

National Medal of Technology and Innovation 2021 Nomination Guidelines

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation (formerly known as the National Medal of Technology) is the highest honor awarded by the President of the United States to America's leading innovators. Established by statute in 1980, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation was first awarded in 1985. The Medal is given to individuals, teams, and companies/non-profits or divisions of companies/non-profits for their outstanding contributions to the nation's economic, environmental and social well-being through the promotion of technology, technological innovation, or the development of the nation's technological workforce.

The purpose of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation is to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to America's economic, environmental, and social well-being, including America's competitiveness in technological innovation and commercialization, and to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to strengthening the nation's technological workforce. By highlighting the national importance of technological innovation, the Medal also seeks to inspire future generations of Americans to prepare for and pursue technical careers to keep America at the forefront of global technology and economic leadership.

Eligibility

- Nominations for the National Medal of Technology and Innovation can be made for an **individual**, a **team** of up to four individuals, or a **company/non-profit** or a **division of a company/non-profit**. Individuals or teams from a national laboratory or government agency are eligible for nomination; however, a national laboratory or government agency as an organization is not eligible for consideration.
- In the case of individuals and teams, U.S. citizenship is a requirement.
- In the case of a for-profit company/division or non-profit/division, the company/non-profit must be U.S. owned, which is defined by the Medal program as having more than 50 percent of its shares or assets owned by U.S. citizens.
- Only nominations on behalf of living individuals are eligible for consideration. However, if an individual passes away after his or her recommendation has been sent to the White House, a posthumous award may be made.
- Members of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation Evaluation Committee cannot receive the Medal during the period of their service on the Committee or for a period of three years thereafter.
- All nominees identified by the White House as potential recipients of the Medal will be subject to an FBI security check. Information collected through the security check may be considered in the final selection of recipients.

Submission Procedures

- **2021 nominations and letters of recommendation must be submitted by midnight ET, April 30, 2021.**

- Nomination files should be submitted online through the nomination portal. Specific nomination instructions and requirements are available on www.uspto.gov/nmti.
- Nominations of candidates from traditionally underrepresented groups are encouraged.
- The National Medal of Technology and Innovation cannot be awarded for the same work that was previously recognized by the National Medal of Science. Nominations for previous winners of the National Medal of Science must clearly differentiate the work that distinguishes this nomination from the work that was the basis for the earlier award.
- The National Medal of Technology and Innovation cannot be awarded to a company/non-profit or a division of a company/non-profit for the same work for which individuals within the organization have already been awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Nominations for organizations that have previously won the National Medal of Technology and Innovation must clearly differentiate the work that distinguishes this nomination from the work that was the basis for the earlier award.
- The nomination should include a maximum of six letters of recommendation or support from individuals who have first-hand knowledge and understanding of the cited achievement(s).
 - Successful nominations typically have 3-6 quality letters of recommendation from different experts. See the sample letter on www.uspto.gov/nmti.
 - Each letter should be labeled with the last name of the nominee, underscore, first name, underscore, the word “rec” and the last name of the person writing the support letter (*Doe_Jane_rec.Smith*).
 - Letter writers will upload their signed nomination letters as a PDF file to the nomination form prior to the deadline.
- Contact information for those sending letters of recommendation should be included on the nomination form.
- Once submitted, nominations starting in 2019 remain active for three years, including the year of nomination and the subsequent two nomination years. After that period, nominators must submit a new nomination in order to be considered for selection. In unusual circumstances, the Nomination and Evaluation Committee may extend the eligibility period for a specific nomination.
- All material submitted will be retained in the nominee’s file in the National Medal of Technology and Innovation office for Committee review.

The online nomination form will confirm when you have successfully submitted your nomination. In the event of difficulty, please contact the National Medal of Technology and Innovation Program Manager at nmti@uspto.gov or (571) 272-9821.

Evaluation Criteria

The President of the United States awards the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to individuals, teams, and companies/non-profits, or divisions of companies/non-profits deserving of special recognition by way of their outstanding contributions to the economic, environmental,

and social well-being of the United States through the development and commercialization of technology products, processes and concepts; technological innovation; or through the development of the nation's technological manpower (workforce).

Under the law establishing the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the Medal may be awarded for technological innovation and commercialization and the development of the technological workforce as they impact three specific areas:

- contributions to the economic well-being of the United States;
- contributions to the environmental well-being of the United States; and
- contributions to the social well-being of the United States.

Each nomination for the National Medal of Technology and Innovation is evaluated for outstanding contribution to: the promotion of technology; technological innovation; or the development of technological workforce in these three areas based on one of three tailored sets of criteria:

1. criteria for individual and team nominations for the promotion of technology, or for technological innovation, which can include products, processes, and concepts;
2. criteria for company/non-profit and division of company/non-profit nominations for the promotion of technology, or for technological innovation, which can include products, processes, and concepts; or
3. criteria for individual, team, and company/non-profit or division of company/non-profit nominations for the promotion of technological workforce.

