



# United States Patent and Trademark Office

## Frequently Asked Questions about the National Medal of Technology and Innovation (NMTI)

### **Q: Who can be nominated?**

A: The NMTI is awarded to individuals, teams of up to four individuals, or companies/non-profits or divisions of companies/non-profits. Individuals and teams must be living and also be U.S. citizens. Companies must be U.S. owned, defined as 50% of shares or assets are owned by U.S. citizens.

### **Q: What makes a good nomination?**

A: The NMTI seeks to recognize outstanding contributions to the nation's economic, environmental, and social well-being through technological innovation, commercialization, or development of the technological workforce. A good nomination will clearly demonstrate how the contribution affected the U.S.'s well-being via the nomination form and a maximum of six recommendation letters.

### **Q: Who can submit a nomination?**

A: Anybody- a colleague, a student, a mentor, or staff. Self-nominations are also accepted.

### **Q: What is the role of the nominator?**

A: The nominator fills out biographical information and describes the achievement on the online form. They also solicit and upload the letters of recommendation.

### **Q: What kinds of people should write letters of recommendation?**

A: Letter-writers can be colleagues, mentors, former supervisors, or other individuals who directly or expertly know the achievement and can describe its impact. Letters should be written by individuals from varied organizations and backgrounds.

### **Q: What makes a good letter of recommendation?**

A: The NMTI Evaluation Committee is looking for letters that describe the technological innovation, commercialization, or development of the technological workforce, and the impact the contribution has had, including lasting contributions to America's competitiveness, standard of living, quality of life, or strengthening the nation's technological workforce. The letters do not need to be long- most are a page or two on institutional or personal letterhead. See our sample letter for more tips.

### **Q: When will a decision be made on the winners?**

A: The president makes the final decision on who will be awarded the NMTI, and the White House makes the announcement. There is no set schedule on making the announcements.

### **Q: How often can I submit a nomination? Can I nominate more than one person or the same person again?**

A: You can make as many nominations as you like of the same person or different people. Each nomination is eligible for three years- the year it is submitted and the two following years.