it@cork & KerrySciTech Leaders Awards 2022

Recognising excellence in Innovation, Business and Technology

Briefing Document - Awards Categories, Eligibility Criteria & Judging Process 2022

Introduction

Leader's Awards is an annual event recognising the leading companies in the South West region of Ireland. From global multinationals to schools and start-ups, the Leaders Awards recognise those who have showcased their unique talents in the use of technology in their respective organisations and businesses. This year's leaders awards are being run jointly with KerrySciTech.*

The 2022 it@cork & KerrySciTech Leaders Awards will take place on the **4th of November** in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork. Nominations for the it@cork & KerrySciTech Leaders Awards open on 5th of September 2022 and will remain open until the 7th of October 2022 (unless otherwise stated). Finalists must be available during the week of 24th - 28th October for virtual interviews with the Judging Panel.

All nominations received by it@cork & KerrySciTech 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?

The it@cork & KerrySciTech awards are typically of interest to technology or technology related businesses that operate in or from the South West region of Ireland. However, it@cork & KerrySciTech are also open to nominations from the Munster region. If you have any questions about nominating a company, please contact **admin@itcork** with your query.

Award Categories

There are 9 different award categories for the 2022 it@cork & KerrySciTech Leaders Awards:

1. **Tech Start Up of the Year**
2. **Scale Up of the Year**
3. **MNC of the Year**
4. **Excellence in Education**
5. **Smart Technology Innovation Award**
6. **it@cork Skillnet Best Workplace Award**
7. **Diversity, Inclusion & Social Impact Award**
8. **Tech Person of the Year Award**
9. **Chairperson 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)
- At least 1 fulltime founder
- Compelling Customer Value Proposition
- Validated market opportunity
- Validated business model
- MVP developed and validated

2. **Tech Scale Up of the Year**

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:

- Market validated product
- Can demonstrate significant growth in the business
- Full time management team in place
- Can articulate a breakthrough in business strategy
- Large market opportunity
- Resources available to grow

3. Multinational of the Year

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

Criterial:

- 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 South West region.

Criteria:

- Award is open to primary and post primary sectors
- Schools must be based in the South West
- 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 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.

Criteria:

- This award is open to all technology or technology-related businesses 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. **Diversity, Inclusion & Social Impact**

The Diversity, Inclusion & Social Impact award recognises the active involvement of a commercial company and its team directly or through a partnership on diversity and inclusion initiatives and / or charitable, voluntary or community projects in its locality. They should have had a quantifiably positive effect on diversity & inclusion in their companies or had a positive social impact on the local community over the last year/s.

Criteria

- The Diversity, Inclusion and Social Impact award may be for a one-off or series of initiative(s) run by a company, or as part of a long-standing, structured Diversity, Inclusion & Social Impact program. The company should have a proven track record in Diversity, Inclusion & Social Impact activity.

8. **Tech Person of the Year**

The Tech person of the Year award will be selected by the it@cork & KerrySciTech Executive Boards and goes to an individual who has demonstrated many years commitment to the tech industry in the South West region.

9. **Chairperson Community Award**
The Chairperson Community Award is nominated by the Chairperson of it@cork & KerrySciTech.

Judging Process

it@cork & KerrySciTech 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 from the South West region. 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 virtual interview.

Second Process of the Judging Panel

The judging panel will conduct **virtual interviews** with the three finalists in which each finalist will be expected to give a 15-minute presentation followed by a Q&A session. **Finalists must be available during the week of 24th - 28th October for virtual interviews with the Judging Panel.** Afterwards the judges will independently review the finalists, using the score-card criteria, and then meet to confer and 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 and Chairperson Community Award) at: www.itcork.ie , all nomination forms will be sent to the judging panels for review.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- You may only submit one entry per category.
- Every section of the nomination form must be filled out completely. Evaluating and scoring will be based solely on the quality of information submitted in the nomination form.
- 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 not eligible to enter that category in 2022.
- You can self-nominate, and / or be nominated by others.

If you have any questions about nominating a company, please contact **admin@itcork** with your query.

* On the 8th of July 2022 it@cork and KerrySciTech signed a historic MOU to take the South West technology and business ecosystem to a new level and significantly benefit the region.

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