

THE
SPECTATOR

ECONOMIC
INNOVATOR
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS **2025**

ENTRY FORM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAY 18 JULY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

 **RATHBONES**

ECONOMIC INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2025

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INTRODUCTION

We are thrilled to launch *The Spectator's* Economic Innovator of the Year Awards, in partnership with Rathbones, as we embark on our eighth year of celebrating entrepreneurial excellence across the UK.

We are inviting businesses from all corners of the nation to enter these awards to showcase their remarkable achievements and contributions to the economy and society.

With the support of our panel of judges, who hail from varied sectors and regions, we will honour outstanding breakthrough and scale-up businesses in six areas of the UK. Additionally, we will crown one Economic Innovator of the Year and recognise one company for Excellence in Sustainability and a 'One to Watch'.

This is a breakthrough category for a business which demonstrates early innovation and entrepreneurial drive, shows strong potential for future impact and growth, and captures the attention of our judges as a rising star in the UK business landscape.

Entry for the 2025 Awards opens on Thursday 1 May and closes at midnight on Friday 18 July. We will be judging entrants across six regions (London and the South East, Midlands, North East, Scotland & Northern Ireland, South West & South Wales, North West & North Wales) and in two categories by size: scale-up companies with total revenues in their last complete financial year of £3 million or more (£3m+), and breakthrough companies with revenues of less than £3 million (£3m-).

PLEASE READ

Before completing and submitting this entry form, please read the full terms and conditions at www.spectator.co.uk/terms-eia, and our privacy policy at www.spectator.co.uk/privacy-policy-eia. Please take note of the following:

You may only submit an entry for a company or partnership of which you are a director, partner, or senior executive. Each entry must be submitted by one named representative of the entrant.

Entrants for these awards must be for-profit businesses whose products or services are available to customers in their marketplace, by direct sale or via joint ventures or licencing agreements. Entries cannot be considered from businesses whose products or services were still in development at the end of their last financial year and have become commercially available prior to 1 May 2025.

The Spectator and Rathbones will respect the confidentiality of all financial data provided but entrants must give an accurate indication of the scale of their business, including actual revenues for the last financial year and forecast revenues for the current year.

The online entry form does not have a 'save' function, which means it will need to be completed in one sitting. If more convenient, we suggest that you download a PDF version of the form to fill in at your leisure. Once the form is complete, simply email it to: innovator@spectator.co.uk.

We will be in touch after 18 July to let you know if you've been shortlisted.

For any further enquiries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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SECTION 1

Contact and general information

1 Company name

2 Please describe your business very clearly in 50 words or fewer

3 Your full name

4 Your telephone number

5 Your business email address

6 Will you be the main contact for all communication during the awards process?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'yes', please proceed to question 12

If you answered 'No' to question 6

7 Additional contact full name

8 Additional contact job title

9 Company name

10 Additional telephone number

11 Additional business email address

12 Are you the founder/co-founder of the company?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'yes', please proceed to question 15

If you answered 'No' to question 12

13 Who is the company founder?

14 Is he/she/they still involved in the business?

15 Your current job title

16 Year the company was founded

17 In which region is your main operation based??

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedfordshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Berkshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham | <input type="checkbox"/> Buckinghamshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cambridgeshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Durham | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Derbyshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Devon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dorset | <input type="checkbox"/> Essex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloucestershire | <input type="checkbox"/> Hampshire (incl. Isle of Wight) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herefordshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Hertfordshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humberside | <input type="checkbox"/> Kent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lancashire | <input type="checkbox"/> Leicestershire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lincolnshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Liverpool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> London | <input type="checkbox"/> Manchester |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monmouthshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North & Mid Wales | <input type="checkbox"/> Northamptonshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> Northumberland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nottinghamshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxfordshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rutland | <input type="checkbox"/> Scotland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shropshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Somerset |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Wales | <input type="checkbox"/> Staffordshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suffolk | <input type="checkbox"/> Surrey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sussex | <input type="checkbox"/> Tyne & Wear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warwickshire | <input type="checkbox"/> West Midlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Westmorland | <input type="checkbox"/> Wiltshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worcestershire | <input type="checkbox"/> Yorkshire |

18 Company address

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19 What is your company number as registered at Companies House?

20 Company website

21 Company social media account(s)

22 What sector(s) is your business involved in?*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agribusiness/Food/Drink | <input type="checkbox"/> AI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automotive/Transport | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> Fintech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare/Medical/Bioscience | <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure/Consumer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Purpose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

23 Were the total revenues of your business in your last complete financial year -

- ☐ £3 million or more ☐ Less than £3 million

24 Which region do you wish to be selected for?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> London & South East | <input type="checkbox"/> North East |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scotland & Northern Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> Midlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North West & North Wales | <input type="checkbox"/> South West |

25 How did you hear about *The Spectator's* Economic Innovator of the Year Awards in partnership with Rathbones?

SECTION 2

The next set of questions ask about your business and why it is innovative. Please answer each question in 300 words or fewer.

26 Please describe your business in greater detail

27 Why do you believe your business deserves *The Spectator* Economic Innovator Award? In which market(s) is it an innovator – and how?

28 Is your business based on software or products that you designed yourselves? Do you hold any patents?

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- 29 Who are your closest competitors? How would you compare yourselves with them?

SECTION 3

The next set of questions relate to your company's financial information

- 32 How many people do you currently employ?

-
- 33 What were your total revenues for your last financial year, broken down between sales and other revenues (please specify briefly)?

-
- 30 How has the business expanded since you began (e.g. revenues, customer numbers, staff etc.)?

-
- 34 What do you project total revenues will be in the current financial year, and next year?

-
- 35 What was the net asset value of your company in your last audited accounts?

-
- 31 What plans do you have to expand and develop your business over the next three years, and what are the biggest challenges you will have to overcome to do so?

-
- 36 What was the seed capital for your business? Did you have backing from family members or angel investors?

-
- 37 What is your primary source of funding now?

- ☐ Self-funded
☐ Bank loan
☐ Government grants
☐ Angel investors, venture capital or private equity
☐ Other

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38 Do you have plans to raise more equity capital in the near future?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'no', please proceed to question 40

Thank you for your application.
You will hear from us after 18 July.

Good luck!

39 How do you intend to do so?
(If you answered 'yes' to question 38)

40 Who are your company's professional advisers and mentors?

41 As well as entering your regional category, would you like to be considered for the special Award for excellence in sustainability?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'no', please proceed to question 43

42 If you answered 'yes' to question 41, please tell us (maximum 300 words) which sustainability issues are most important to your business?

43 Lastly, would you like to receive email newsletters from *The Spectator*? If so, please tick your preference

- ☐ Editorial
☐ Marketing