



Light Middle East Awards 2026

Infopack – Call for Nominations

About the Light Middle East Awards

As the region's largest and most influential awards for the lighting industry, Light Middle East Awards celebrate extraordinary individuals, products, projects, and companies for their outstanding achievements, visionary contributions, and exemplary performance in the global lighting industry. Now in its 12th edition, these awards continue to uphold its legacy, with winners selected through a meticulous evaluation by an independent panel of distinguished local and international judges from the lighting industry.

Under the inspiring theme of **'Vision to Impact: From Inspiring Ideas To Lasting Legacies,'** the 2026 edition of the Awards will spotlight pioneering innovations and creativity in lighting design and technology. The awards will champion the aspirations and goals of lighting designers, manufacturers, suppliers, and system integrators, while elevating the profile of the lighting industry as a whole. Through these awards, we aim to illuminate the remarkable successes of the lighting sector, both within our region and beyond.

Why Submit an Entry

- Celebrate the lighting profession, highlighting its significant contribution to the built environment
- Create an awareness and elevate the profile of the lighting profession
- Build credibility for your work, giving your organization a competitive edge triggering further positive outcomes, solidifying your market reputation and enhancing your brand visibility
- Recognize and value your team's efforts, boosting morale and acknowledge individual contributions
- Attract top talent to your organization as an award-winning practice
- Showcase your innovative products to a global audience of industry professionals live at the show

Important Dates

- Awards Open: 28 May 2025
- Early Bird Deadline: 18 July 2025
- Final Entry Deadline: 19 September 2025
- Round 1 Jury Assessment and Voting (Online): 29 September – 12 October 2025
- Shortlists Announcement: 20 October 2025
- Round 2 - Projects Shortlist Q&A: 11 January 2026 (Dubai World Trade Centre)
- Round 2 - Product Shortlist Q&A: 12 January 2026 (Dubai World Trade Centre)
- Awards Ceremony & Winners Announcement: 14 January 2026

How to Submit

Entries may only be submitted via our online submission portal at
<https://lightmeawards2026.evalato.com/>



Award Categories:

Project of the Year

- Project of the Year – MEA
- Project of the Year – International
- Light Middle East Project of the Year – The Ultimate Award for the Highest Scored Project

Product of the Year

- Indoor Lighting
- Outdoor Lighting
- Decorative Lighting
- Intelligent Lighting Solution
- Peer Award (Based on Online Votes)

Partner of the Year

Nomination Entry Fees:

Categories	Early Bird Rate Until 18 July 2025	Standard Rate
Project of the Year	USD 50	USD 75
Product of the Year	USD 100	USD 150
Partner of the Year	Free	Free

Fees mentioned above are per entry and are subject to 5% Value Added Tax (VAT).

Project of the Year

NOTE: No names of any kind, besides the project title, should appear in the project description. No firm, collaborator, manufacturer, or designer names should be used in the project description except in the credits section.

a. Project of the Year - MEA

This category recognizes the best architectural lighting design for a completed project within the MEA region. Entrants must be designers and awards will be granted only to the team or teams that created the detailed design of the architectural lighting for the project that was submitted.

The project must be a permanent architectural lighting design solution for which construction was **completed after 1 July 2024.**

Entrants should choose one or more categories from the drop-down menu containing options that the project could fit into (i.e., Residential / Mall / Retail / Bar / Restaurant / Hotel / Education / Place of Worship / Event / Façade / Public Space / Art Installation / Retrofit, etc). The final categories will develop to reflect the latest and best work in the region and will adapt every year to reflect the work that is being completed. Any projects outside of these categories on the shortlist will go into a mixed / miscellaneous category.

Any Project that is outside the MEA region will need to be submitted under the Project of the Year - International Category.



b. Project of the Year: International

This category recognizes the best in architectural lighting design for an iconic completed project outside of the MEA region.

Entrants must be designers and awards will be granted only to the team or teams that created the detailed design of the architectural lighting for the project that was submitted. The project must be a permanent architectural lighting design solution for which construction was **completed after 1 July 2024**.

c. Light Middle East Project of the Year

This category celebrates the best project of the year and one which has achieved the overall highest score from the judging panel, the Ultimate Award for 2026.

