



The Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards 2027

Brought to you by Interface

Application Toolkit





THE SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AWARDS 2027

The Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards celebrate the partnerships between business, third sector, and public sector organisations and academia.

Now in its 12th year, this flagship event recognises and rewards exceptional collaborations that deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for Scotland.

REASONS TO ENTER THE SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AWARDS

Previous award winners have reported the following benefits:

- Independent endorsement of your business, research, products, or services
- Recognition of excellence
- Skill development & professional growth
- Acknowledge and celebrate your hard work and accomplishments
- Raise your profile and visibility within the innovation community
- Inspiration for new projects, innovation and creativity
- Expand your network and connections
- Share your success story
- Media exposure
- Showcase your achievements

The awards are FREE to enter!



CATEGORIES

Digital Health & Care Innovation - in partnership with [DHI](#)

Innovation of the Year - sponsored by [Marks & Clerk](#)

Innovator of the Future - sponsored by [Business Gateway](#)

Inward Investment Impact

Knowledge Exchange Champion

Knowledge Exchange Heroes - team & individual awards

Making a Social Difference

Making an Environmental Difference

Multiparty Collaboration

Place-based Impact - sponsored by [Highlands & Islands Enterprise](#)

Powerful Partnership

Responsible AI Collaboration: in partnership with [The Data Lab](#)



HOW TO CREATE A WINNING ENTRY

We've pulled together a collection of top tips directly from previous judging panels. These insights aim to support you in creating an application that stands out from the crowd.

CHECK THE ELIGIBILITY

Before starting your application form, please review the eligibility criteria to ensure your collaboration or nominee qualifies.



READ THE QUESTION CAREFULLY

When crafting your responses, start by identifying the key terms and phrases in each question. Think about what's being asked and how it relates to your project. Remember, the judges are looking for relevant details specific to each award category, so be sure to address the question directly.



CONSIDER YOUR AUDIENCE

Keep in mind that the judges may not be experts in your specific field. Ensure your entry is simple, concise, and easy to understand. Use project-specific examples, avoid jargon, spell out acronyms, and clarify any technical terms to make your submission accessible to a broader audience.



MAKE IT A TEAM EFFORT

These awards celebrate collaboration and partnership, so involve all parties who contributed to the project in the application process. Highlight the role each partner played and showcase the strength of your collective efforts.



START EARLY

Don't wait until the last minute! Start your application early to ensure a stronger, more polished submission. By giving yourself ample time, you can involve all collaborators, allowing them to review and contribute effectively.



ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Proofreading is a critical step in the application process. It ensures that your application is free from errors, polished, and presents your project in the best possible light. Double-check all facts, figures, and dates in your application to ensure accuracy. Please also adhere to all word counts.



SHOWCASE YOUR STRENGTHS

Demonstrating genuine passion in your application can set you apart and make a compelling case for why you deserve the award. Share what drives you and why you're deeply committed to your work. Be authentic and sincere in telling your story. This is your opportunity to highlight your achievements and prove that you're the best—don't hold back!





HEAR FROM A SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AWARDS WINNER



“Winning the award meant a great deal to me personally because it recognised not just the research, but the years of collaboration, problem-solving and persistence behind the project. It has helped bring much wider attention to our work, opened up new conversations with industry and academic partners, and given us real momentum to explore further funding and new applications for the technology.”

Dr Dayi Zhang, Double Scottish Knowledge Exchange Award Winner

Innovator of the Future 2025 and Innovation of the Year 2026 with Inspectahire Instrument Co. Ltd and the University of Strathclyde

WHAT'S NEXT

Visit our website to discover more information about the categories and download the application forms.

Return completed applications by 5pm on
Thursday 10th December 2026

The awards ceremony will be held on
Wednesday 24th March 2027, The Barony
Hall, hosted by the University of Strathclyde



The Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards are brought to you by Interface, who are funded by the Scottish Funding Council and hosted by Edinburgh Innovations Ltd.