



EPIC Awards 2026

Official Entry Form

Trade Only Today's EPIC Awards recognize the Top 10 most EPIC companies in the marine industry, along with category winners across Customer Experience, Operations & Manufacturing, Sustainability, Workforce & Culture, Technology & Product, Dealer & Distribution, and Training.

Submission deadline August 21, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET

Eligibility window August 16, 2025 – August 21, 2026

Judging criteria Strength of the initiatives · Impact on the company ·
Impact on the industry · Longevity — each weighted equally

Form length 10 sections · form auto-saves and can be resumed

Tell your story your way

The fields in this form give judges what they need to score your entry — but the most memorable submissions go further. Past entrants have sent in short videos, narrated presentations, photo essays, customer letters, and original artwork to bring their story to life.

Get creative. Stand out. Show the judges why your company belongs on the list of the Top 10 most EPIC companies in the marine industry.

Upload your supplementary materials in Section 9 — Supporting materials.

What's inside this form

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. About your company | 2. Key contacts |
| 3. Category selection | 4. Eligibility window |
| 5. Strength of the initiatives — Criterion 1 | 6. Impact on the company — Criterion 2 |
| 7. Impact on the industry — Criterion 3 | 8. Longevity — Criterion 4 |
| 9. Supporting materials | 10. Consent and submit |

STEP 1 OF 10

About your company

Company name *

Legal entity name

Year founded *

e.g. 1998

Years in marine industry *

e.g. 27

Countries of operation *

Type or paste country names — multi-select.

Business type * — select all that apply

☐ Boat Manufacturer

☐ Engine Manufacturer

☐ Component/Accessory
Manufacturer

☐ Technology/Electronics

☐ Distributor

☐ Dealer

☐ Retailer

☐ Industry Services

☐ Media

☐ Representatives

☐ Association

☐ Other

If "Other," tell us what that means for you

e.g. Marina operator, charter fleet, training academy

Website *

https://

Employees *

Select a range

Mission statement *

One or two sentences. What does your company exist to do?

0 / 250 characters

STEP 2 OF 10

Key contacts

Primary submitter

Full name *

Title *

Email *

name@company.com

Phone *

Marketing / PR contact — for win announcements

Full name

Email

Trade Only Today will contact the marketing/PR lead first with winner notifications, embargo windows, and the EPIC winner symbol artwork.

STEP 3 OF 10

Category selection

Your entry is automatically considered for the Top 10 Most EPIC Companies list. Selecting categories enters you for individual category awards on top of that.

Categories * — select all that apply

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ☐ Customer Experience | ☐ Operations & Manufacturing | ☐ Sustainability |
| ☐ Workforce & Culture | ☐ Technology & Product | ☐ Dealer & Distribution |
| ☐ Training | | |

Primary category *

If you'd had to pick just one, which best represents this entry?

Training (new category): Innovative approaches to educating employees, representatives, dealers and the industry network — including new ways to train the next generation of industry workers.

STEP 4 OF 10

Eligibility window

Tell us about initiatives implemented between **August 16, 2025** and the submission deadline, **August 21, 2026**.

Initiatives launched outside this window aren't eligible for this year's award, but you're welcome to reference earlier work as context.

Submission deadline
August 21, 2026

All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET on the deadline date. The form auto-saves and can be returned to up until submission.

STEP 5 OF 10

Criterion 1 of 4 · Equal weight

Strength of the initiatives

1. Strength of the initiatives

2. Impact on the company
3. Impact on the industry
4. Longevity

What makes a great answer in this section

- ☐ Be specific when naming the initiatives.
- ☐ Demonstrate clear solutions, with before-and-afters and measurable results.
- ☐ Tell us what didn't exist before that you have created.
- ☐ Clearly frame the risks, goals, and compromises made to achieve the outcome.

Your most significant initiatives implemented August 16, 2025 – August 21, 2026 *

One or several initiatives are welcome. Name each one and describe what you set out to do.