Product of the Year

NOTE:

* Any supplier, or manufacturer whether an exhibitor or not, can enter for the Light Middle East Awards.

* The Products should be a real, commercially available product that can be specified in a project.

* Companies are allowed to enter as many times as they want but each entry must be a unique and different product. If your product covers several categories then please pick the one you feel represents its most successful application. Please do not enter the same product in multiple categories in order to ensure focused and fair evaluation of each submission.

a. Indoor Product of the Year:

This category recognizes products that utilize innovative technology to produce high-value, high-performance indoor lighting solutions with outstanding design principles.

b. Outdoor Product of the Year:

This category recognizes products that utilize innovative technology to produce high-value, high-performance outdoor lighting solutions with outstanding design principles.

c. Decorative Product of the Year:

This category recognizes products that utilize specific designs to add ambient lighting in a variety of spaces and also turn a surface into something decorative. Products entered could be anything from Chandelier / Table Lamp / Wall Lamp / Bespoke etc.

d. Intelligent Lighting Solution of the Year

This category recognizes innovation that includes all visible light communication, IoT, Li-fi, controls, IP-based systems, data management, guest room management systems, and smart city technologies.

e. Peer Award

This is a public voting category and all shortlisted product entries are eligible to win. Voting is undertaken by the community online and also live at the exhibition until 12 January 2026.

Partner of the Year

This category to be reviewed by the local judges recognizes manufacturers / suppliers / distributors, based across MEA who have demonstrated excellence in lighting, innovation and collaboration between project & design teams leading to successful lighting projects.



Judging Rounds and Criteria

Project of the Year

ROUND 1

- The judges will score all projects against the published criteria (online) based on the event theme with no interaction with the other judges.
- The number of projects in the shortlist will be decided based on the total number of project entries.

ROUND 2

- The shortlisted projects are presented to the judges within a private meeting area on 11 January 2026 to find winners in each category. The Q&A session follows a strict format. i.e. 5 minutes presentation plus 5 minutes for questions.
- Two team members can participate in the Q&A session. The team members must be able to answer all the technical questions posed by the judging panel.
- After the Q&A session, the judges will create a final score for each of the projects and an aggregate score across all judges will provide winners in each category.
- The judging chairs will decide on the final categories that the top projects sit in.
- For the second round, the presented projects will be marked on a scale of 0 to 10 points. Following on from the judges scores in the first round
 - 5 points will be given for a project that is deemed as good
 - 6 for better than expected in some areas
 - 7 is for a project that is high quality but not quite excellent
 - 8 for a project that is excellent in one or more areas
 - 9 is for a project that is excellent in most areas
 - 10 marks for a project that is truly exemplar and ground breaking

JUDGING CRITERIA (ROUND 1): Max Score of 100

In order to create a higher level of equity between entries, a detailed marking scheme has been devised. Within your entry you will be asked to describe your lighting design project in a series of short statements related to 10 key criteria. Judges will award marks on each criterion. Please ensure you address each element and that your text is properly illustrated by the images you provide.

Concept & Narrative: Describe the overall concept approach and design narrative of the lighting in this project. The judges should be able to clearly see this in your uploaded images.
(10 Marks)

Aesthetic Impact: What are the key elements of visual impact and artistic use of light in your design? This could include factors such as the considered composition, the balance of light and dark, how the lighting works in harmony with the architectural elements and the focal points you created.
(10 Marks)



Creativity and Innovation: What makes your design original and innovative? This could include the use of lighting techniques, concepts and technologies in the design.
(10 Marks)

Contextual Fit: How does your lighting design respond to its context? This could include the site itself, any social cultural or historical context and how it relates to the surrounding environment and the intended use of the space.
(10 Marks)

Integration & Detailing: How have you made sure the lighting design integrates with the physical architecture and/or landscape effectively in order to enhance and complement the overall aesthetics and functionality of the space?
(10 Marks)

User Experience: How does the lighting design enhance the user experience? This could include practical factors such as visual comfort, ease of navigation and appropriate lighting levels for different tasks or activities. It could also include the emotional impact and immersive nature of your design - the wow factor!
(10 Marks)

