

GUIDELINES**ATSE Awards 2026**

CLUNIES ROSS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AWARDS

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) advocates for a future in which innovation driven by technology, sciences and engineering contribute significantly to Australia's social, economic and environmental wellbeing. The celebration of innovation driven by the technological sciences and engineering is a key strategic priority of the Academy.

The Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Awards were established in 1991 to be presented annually. They are named after Sir William Ian Clunies Ross.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE**Tuesday 12 May 2026 close of business****PURPOSE**

The Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Awards recognise contributions by dedicated individuals, or teams, who have shared their vision and knowledge with others to apply technology for the benefit of Australia, and beyond.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria for the Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Awards are:

1. A significant contribution to the advancement of industry and/or the community and/or the environment through the application of science, technology and engineering for the economic, social and/or environmental benefit of Australia.
2. Evidence of outcomes and impacts of the technology-based innovation in Australia.
3. Promotion of innovators and contribution to community awareness of technology-based innovation and evidence of mentoring the next generation of technology innovators.

Current members of ATSE's Board are not eligible to be a Proposer or Referee for any ATSE Award nomination. Current members of the Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Awards Committee are not eligible to be a Proposer or Referee for any Nominee for this Award.

The Proposer can contact the candidate to discuss the nomination requirements and obtain supporting documentation.

In any year, an individual or team can only receive one Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Awards. No individual or team can receive more than one ATSE Award in any one year.

The selection committee, based on the evidence provided, will decide the award the Nominee receives, taking into account the emphasis and weight of the evidence around entrepreneurship, commercialisation/impact (commercial product) results or innovation. The three aspects: entrepreneurship, impacts and outcomes, and advancement are to be addressed in the nomination.

TEAM NOMINATION

Where the Proposer believes that it is most appropriate to nominate a team (with no more than three individuals), this must be justified. In this case, it is essential that the nomination demonstrates conclusively that the outcome could not have been achieved without each of the individuals being associated for the majority of the total time involved and in equal or near equal measure. For example, being a co-inventor on a patent application is not sufficient evidence of an equal contribution.

Proposers are encouraged to ensure breadth of evidence in the nomination. This includes ensuring that not all Proposers and Referees are associated with the same organisation.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In assessing the Nominees, the following three (3) criteria will be considered for the award. The Proposer should specifically address these criteria and provide specific examples and data, including links to public information, as necessary.

A combination of quantitative data and qualitative data is critical in balancing out and assisting the application.

Criteria 1: Contribution and application

- A description of the product, license, technology involved, including its nature, its name or designation and how it is protected through patents, know-how or trade secrets.

The description should include details of the beneficial/commercial owner and the relationship to the Nominee(s) if they are not the same.

- A description of the outcome(s) and the impact(s) the contribution has made and in what field(s).

The history and status of the contribution should be included: from the date it was first defined to the present, including the date when it became a commercial reality, achieved broad market acceptance or was widely used in the community.

Evidence of how the contribution demonstrates entrepreneurship, knowledge commercialisation, and innovation. Clearly outline the personal involvement of the nominee(s) through all stages from discovery to commercial application.

It is not expected that all three aspects of entrepreneurship, commercialisation and innovation are equally emphasised in the nomination.

- If patents protect the invention, evidence should be provided to show the Nominee's role.

In this section, demonstrate the Nominee's consistency and persistence (this may be over a considerable period). View this as evidence of 'going the extra mile' - evidence of the continuity of involvement of the Nominee(s) from discovery through the creation and its successful and sustainable commercial application. It is recognised that others will have been involved during this process as specialists, but the Nominee(s) must have had the leading and decisive role throughout, as substantiated by the evidence in the nomination.

Criteria 2: Demonstration of impact

Impact is understood in broad terms:

- Where the main outcome has been the commercialisation/impact of a product(s) or technology into a defined marketplace: provide details of sales, the impact on the market (perhaps market share) and the relevance to a competitive position going forward.
- Where the outcome has been the licensing of technology into the marketplace: provide financial details of the license and details on the uptake of the technology as a result of the license.
- And/or where the outcome is measured to have significant social or environmental benefit to Australia: provide estimates as to the magnitude of that benefit in terms of cost savings or other tangible and verifiable outcomes, including the extent to which the contribution has been widely adopted.

Verifiable evidence that could demonstrate impact includes:

- Financial – details of sales, financial details of licenses, financial impact as a result of uptake of the technology
- Jobs – jobs created, transformed (upskilled) or secured (avoided job loss), with preference to Australian jobs
- Productivity – productivity improvement, evidence of added value to product or process
- Competitiveness – improved position in global supply chain, evidence of impact on the market
- Sustainability – evidence of long-term impact to an industry, user service or product that is transformative to existing processes
- Social Impact – evidence that the impact is sustainable including evidence of impact in the areas of health, safety, environment, compliance and community impact, improvement for an identified subset of the community, or a previously unmet need
- Other awards or prizes received in recognition of the work/individuals that have been nominated

Criterion 3: Commitment to advancement of technology

- Evidence of the Nominee's outstanding record of commitment to successful innovation involving the application of science, technology and engineering to the economic benefit of Australia. National social or environmental benefit will also be considered. Excellence in research is not sufficient.
- Evidence that the Nominee/initiative has had a profound impact on the cultural environment within organisations such as public funded research bodies, universities or industry.
- Evidence of mentorship, 'going the extra mile' in developing a next generation of science, technology and engineering led innovators and entrepreneurs.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

A maximum of five (5) supporting documents (including a CV document) are permitted per nomination.