Nominations should provide detailed information on the nominee's contributions in terms of the applicable criteria articulated below:

A. Nomination for Individual or Team for the Promotion of Technology or for Technological Innovation

An individual or team nomination for the promotion of technology, or for technological innovation, is evaluated for the individual's or team's contributions to the improvement of the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the United States, and for the challenges faced and overcome.

Economic contributions considered, but not limited to, include: importance and breadth of penetration of the technology, process or concept, including the number of industries/sectors benefited and the depth of influence in one or more industries/sectors; revenues; U.S. exports; U.S. job creation/wages; contribution to U.S. economic growth, productivity, and competitiveness; importance of patents, copyrights, and other intellectual property; and business formation.

Environmental contributions considered, but not limited to, include: environmental stewardship; reduction/remediation/prevention of pollution (air, bodies of water, soil, drinking water, noise); conservation; recycling and waste reduction; global climate change; biodiversity; and sustainable development.

Contributions to social well-being considered, but not limited to, include: U.S. global prestige and leadership; human health; safety and security (personal, homeland, and defense); education, training, and enlightenment; communication and social cohesiveness; personal productivity and life management; enhanced human performance; greater personal time and leisure activities; and economic opportunity.

In addition to the contributions to the nation's well-being, a nomination may be evaluated in terms of the **challenges – technological, commercial, competitive, societal, and time – faced and overcome**, including, but not limited to: the vision that was created; development and execution of a plan, including degree of vision, persistence, risk-taking, and barriers overcome; evidence of outstanding achievement and/or entrepreneurial, organizational, or managerial skills demonstrated relevant to the achievement; degree of technical challenge; degree of commercialization challenge; and technical novelty.

B. Nomination for Company/Non-Profit or Division of Company/Non-Profit for the Promotion of Technology or for Technological Innovation

A nomination of a company/non-profit or a division of a company/non-profit for the promotion of technology, or for technological innovation, is evaluated for the organization's or division's contribution to the improvement of the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the United States, and for the challenges faced and overcome.

Economic contributions considered, but not limited to, include: importance and breadth of penetration of the technology, process or concept, including the number of industries/sectors benefited and the depth of influence in one or more industries/sectors; revenues; U.S. exports; U.S. job creation/wages; contribution to U.S. economic growth, productivity, and competitiveness; importance of patents, copyrights, and other intellectual property; and business formation.

Environmental contributions considered, but not limited to, include: environmental stewardship; reduction/remediation/prevention of pollution (air, bodies of water, soil, drinking water, noise); conservation; recycling and waste reduction; global climate change; biodiversity; and sustainable development.

Contributions to social well-being considered, but not limited to, include: U.S. global prestige and leadership; human health; safety and security (personal, homeland, and defense); education, training, and enlightenment; communication and social cohesiveness; personal productivity and life management; enhanced human performance; greater personal time and leisure activities; and economic opportunity.

In addition to the contributions to the nation's well-being, a nomination may be evaluated in terms of the **challenges – technological, commercial, competitive, societal, and time – faced and overcome**, including, but not limited to: the vision that was created; development and execution of a plan, including degree of vision, persistence, risk-taking, and barriers overcome; degree of technical challenge; degree of commercialization challenge; technical novelty; and development of an organizational culture and/or structure capable of germinating and nurturing repeated technological achievement and commercial success, including elements such as management leadership, strong and sustained human resources development, technology strategy and technology management linked to organizational strategy, an environment conducive to teamwork and cross-functional communications, customer orientation, and manufacturing flexibility and excellence.

C. Nomination for Individual, Team, Company/Non-Profit or Division of Company/Non-Profit for the Development of Technological Manpower (Workforce)

A nomination for contribution to the development of technological workforce is evaluated for the nominee's (individual, team, company/non-profit or division of company/non-profit) contribution to the improvement of the economic and social well-being of the United States, and for the challenges faced and overcome.

Economic contributions considered, but not limited to, include: increasing the supply of U.S. technological workforce in response to market demands; improving the knowledge and effectiveness of U.S. technological workforce; rapid development and scale-up of education and training to meet the technological workforce demands generated by emerging technologies; business formation resulting from the development of technological workforce; expanded access to education and training resulting in an increase in the supply and effectiveness of technological workforce; improving market responses to market demands for technological workforce, including better data, information, analysis, public awareness, and communication among stakeholders; and improving the nation's ability to attract and retain commercial activity in the United States as a result of improving the nation's technological workforce.

Contributions to social well-being considered, but not limited to, include: increasing diversity of the technological workforce, and improvements in United States K-12 student performance in science, mathematics, and technology.

In addition to the contributions to the nation's well-being, a nomination may be evaluated in terms of the **challenges faced and overcome**, including but not limited to the magnitude of social, economic, institutional, and time challenges in improving the number, knowledge and effectiveness of the technological workforce.