

# IMIA Industry Choice Award 2026

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **Who can submit to receive the IMIA Industry Choice Award?**

The award is open to IMIA Members and non-members — all individuals or teams working in mapping, cartography, GIS, data visualization, design, geography, or related fields, including students, professionals, researchers, educators, artists, and enthusiasts.

### **What products are eligible for submission?**

We accept a wide range of map product types, including but not limited to:

- Printed maps (e.g., topographic, thematic, artistic)
- Digital or interactive maps
- Story maps and map-based narratives
- 3D visualizations or virtual cartographic experiences
- Atlases or collections
- Books of maps
- Experimental/creative cartography

*If you're unsure if your entry qualifies, please contact [imia@oferrallgroup.com](mailto:imia@oferrallgroup.com).*

### **Can I submit a group project?**

Yes. Collaborative entries from teams, institutions, or multi-author projects are welcome. Please identify one primary contact when submitting.

### **Is there a time limit for when the map product was created?**

Yes. Submissions must have been created, completed, or publicly released between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

### **How do I submit my entry?**

Full submission instructions are available [on the submission form linked here](#).

A completed submission form requires:

- Nominator information
- High-quality digital files and/or access link to the map
- Short answers based on different aspects of the map product
- Any optional supporting materials
- There is no submission cost for IMIA Members, \$95 USD for non-members.

**Can I submit more than one entry?**

Yes. Multiple entries are allowed, but each must be submitted separately and must meet all eligibility requirements.

**Can I submit a product that my company did not produce?**

Yes. Companies may submit a product that they did not create.

(For example, Stanfords submitted the 2025 winner *Bedmap3 – Bedmap Topography of Antarctica* by the British Antarctic Survey.)

**Will my map be judged anonymously?**

Judging is conducted by the IMIA Awards committee members with impartiality, but full anonymity is not guaranteed. Judges will assess the work based on merit, not the identity or reputation of the entrant.

**How are the entries judged?**

A panel of qualified judges with expertise in cartography, GIS, design, and spatial storytelling will score entries out of 100 points based on:

- Design and Aesthetics (20 points)
- Cartographic Technique and Accuracy (20 points)
- Purpose and Communication (20 points)
- Innovation and Creativity (20 points)
- Data Integration and Analysis (20 points)

**Are there different award categories?**

No, there are no award categories at this time.

**What do winners receive?**

Winners will receive:

- A trophy and an award certificate for map product authors
- Promotion through IMIA's platforms
- Optional feature in the IMIA newsletter

**Will my work be displayed publicly?**



Selected entries, including winners and shortlisted works, may be showcased at the 2026 Mapping Leaders Forum in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**Where can I find a list of previous winners?**

Past winners can be found at this link: <https://imiamaps.org/imia-awards/best-map/>.

**Who do I contact with further questions?**

For additional information

- Please email:  [imia@oferrallgroup.com](mailto:imia@oferrallgroup.com)
- Or visit:  <https://imiamaps.org/imia-awards/best-map/>