

CRITERIA & GUIDANCE



Welcome to the SEA Awards & Gala Dinner. The Awards is the biennial event that recognises, rewards and celebrates excellence in all branches of surface treatment in the UK.

This prestigious Award ceremony is eagerly anticipated by companies within the surface engineering and heat treatment industries as a chance to showcase their hard work and achievements during the previous 24 months.

Why should you enter?

Receiving a Surface Engineering Award will not only ensure your organisation will have the kudos of being an award-winning organisation, but it will also be an excellent opportunity to showcase your organisation and its expertise amongst your peers and encourage others to follow your example.

By entering you can also benchmark your organisation against other UK businesses in our sector, sharpen the focus of your organisation/organisation activities and just as importantly, motivate and reward your colleagues.

Many organisations have faced uncertainty and difficulty in recent times, so now it's more important than ever to recognise what you have achieved.

Your success will be recognised at the Awards evening held on Friday 17th October 2025 at The Goldsmiths' Hall London, shared by our sponsors, stakeholders, suppliers and other finalists.

Remember the more categories you enter the better your chance of winning.

AWARD CATEGORIES - FREE ENTRY

- Marketing
- Quality
- Environmental
- Process Innovation
- Outstanding Company Achievement

Special Awards – All are encouraged to recommend themselves, other Individuals or organisations for:

- Outstanding International Contribution
- Meritorious Service to the Heat Treatment Industry
- Ray Alford Individual Achievement



CRITERIA:

Marketing Award - 750 word limit

This will be given to an organisation which, in the opinion of the judges, has demonstrated an outstanding planned approach to marketing its products/services. This may involve evidence of the design and implementation of a marketing plan; evidence of a successful marketing campaign; sales or profit growth as a result of such a campaign showing a significant positive contribution to the organisation.

Your submission should state clearly why your organisation deserves to win this Award and must include supportive documentation.

Quality Award - 750 word limit

This Award will be given to the organisation, in the opinion of the judges, that best demonstrates a successful approach to achieving excellence in quality of either product, finish or surface. Evidence should include the organisation's current quality criteria; show how performance has been measured against these and has the company achieved any recognised quality standards during the last 24 months.

Your submission should state clearly why your organisation deserves to win this Award and must include supportive documentation.

Environmental Award - 750 word limit

The judges will be looking for an organisation that best demonstrates a successful approach to good environmental practice & excellence in environmental responsibility, reconfiguration of business models and sustainability principles. Your submission should clearly show the successful implementation of a policy on a key environmental issue such as waste minimisation, recycling, water or solvent usage, energy usage, climate change agreements, Environmental Permitting or REACH.

Your submission should state clearly why your organisation deserves to win this Award and must explain the issues that the initiative was designed to address, providing information on the impact the initiative has had. Supportive documentation must also be included.



Process Innovation Award - 750 word limit

The judges will be looking for the company which best demonstrates successful innovation in relation to the introduction or use of a new or modified process technology.

Your submission should state clearly why your organisation deserves to win this Award and must explain the issues that the initiative was designed to address, providing information on the impact the initiative has had. Supportive documentation must also be included.

Outstanding Company Achievement Award – 1,500 word limit

This Award may be given to an organisation that has clearly demonstrated great success over one or more of the other categories, although consideration will be given to all entrants. Within the submission, please address the following:

- a) Effectiveness – Please describe your organisation's track record of effectiveness over a range of issues in overcoming problems which are faced, providing specific examples.
- b) Innovation – Please describe how your organisation demonstrates particular inventiveness, which may or may not be in the face of adversity.
- c) Impact – Please describe the positive impact and unique differences exercised by your organisation in the effort(s) described in a) and b) above.
- d) Relevance – Briefly discuss the difficulties which may have been addressed by your organisation's work and its importance to your business and your represented sector's future.
- e) Please ensure that you include a copy of the published accounts for the current and previous year and a copy of the Business Plan/Strategy Document as agreed by your governing board.



SPECIAL AWARDS:

Outstanding International Contribution Award – 1,500 word limit

This award may be given to an organisation or individual in recognition of excellence and an outstanding contribution to the surface engineering sector at an international level. Within the submission please highlight why you feel that the candidate is worthy of receiving this award, provide details of their achievements and how they have been instrumental in developing the sector at an international level.

Meritorious Service to the Heat Treatment Industry Award – 1,500 word limit

Any individual may be nominated for this Award. Within your submission, please provide a summary describing the Nominee's work and a statement which addresses the following:

- a) Effectiveness – Please describe your Nominee's track record of effectiveness in overcoming problems which are faced by the organisation or sector ensuring specific examples are included.
- b) Innovation – Please describe how your Nominee's work demonstrates a leap in creativity or particular inventiveness. How does their work differ from traditional approaches?
- c) Impact – Please describe the impact and unique differences exercised by your Nominee in their effort(s) described in a) and b) above.
- d) Relevance – Briefly discuss the issues which may have been addressed by your Nominee and their importance to their organisation and/or its represented sector's future.
- e) Inclusiveness – Please describe the constituencies with which the Nominee works, providing specific examples of how the Nominee has brought together people with differing points of view and/or backgrounds.