Responsibility: How have you considered your responsibility to the future as part of your design process? This could include the energy efficiency, sustainability, and overall environmental impact of the lighting design, including the use of energy-saving technologies, control, recycling/ circularity, minimizing light pollution and impact on the local ecosystem.
How have you tried to restrain the use of lighting and lighting equipment within the scheme?
Have you considered proximity of materials and products to site as part of your design?
(10 Marks)

Technical Excellence: How does your design meet or exceed the normal standards of technical proficiency and quality of implementation, including aspects such as lighting calculations, fixture selection, industry accreditations achieved and control systems?
(10 Marks)

Longevity: What have you done to ensure your design has longevity? How will it remain intact over time and what considerations have you made for maintenance and operation?
Have you had discussions with the client that align with any of the conversation flows on the Lighting Advocacy Toolkit? **Click here to see the [Toolkit](#)**
(10 Marks)

Challenges: Is there anything else you would like to share with the judges - this could be any specific challenges you had to overcome or why you think this project should be an award-winning project?
(10 Marks)

PROJECT JURY

The project categories are judged by panels consisting of both international and local lighting designers, academics, architects / interior designers. In order to ensure fairness in the judging process and to avoid any biases, the Project of the Year – MEA will be judged by the international panel and the Project of the Year – International will be judged by the local panel.

Product of the Year

ROUND 1

- The judges create a basic score for each product using the three criteria as below:



1. **Concept & Excellence** - How have you combined a compelling concept with a commitment to excellence in your product / solution manufacturing to ensure that your innovative ideas are not only visionary but also practical, reliable, and impactful?
2. **Science & Innovation** - How have you leveraged the integration of science and innovation in your product manufacturing to develop products and solutions that are backed by scientific principles and embody groundbreaking advancements?
3. **Stewardship & Sustainability** - How have you incorporated stewardship and sustainability into your lighting product and / or solution manufacturing, thereby contributing to a more environmentally conscious and socially responsible industry?

Sustainable Luminaire Checklist

- Reduction: Fewer lights and smaller lights (not too small!)
 - Durability: Material and aesthetic longevity.
 - Emotional Attachment: Promotes care and perceived value.
 - Standardisation: Strategy for future compatibility.
 - Maintenance and Repair: By end user and professional. (glue, resin, solder)
 - Upgradability and Adaptability: Allowing for future expansion and modification. (Sensors, controls, lenses)
 - Disassembly: Real world processes in mind (WEEE, Eucolight)
- Each judge does their scoring independently without any interaction with other judges at this stage.
 - The aggregate scores of all judges will create a shortlist of the top 5 products in each category.

ROUND 2

- The shortlisted products are live pitched to the judges at the 'InSpotLight' stage in the exhibition on 12 January 2026 to find an overall winner in each category. The pitch must stick to a strict format, i.e. 5 minutes presentation plus 5 minutes for questions. A sample can be brought to pitch but please note, it is not a demonstration of product.
- The manufacturer representative must be physically present at the exhibition for the Live Pitch.
- After the pitch, the judges will create a final score for each of the products and an aggregate score across all judges will provide winners in each category.
- The shortlisted products are also open for a peer vote to determine the winner under the "Peer Award" category.
- Peer voting for shortlisted products is via the awards platform will close on the 12 January 2026.
- All entries are allowed to receive one vote, per person.

PRODUCT JURY

The Product category will be judged by a local jury of approx 15 people consisting of a mix of designers (with technical and product know-how) from the region.



Partner of the Year

ROUND 1

Responses to be shared to the below judging criteria:

- Overall Achievements: What has your business achieved since July 2024 that makes it stand out from the competition (250 words)
- Specific achievement: Highlight one of your company's best products/ projects/ innovations (completed since July 2024) and give us a summary of its achievements. (400 words)
- Responsibility: Please tell us how your company is taking responsibility for the future of the planet, its impacts and the development of the lighting profession in the Middle East.
- Collaboration: How do you cultivate effective collaboration between your team and the general lighting profession, highlighting the techniques and processes that support successful collaboration and the growth of the lighting profession? (250 words)

PARTNER JURY

The Partner category will be judged by a local jury of approx 15 people consisting of a mix of designers (with technical and product know-how) from the region.