A Proposer can upload into the Nomination Portal supporting documents such as:

- Quantitative documentation, for example a company Annual Report
- Referee Reports (completed on the official Referee Report Form)
- Nominee's CV (no more than two pages per individual)
- Links to published patents, or patent submissions
- Any external acknowledgement of inventorship
- Financial details of sales, or licenses, and/or clearly identified financial impact as a result of uptake of the technology
- Evidence of jobs created, or transformed (upskilled) or secured (avoided job loss), with preference to Australian jobs as part of the impact
- Productivity: productivity improvement, evidence of added value to product or process
- Competitiveness: improved position in global supply chain, evidence of impact on the market
- Sustainability: evidence that the impact is sustainable and transformative
- Social Impact: evidence of impact in the areas of health, safety, environment, compliance and community impact; improvement for an identified subset of the community; or a previously unmet need
- Evidence of other external recognition, awards, prizes

PAST RECIPIENTS

Past recipients of a Clunies Ross Award, whether as an individual or as part of a group, are not eligible for another award of the Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Awards.

PREVIOUS NOMINEES

Previous Nominees are eligible for renomination and to be considered for a Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Award. New documentation must be submitted.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Each Nominee and Proposer give permission for all the details contained in the nomination to be released to the members of the Selection Committee (both those listed in the nomination form and external Referees) for the sole purpose of the selection process. All information and discussions on Nominees are confidential. If confidential (commercial in confidence) information is provided in the application, this should be labeled as such and not shared with any third parties.

Selection Committee deliberations and recommendations will remain confidential.

NOMINEE OBLIGATIONS AND DECLARATION

The Nominee is willing to be a Nominee for the Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Award and to take part in the program administered by ATSE in the celebration and promotion of a successful application.

The Nominee has not been convicted of a criminal offence under a law of the Commonwealth, or an Australian State or Territory.

The Nominee has not had serious disciplinary action taken against them in response to a substantiated finding of workplace harassment (including sexual harassment), discrimination and/or bullying.

The Nominee should note that a description of the work being acclaimed, and images of the winner will be publicised. It is expected that the winners will:

- Attend the annual ATSE Awards ceremony (details to be advised)
- Participate in activities as reasonably requested by ATSE within 12 months of receiving the award. This includes promoting the importance of engineering and technological sciences to Federal and State parliamentarians, administrators and the technology and innovation communities and reinforcing with these communities the contribution technology makes to Australia's reputation as a centre of technology and innovation leadership.
- Work with ATSE to promote the importance of technology.

REFEREE INFORMATION

Referees should be knowledgeable of the Nominee's achievements but independent of the Nominee's contributions. Referees need to identify their connection to the Nominee as appropriate.

Referees MUST submit their letter (A4 maximum) to the Proposer for uploading into the Nomination Portal by close of business Tuesday 12 May 2026.

NOMINATION DOCUMENTS

The following materials constitute a complete nomination:

Proposer and Nominee information (must include current contact details)

Current role

Supporting statements

- Executive overview (100 words)
- Selection Criteria (500 words each)
- CRITERION 1 – Contribution and application
- CRITERION 2 – Demonstration of impact
- CRITERION 3 – Commitment to advancement of technology

Proposer overview (500 words)

Supporting documents

- Referee information and letter
Please advise all referees that submission must be before Tuesday 13 May 2026 close of business.
- Nominee supporting documents (maximum of five (5) and less than 5Mb each)

PLEASE NOTE

The Proposer and / or the Nominee may be called upon by the Selection Committee to provide evidence of claims made within submitted documentation.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Tuesday 12 May 2026 close of business

Only electronic submissions of nominations and attachments will be accepted. Incomplete applications and any received after the closing time and date will not be considered. All decisions taken by the Selection Committee will be final.

ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Elvira Copur – Membership Manager
Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering
02 6185 3240 (9am–5pm AEST / AEDT)
membership@atse.org.au

In accordance with the Privacy Act, ATSE protects the privacy and security of information provided by you. By completing the form in the Nomination Portal you agree to the use of your personal information by ATSE for purposes related to the ATSE Awards program; that ATSE may contact you about our products and services; and that ATSE may use this information for internal purposes. If you do not wish to receive further information from ATSE, please email info@atse.org.au

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Australian Academy of
Technological Sciences
& Engineering