Ray Alford Individual Achievement Award – 1,500 word limit

Any individual may be nominated for this Award. Within your submission, please provide a summary describing the Nominee's work and a statement which addresses the following:

- a) Effectiveness – Please describe your Nominee's track record of effectiveness in overcoming problems which are faced by the organisation or sector ensuring specific examples are included.
- b) Innovation – Please describe how your Nominee's work demonstrates a leap in creativity or particular inventiveness. How does their work differ from traditional approaches?
- c) Impact – Please describe the impact and unique differences exercised by your Nominee in their effort(s) described in a) and b) above.
- d) Relevance – Briefly discuss the difficulties which may have been addressed by your Nominee and their importance to their organisation and/or its represented sector's future.
- e) Inclusiveness – Please describe the constituencies with which the Nominee works, providing specific examples of how the Nominee has brought together people with differing points of view and/or backgrounds.



Entry Details

Who can enter?

The Awards are open to all current paid up members of the Surface Engineering Association, including CHTA members. Non-members who are involved in surface engineering and heat treatment processes are also welcome to enter. Entrants may submit more than one entry in any category and may enter the same initiative for more than one category.

Entry submission date:

All submissions must be entered by **4.00pm Friday 11th July 2025**.

How to enter?

Step 1

Decide which categories you wish to enter. Remember you can enter as many Awards as you like, and you may enter more than one project/activity in each category. Please note, that there is no charge to enter an Award category.

Step 2

There are set criteria for each separate Award. Please ensure that the criteria are adhered to in order to ensure you qualify for entry.

Step 3

Complete the entry form for each submission and ensure that you submit all the necessary supporting documentation in line with the criteria for each category. Entry forms will be circulated via post and will also be available at www.sea.org.uk/2025-awards/



Step 4

Email submissions are now accepted and must be emailed to awards25@sea.org.uk.

Please include the following information in the subject box: Award Entry 2025 – [category] – [company name]. *Please see the following example.*

 Send	To	awards25@sea.org.uk
	Cc	
	Bcc	
Subject		Award Entry 2025 – Marketing - AB Platers Ltd.

A confirmation email will be sent, confirming receipt.

Step 5

Any enquiries should be directed to the organiser:

Michaela Mais

Business Development & Membership Manager

Michaela.mais@sea.org.uk

Eligibility

The Awards are open to all members of the Surface Engineering Association and Contract Heat Treatment Association.

Please note that your subscription must have been paid in order for your organisation to qualify for entry.

The Awards are now also open to non-members of the Surface Engineering Association, but who are involved in Surface or Heat Treatment processes.



Publicity

The names of companies that have submitted entries for the Awards may be published in lists of entrants, finalists or winners on the SEA's website and elsewhere as deemed appropriate.

Images submitted as part of entries, including photos, document covers, web pages, etc, may be used in connection with the Awards presentation and Judges' reports and must be declared free from copyright or other restrictions in connection with reproduction.

Data Protection

Data collected with entries will be stored in a database and may be used in future to send out information that the Surface Engineering Association feels may be of interest to members. By taking part in the Awards you are agreeing to this.

Documents will not be returned; all entries will become the property of the SEA.

Confidentiality

The Surface Engineering Association recognises that some information submitted in support of entries may be of a sensitive or confidential nature.

The Surface Engineering Association undertakes to try and ensure that, where information is indicated to be confidential, that confidentiality will be respected and maintained in both the judging process and in any resulting publicity.

Please note that Award entries, together with supporting documentation may be made available for viewing by other associations. If you wish to keep information confidential (e.g. financial information), please submit it on a separate sheet of paper, so that it can be detached and type 'Confidential' at the top of the document.



Method of Judging

The anonymity of submissions will be closely guarded to prevent any possible collusion or allegations of favouritism and will be judged against the following criteria:

- Merit
- Extent to which entry meets the Award criteria
- Degree to which entry demonstrates best practice in the industry
- Recognition that smaller businesses may not have the same resource as larger organisations

The judging will be in two parts:

1. A sifting stage to select the Awards Finalists.
2. Final judging to select the Winner in each category.

There will be one winning submission per category.

The Judges will take into consideration the merit of the entries and the extent to which the entries meet the Awards criteria as well as the quality of the supporting documentation submitted.

Consideration will be given to how generally applicable each entry is to the wider finishing sector and similar organisations.

The Judges reserve the right to withhold Awards where entries are deemed to be of insufficient merit.

The decision of the Judging panel is final. No correspondence will be entered into. The Judges reserve the right to move an entry from one Category to another.



Announcement and Presentation

Finalists in each category will be informed prior to the presentation ceremony held on Friday 17th October 2025 and will automatically receive an invitation to attend.

The Award Winners will be announced at the Biennial Gala Dinner & Awards due to be held at the Goldsmiths' Hall on Friday 17th October 2025.

No information regarding the Winners will be given out prior to the event. The Winners in each category will receive an Award trophy and a Certificate. All finalists will receive a Certificate.

Results will be recorded in a Post Event Report and displayed on the Surface Engineering Association website.