expo April 20-22, 2026** in Nashville, TN.
- Self-nominations are the most common; nominations of others are also welcomed.
- There is no entry fee.
- There is no standard entry form, but the online submission form must be completed, and nominations must meet certain requirements or ASC may reject them.
- You may nominate more than one technology, but you must submit a separate, stand-alone nomination for each one. Multiple applications of the same general technology are most likely to win an award if you combine them in a single nomination.

2. Overall Format:

Nominations must have:

- No more than eight pages, including the cover page
- Supporting documentation: That will support 300-word description of the innovation (supporting documentation can be PPT, Excel, PDF and or Word format).

3. Nominations may include:

- Chemical reactions, tables, graphs, charts, photographs, diagrams and other illustrations within their eight pages.
- Text or illustrations in color, but the judges may read the nominations printed in black and white; therefore, nominations should not require color for interpretation.
- Links to published articles, patents, etc. Nominations should not rely on information in the links to present their technology because judges may not follow any links.

4. Structure of Nominations:

The first page must be a cover page with the:

- **Technology title and date of the nomination**
- **Primary Sponsor(s):** the individual or organizational owner(s) of the technology. For academic nominations, the primary sponsor is usually the principal investigator. For nominations with more than one sponsor, each co-sponsor should have had a significant role in the research, development, or implementation of the technology. A maximum of five individuals is allowed on the submittal.
- **Contact person** with full mailing address, email address, and telephone number: the one individual with whom ASC will communicate regarding the nomination. For academic nominations, the contact person is usually the principal investigator. For other nominations, the contact should be a project manager or other technical representative. We add the person listed as the contact to the list of subscribers for our electronic newsletter. Periodically, we email reminders and updates about the program to those on our list. You may opt out at any time.
- **Contributions** (optional): those individuals or organizations that provided financial or technical support to develop or implement the technology

The second page should contain the following information:

- **Technology title**
- The name of your development and a description of your technology and the year it occurred. Only one milestone and year are required; the milestone must be within the last five years.
- An **abstract** (not to exceed 300 words) that describes the nominated technology, the problem it addresses, and its benefits. Include the degree of implementation (or commercialization) of the technology and any quantitative benefits such as value to downstream users, novel chemistry development and or obstacle that has been overcome and what makes this innovation unique and significant.

The information in this section should fit on page 2, but you may continue page 3 if necessary.

5. The remaining pages: should show how your technology meets both the:

- Scope of the program and
- A-E selection criteria

The judges will look for detailed explanations of:

- The problem that your technology addresses, its importance, and how your technology solves it and characterization on the impact to industry.
- The chemistry of your new technology, emphasizing its novelty and scientific merit. To be eligible for the award, your technology must include a significant chemistry component. Include as much nonproprietary detail as possible, such as the specifics of your chemistry detailed reaction pathways. Consider using chemical structure diagrams to describe your chemistry. You may include patent numbers or references to peer-reviewed publications, but add only the most important, recent ones because references take space away from other details of your technology.
- How your technology compares with any other technologies that address the same problem. Comparing the cost, performance, and environmental profile of your technology with any competing technologies may demonstrate the broad applicability of your technology. Relative number may be used when making comparisons.

6. Submitting Your Nomination to ASC:

Submit an electronic copy of your nomination in a format so that ASC can select and copy text. Include the primary sponsor's name in the file name. You may want to submit your nomination as a .pdf file to minimize possible reading errors, but ASC accepts and can read all common file types. Send the electronic copy. If you encounter problems submitting your nomination electronically, please contact us at Myranda Nickoloff at Myranda.Nickoloff@ascouncil.org.

A. Receipt of Nominations

- ASC will consider all entries as confidential.
- ASC will not return any material.
- ASC is not responsible for lost or damaged entries.
- ASC acknowledges receipt of nominations by email to the Contact Person identified in the nomination. If ASC does not acknowledge your nomination within two weeks after you submit it, please contact Myranda Nickoloff, at Myranda.Nickoloff@ascouncil.org or (301) 986-9767.

B. Judging entries:

A panel of three technical experts convened by the ASC will judge the nominations. These might include members of the scientific, industrial, governmental, educational, and environmental communities. ASC may ask the designated contact person to verify any chemistry described or claims made in nominations on behalf of the judges. The judges will select as award recipients those technologies that best meet the selection criteria. ASC Staff will screen submittals and pass on qualifying nomination packages that comply with the outline of this document.

Conflict of Interest: If those submitting for the award have a conflict of interest with any judges, award process or have; Example: a manufacturer who's raw material supplier identify consent may not be shared that does not want to disclosed in the award program, the business relationships on raw materials etc., the submitter will need to notify ASC of any potential conflicts or identity, conflicts of interest. The Membership committee will be the entity to review any conflicts of interest and make recommendations to the Board Oversight liaison Mark Schneider if such situation arises.

You will need to provide the following information on the online submission form.

On the application form you will need to indicate that you are submitting as one of the following:

- Manufacturer
- Raw Material Supplier
- Academia
- Jointly as Manufacturer & Raw Material Supplier
- Jointly as Manufacturer & Academia
- Jointly as Raw Material Supplier & Academia

Note: If submitting jointly you will need to choose one of the following options **on the submission form** and disclose whether you have authorization from both parties to share innovation information in the public domain (If you select "No," you may not be eligible for the award until authorization is received).

Yes

No

We are checking with supply chain partner/academic

C. Notification of Winners:

ASC will notify winners prior to the official public announcement. ASC will present a commemorative award to the primary sponsors of the winner and certificates to individuals identified by the primary sponsor who contributed to the research, development, or implementation of the technology.

Winners will be given the opportunity to supply ASC with a 1-2 minute video describing the innovation and value to the end user community. This video will be played at the award ceremony in front of convention attendees. This video must be received by **April 10, 2026** and approved by ASC.

The winner and the two runners-up will be asked to speak in a track within the **Annual Convention & Expo April 20-22 in Nashville, TN**. The track will be dedicated to recognizing the top three innovations. ASC will inform the winner and runners-up after the judging is completed.

More details will follow after in March 2026.

If you have questions about the scope of the program, nomination procedures, or the ASC Innovation Awards Program, please contact:

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