



## Briefing Document:

# it@cork Leaders Awards Categories, Eligibility Criteria & Judging Process

## Introduction

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The it@cork Leader's Awards is an annual event recognising the leading companies in Cork and the broader south west region. From global multinationals to schools and start-ups, the awards recognise those who have showcased their unique talents in the use of technology in their respective organisations and businesses.

The 2019 it@cork Leaders Awards will take place on the **18<sup>th</sup> of October** in Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork. Nominations for the it@cork Leaders Awards opened on 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 and will remain open until September 13<sup>th</sup> (unless otherwise stated).

All nominations received by it@cork must have satisfied the eligibility criteria as set out in this document on the date of application. This document also outlines the judging process for evaluation of all nominations.

## Who can apply?

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The it@cork awards are typically of interest to technology or technology related business that operate in or from the South West region of Ireland (primarily Cork, Kerry). However, it@cork are also open to nominations from the greater Munster region. If you have any questions about nominating a company, please contact [admin@itcork](mailto:admin@itcork) with your query

## Award Categories

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There are 8 different award categories for the 2019 it@cork Leaders Awards:

1. **Tech Start Up of the Year**
2. **One to Watch**
3. **MNC of the Year**
4. **Excellence in Education**
5. **Smart Technology Innovation Award**
6. **it@cork Skillnet Best Workplace Award**
7. **Corporate Social Responsibility Award**
8. **Tech Person of the Year Award**

### 1. Tech Start Up of the Year

This award goes to a start-up in the region that is developing and marketing innovative technology products or solutions. In particular this award celebrates businesses that are disrupting traditional business models in new ways.

#### Criteria:

- The business is under 3 years old (from date of incorporation)
- The promoter (s) works in the business full time
- Have secured a beta customer (does not have to be a paying one, but must be available to validate new idea)
- Have a prototype which the judges can see if required
- Demonstrate a level of IP in the business, not more of the same
- Demonstrate a valid business case (when will the business make money)

### 2. The One to Watch

This award goes to a company who are on the cusp of a major leap forward in their business. Nominees may include businesses that are making waves, established businesses about to go global, or perhaps a business that has gone through a period of transformation and now emerged as a serious player in their sector.

#### Criteria:

- The business will be at least 3 years old (at the date of nomination)
- Is able to demonstrate the growth potential for the business
- The step changes in growth must be significant
- Can articulate a breakthrough in business strategy
- Has a clear go to market plan and build on a differentiated offering

### **3. Multinational of the Year**

This award goes to a multinational company with a substantial presence in the Cork region that has shown a real commitment to the future growth of the technology sector in Cork.

#### **Criteria:**

- Technology company with an international presence with over 250 employees
- Must have substantial, meaningful presence in the south west region (or have plans for same)
- Strong contributor to the economy
- Can demonstrate long term plans for their business in the region

### **4. Excellence in Education**

This award recognises the efforts of a school that achieves “Excellence in Education” through the development of student and / or teacher IT skills. The awards will go to the school that can demonstrate an outstanding technology initiative that benefits the school and / or the local region.

#### **Criteria:**

- Award is open to primary and post primary sectors
- Schools must be based in Cork City County or in Kerry
- Initiatives which enable students to develop software and / or hardware design and development skills will be prioritised

### **5. Smart Technology Innovation Award**

This award goes to a company / organisation that has developed / integrated a technological innovation which has been demonstrated in the south west region and will shape the cities and regions of tomorrow.

#### **Criteria:**

- The innovative nature and creativity of the application
- The innovation’s economic viability and its potential for job creation OR the innovation’s social impact on the region
- It’s application to enhancing Cork and the south west’s reputation as a Smart Region
- The innovation can be a product, process, service, project or a business model

### **6. it@cork Skillnet Best Workplace Award**

The ‘Best Workplace Award’ will be presented to a company that embraces a holistic approach to Learning and Development; with encouragement, opportunity and support for people to grow in skills, confidence and resilience in the workplace.

The criteria for this award category is currently being revised. This section will be updated in due course.

#### **Criteria:**

- As this is a new award category, replacing the Technical Training Programme of the Year, previous winners of that category are eligible to apply for this.
- This award is open to all technology or technology-related business that operates in or from the South west region of Ireland.
- Be able to demonstrate commitment to upskilling and professional development
- Be able to demonstrate a positive culture that is mindful of people's mental health and wellbeing.

## **7. Corporate Social Responsibility**

The CSR award recognises the active involvement of a commercial company and its team directly with charitable, voluntary or community projects in its locality, or through its partnership with a local charitable, voluntary or community organisation that has had a quantifiably positive effect on the local community over the last year/s.

### **Criteria**

- The CSR award may be for a one-off initiative run by a company, or as part of a long-standing, structured CSR program. The company should have a proven track record in CSR activity.

## **8. Tech Person of the Year**

The Tech Person of the Year Award is the only category that is nominated by the Board of it@cork and the ultimate winner is selected by a panel of 4 judges.

## **Judging Process**

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it@cork is committed to ensuring that the judging process is both objective and transparent. The Leaders Awards applications are reviewed by a panel of three judges in each category. The judging panel is made up of independent experts in the field of IT and business leaders. Judges are provided with detailed scoring criteria information in advance of the judging process.

### **First Process of the Judging Panel**

The judging panel reviews all applications in their award category. The judges review the applications independently and provide a score. This judging panel then meets to discuss the highest scoring entry and create a shortlist of the strongest applications. These entrants are then invited to attend a face to face interview.

### **Second Process of the Judging Panel**

The judging panel will conduct face-to-face interviews with the three finalists. Afterwards they will independently review the shortlisted companies, using the score-card criteria, and then meet to confer to decide on the category winner. The winner in each category will be announced on the night!

### **Entering the Awards This year**

You can nominate a company for any of the award categories (except Tech Person of the Year) at: [www.itcork.ie](http://www.itcork.ie). All nomination forms will be sent to all judging panels for review.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

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- You may only submit one entry per category
- Every section of the nomination form must be filled out completely. Evaluating and scoring each nomination will be based on the quality of information submitted
- There is a strict word count which must be adhered to
- Images and attachments will not be accepted in the online application. Images and headshots will be requested at a later date if necessary
- Companies who have won an award in the previous three years are unable to enter that category in 2019
- You can self-nominate, and / or be nominated by others.

If you have any questions about nominating a company, please contact [admin@itcork](mailto:admin@itcork) with your query.

**End**

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