Material Required for Submissions

Project of the Year Submissions

- ☐ Entrant contact information
- ☐ Project name
- ☐ Project location
- ☐ Date of project completion
- ☐ Select applicable categories for the project
- ☐ Responses to the 10 specific judging criteria
- ☐ Credits
- ☐ Accreditation documents
- ☐ Links to pages, files, docs, and more
- ☐ Minimum of 3 high-res images / visuals (upto 5 MB files in png, jpg or gif format)
- ☐ Video upload - The preferred method is to directly upload the video on to the platform, but if is not feasible, then in the form titled Video embed Link, you can embed a link to Vimeo or YouTube

Product of the Year Submissions

- ☐ Entrant name
- ☐ Entrant email
- ☐ Company name
- ☐ Country of manufacturing
- ☐ Responses to the 3 specific judging criteria
- ☐ Credits
- ☐ Accreditation documents
- ☐ Links to product web site
- ☐ Minimum of 3 high-res images / visuals (up to 5 MB files in png, jpg or gif format)



- ☐ Video Upload - The preferred method is to directly upload the video on to the platform, but if it is not feasible, then in the form titled Video embed Link, you can embed a link to Vimeo or YouTube

Partner of the Year Submission

- ☐ Entrant contact information
- ☐ Partner company name (as it should appear in the shortlists)
- ☐ Partner company logo (high res in .ai / .eps / pdf / png formats)
- ☐ You have an opportunity to provide a video link of your entry (Optional).
- ☐ Accreditation documents. Please attach at least 2 testimonials from your clients, along with contact details, should the judges choose to follow up. Testimonials may be submitted under non-disclosure for Judges-eyes-only, but must be clearly marked as such (Optional)
- ☐ Minimum of 3 high-res images / visuals of any products / completed projects / innovations (up to 5 MB files in png, jpg or gif format)

CREDITS: Materials and images submitted will be used for announcements and social sharing. Please mention all relevant stakeholders to the project or product who need to be credited. (Project Owner, Consultant, Engineer, Contractor, Designers, Manufacturer/s, Supplier, Photographer etc.). *If your submission is a lighting design scheme and the concept design or masterplan was by another designer, please credit them also. You will still be the entrant and the award winner but this helps ensure that fair and appropriate credit is given.*

The accuracy and comprehensiveness of the credits submitted are the responsibility of the entrant. Any damages or conflicts resulting from factual inaccuracies or omissions in the credits are the exclusive responsibility of the entrant.

Tips for Visuals:

- In the judging process, the visual and auditory quality of the submissions is crucial. The photographs should be of the finest quality to showcase the designer's work, even though they are not required to be professionally photographed. Photographs in color are needed.
- Images of the project in use, in relation to its surroundings and from a human vantage point is encouraged.
- It is advised to take at least one daytime photo if the project involves external lighting.
- It is impractical to evaluate the success of electric lighting in daylight settings. When more than one or two photographs in a submission feature daylight, it should be explained why this is important to the project.
- Renders will not be accepted.
- Option for uploading single images, up to 5 MB per file in png, jpg or gif format. A minimum of 3 images and a maximum of 7 images can be uploaded per entry.

Once all your material is ready, please check the below items:

- ☐ Nominations for all entries should be written in English only.
- ☐ Your entry falls into the requirements of the category.
- ☐ Video Upload - The preferred method is to directly upload the video on to the platform, but if it is not feasible, then in the form titled Video embed Link, you can embed a link to Vimeo or YouTube



- ☐ You have to hit the Submit button once your entry is ready (entries in progress will not be evaluated).
- ☐ Incomplete entries will not be evaluated. The form must be filled completely.
- ☐ The online submission includes a list of fields you must complete along with materials to upload. All information on this form is required. Make sure to fill it out accurately - entrants are responsible for all errors and omissions in the form.
- ☐ All standard rules regarding no correspondence are in place and judges' decisions are final.

Contact Us

Should you require any further information or assistance regarding the awards nomination, submission procedure or any other details, please kindly contact us on lightmeawards@uae.messefrankfurt.com