

Technology & Innovation Award 2026

The **Technology & Innovation Award** recognizes the development of technology and innovation to improve emergency management operations, public education, and the emergency management/homeland security field.

The nomination may not be used to promote, market, or advance sales of products or services. (This award is not to be used as a marketing or sales promotion tool.)

Eligibility

- An individual or team, public or private, that developed a technology that enhances or improves the work of emergency management.
- The technology developed must be used, applied, and available in the United States. (International availability is also acceptable.)
- The individual or team's key stakeholder being nominated must be a member of IAEM-USA in good standing as of the submission date of nomination.
- Self-nominations are allowed for this award category.
- The recipient (or a representative of an organization) does not need to be present at the IAEM Annual Conference to be selected although they are strongly encouraged to participate in the conference. The IAEM Awards Committee or judges are not informed about conference registration and do not consider it in decision-making.

Completing the Official Award Entry/Nomination

- **Method:** An entry **must** be submitted in English on the official IAEM awards portal available on the Membership Dashboard on the iaem.org website. Non-IAEM members who wish to submit an entry for this award must register as a Guest on the IAEM website to gain access to the awards portal. Non-members of IAEM must pay a \$75 entry fee. All entry details must be complete, or the entry will be disqualified. Please note some fields have word count limitations.
- **Supporting Materials:** No supporting materials are required for this award.

Judging Criteria

Documentation of the following criteria must be submitted via the awards portal.

Category	Documentation	Weight
Content	Clearly explain "who, what, why, how, and where" of the nominated technology or innovative project to articulate why the technology is award-worthy.	50%
Creativity, Originality, and Design	Describe the design clearly and how the technology is innovative, unique, and accessible. Include if the project is easy to implement and execute. The activity should not be part of an	20%

	agency’s regular work – it should be above-and-beyond.	
Usefulness	Explain the benefit and measurable impact on the applicable audience. Provide metrics that measure success of implementation of the project.	20%
Replicability and Adaptability	Illustrate how the technology can be adopted and adapted for application elsewhere at no cost. Rights of ownership will be respected, and credit given where due, but the technology must be freely released without proprietary, trademark, copyright, or license restrictions.	10%

Judging Process

The award entries will be judged based on the compliance of content requirements explained above.

All award entries will be evaluated through an unbiased selection process.

Only written documentation via entries and uploads on the awards portal will be reviewed. Incomplete entries will not be considered.

Judges are assigned by the Awards & Recognition Committee Chair or designee. Judges who have a conflict-of-interest as defined in the *IAEM Code of Conduct* will be recused from judging that entry.

Judges will provide a recommendation for selection of one recipient of this award to the IAEM-USA Awards and Recognition Committee whose decisions are final. Any questions can be referred to the Awards and Recognition Committee Chair.

Announcement of Award Results

Once the USA Awards and Recognition Committee confirms the award recipient, IAEM Headquarters will notify the recipient, the nominator, and the recipient’s IAEM Region President. Additionally, nominators of entries not selected will be notified.

Questions

If you have a question about this award or its criteria, please email: awards@iaem.com. Phone calls are not accepted. Email questions prior to the entry deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.