0 / 1500 characters

What solution(s) to what problem(s) do these initiatives offer? *

Frame the gap, friction, or opportunity that prompted the work — and the solution you built in response.

0 / 1000 characters

What did it take to make this happen? *

Walk us through the goals you set, the risks you took on, the trade-offs and compromises you made, and how you knew you'd succeeded.

0 / 1000 characters

STEP 6 OF 10 Criterion 2 of 4 · Equal weight

Impact on the company

- 1. Strength of the initiatives
- 2. Impact on the company
- 3. Impact on the industry
- 4. Longevity

What makes a great answer in this section

- ☐ Lead with the numbers, then explain what they mean.
- ☐ Show before-and-after where you can — even rough comparisons help.
- ☐ Include outcomes for employees and culture, not only financials.

How did these initiatives change your company? *

Open response. Tell the story behind the numbers.

0 / 1200 characters

Measurable results *

Add a row for each metric. Estimates and ranges are welcome — just label them as such in the value.

Metric	Value	Unit	Time frame
e.g. Customer retention	+18	% YoY	FY2025–26
e.g. Warranty claims	–32	%	FY2025–26

+ Add another metric

STEP 7 OF 10

Criterion 3 of 4 • Equal weight

Impact on the industry

1. Strength of the initiatives
2. Impact on the company
- 3. Impact on the industry**
4. Longevity

How do these initiatives benefit the industry as a whole? *

What do they offer that has not existed prior, and how will they benefit the industry and boaters?

0 / 1200 characters

Who else has benefited — and how? *

Customers, dealers, partners, employees, the broader marine community. Specific examples are stronger than generalities.

0 / 900 characters

Industry recognition — optional

Press coverage, peer endorsements, partnerships, or other signals that the industry has taken notice.

STEP 8 OF 10

Criterion 4 of 4 · Equal weight

Longevity

1. Strength of the initiatives
2. Impact on the company
3. Impact on the industry
- 4. Longevity**

What is the longevity of these initiatives? *

Are they built to last? Walk us through how they're embedded in your operations, funding, or culture.

0 / 1000 characters

How do you see them evolving? *

What's next? Where are you taking this work over the next one to five years?

0 / 900 characters

STEP 9 OF 10

Supporting materials

This is where the creative pieces from the “Tell your story your way” callout get uploaded — video, presentation, photo essays, customer letters, original artwork.

Company logo *

High-resolution. Used in the winner announcement and (if you win) the EPIC winner symbol artwork.

Drag & drop files here, or click to upload

Accepted: JPG · PNG · SVG · EPS

Supporting documents — up to 5 files

One-pagers, case studies, internal decks. Anything that helps the judges understand what you've built.

Drag & drop files here, or click to upload

Accepted: PDF · PPTX · DOCX · 25 MB per file

Video — optional, strongly encouraged

A 90-second to 3-minute video is the single most effective way to stand out. YouTube, Vimeo, or direct upload.

Paste a video URL

https://

or upload a file — MP4 · MOV · up to 500 MB

Image gallery — optional, up to 10 images

Product shots, team photos, before-and-afters, dealer floor.

Drag & drop files here, or click to upload

Accepted: JPG · PNG · 10 MB per image

STEP 10 OF 10

Consent and submit

Required acknowledgments

- ☐ I have the authority to submit this entry on behalf of the company named above.
- ☐ The information provided is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ If selected as a winner, I consent to Trade Only Today publishing my company name, logo, and a summary of the submission across the EPIC Awards announcement.
- ☐ I agree to the EPIC Awards terms and conditions.

Optional

- ☐ Send me updates from Trade Only Today (newsletter, future awards programs).

Editor's elevator pitch — optional

If you were summarizing your entry to an editor in 280 characters, what would you say? This may be used as a pull quote in the announcement coverage.

0 / 280 characters

[Submit entry →](#)