

## SLTC Industry Awards - 2025

### Background and Overview of the Program

The **SLTC Industry Awards** is one of the two key components of the SLTC Research & Innovation Awards 2025 which is designed specifically to recognize and honor excellence in research and development (R&D) initiatives led by commercial enterprises in Sri Lanka. In terms of R&D happening in the industry today, Sri Lanka has a very dynamic innovation ecosystem where, enterprises engage in R&D through various models. Some enterprises conduct in-house R&D projects with a dedicated R&D team and in-built facilities, while others collaborate with academic or research institutions to carry out joint projects. The outcomes of these efforts vary widely.

The intellectual capital generated through such projects can take many forms. Ideally, a high-quality research output demonstrates novelty and may result in formal intellectual property such as **patents**. Others may yield **trade secrets, copyrighted content, know-how, or trademarks**, all contributing to the strategic value of the enterprise. A key factor influencing the success and impact of such research is **funding**. Larger enterprises often have the resources to drive sustained innovation, while **SMEs**, despite their efforts, may struggle for visibility and recognition due to limited capital.

Celebrating this complex and diverse R&D landscape in Sri Lanka requires a framework that captures its many facets. Accordingly, the SLTC Research Awards are structured to honor achievements across multiple categories and industry sectors. These awards recognize a broad spectrum of accomplishments, including in-house R&D excellence, successful industry–academia collaborations, impactful commercialization efforts, patent filings, scholarly publications, and other forms of research-driven innovation.

### Award Structure

The Industry Awards are designed to provide inclusive, sector-relevant recognition for research contributions across Sri Lanka’s diverse industrial landscape. Under this scheme, a total of **34 awards** will be presented: **32 sector-based awards** spanning eight key industry sectors (see Table 01), and **two special recognition awards** honoring excellence in environmental sustainability and community engagement.

In addition to these main awards, **Certificates of Merit** will be presented to applicants whose research has resulted in indexed journal publications or local/international patents—acknowledging high-impact outputs even beyond the primary award categories.

To promote equitable participation across the economic spectrum, a dedicated award category for **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** has been introduced. This category recognizes innovative research achievements by companies with limited financial resources but strong potential for impact and growth.

### Categories for industry sector-based awards

#### 1. Excellence in In-House R&D Award

Acknowledges outstanding research conducted internally using a company's own teams, laboratories, or facilities.

2. **Outstanding Research Collaboration Award**

Recognizes impactful R&D collaborations between companies and academic or research institutions.

3. **Outstanding Research Commercialization Award**

Honors the successful translation of research into commercially viable products, technologies, or services.

4. **Outstanding R&D in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**

Celebrates exemplary research and innovation efforts by SMEs, highlighting their agility and contribution to grassroots industrial progress.

**Table 01: Industry Sectors**

Industry Sector	Key Subsectors
1. Textile & Apparel	- Textile & Apparel
2. Agriculture & Food Technology	- Agriculture - Food, Feed & Beverages
3. Energy, Electronics & Engineering	- Energy & Electronics - Engineering & Machinery
4. Health, Wellness & Life Sciences	- Healthcare & Life Sciences - Ayurveda & Wellness Products - Natural Products & Cosmetics
5. Environment & Sustainability	- Environmental Conservation - Sustainable Solutions
6. Materials, Polymers & Coatings	- Materials & Minerals - Polymers, Paints & Coatings
7. ICT & Digital Innovation	- ICT - Finance & FinTech
8. Creative Industries: Design, Digital, and Future Economies	- Digital Creative Futures - Sustainable & Social Design - Performing Arts

### Special Recognition Awards

To highlight enterprise projects demonstrating exceptional contributions to sustainable development and social impact, two **Special Recognition Awards** will be presented:

- **Green Impact Award for Environmental Sustainability**

Celebrates research that foster environmental stewardship through innovative, sustainable practices.

- **Inclusive Growth Award for Socio-Economic Empowerment**  
Recognizes research that contribute meaningfully to inclusive development, community resilience, or economic equity.

Total number of awards:  $32 + 2 = 34$

### Certificates of Merit

**Certificates of Merit** aim to recognize notable scholarly and technological achievements arising from enterprise-driven industrial research. These are not part of a dedicated application category but will be granted at the evaluation panel's discretion based on submissions that include **indexed journal publications** or **patents**. Any application featuring these outcomes (as listed below) will be considered eligible for this recognition.

1. **Patented Innovations**

Awarded for research that has resulted in national or international patent grants during the evaluation period.

2. **Research Publications**

Awarded for research published during the evaluation period in **peer-reviewed journals** or presented at **recognized academic or industry conferences**.

### Evaluation Criteria

The SLTC Industry Awards are designed to highlight projects that combine innovation, practical relevance, and measurable impact in industry. To ensure fairness and transparency, applications will be evaluated through a **two-stage process**.

#### Stage 1 – Preliminary Review

At this stage, applications will be screened for clarity, completeness, and overall alignment with the purpose of the Awards. Reviewers will take into account the importance of the problem being addressed, the originality of the proposed solution, and the potential benefits to the sector. Only submissions that demonstrate clear promise will be shortlisted for the next round.

#### Stage 2 – Comprehensive Evaluation

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for a more in-depth assessment, which will most likely include **live interview sessions (either online or physical)**. Here, applicants will present their projects directly to the review panel and respond to questions. The evaluation will focus on aspects such as the soundness of the approach, the feasibility and applicability of outputs, and the potential for industry adoption and long-term scalability. Through this two-stage process, the Awards aim to recognize projects that not only deliver innovative ideas but also demonstrate the rigor, relevance, and potential to create meaningful change within their industries.

## General Eligibility Guideline

### 1. Eligibility of Projects

- Eligible projects must have been conducted between **30th June 2022 and 30th June 2025**.
- Projects may take the form of:
  - Fundamental research, which focuses on advancing theoretical knowledge and contributing to the broader understanding of a field.
  - Applied research, which addresses practical challenges, develops innovative processes, products, or techniques, and demonstrates measurable value for industry or society.
- Only **legally registered companies with an operational presence in Sri Lanka** are eligible to submit applications. This includes:
  - Fully Sri Lankan-owned companies.
  - Joint ventures or partnerships in which Sri Lankan shareholders hold at least 51% of total shares.
  - Subsidiaries of foreign companies that operate with independence in management and operations.
- Applications from individuals, government agencies, or academic institutions are **not eligible**.
- **Intellectual Property (IP) rights** of the project must be held by the applicant company. In cases where IP is owned by a parent company, partner organization, or collaborator, at least 51% of the IP rights, research, development, or design effort must be held by the applicant company.
- All R&D and design work must be conducted primarily in Sri Lanka, and the contribution by the applicant company should be substantial; minor outsourced services or routine work alone may not be considered sufficient.
- Projects may be at various stages, including:
  - Fully completed but not yet marketed.
  - Actively marketed but without current customers or installations.
  - Still in development, provided the key features, functionalities, and benefits can be clearly demonstrated.

## 2. Category-Specific Eligibility

- For the categories Excellence in In-House R&D Award, Outstanding Research Collaboration Award, and Outstanding Research Commercialization Award: Both SMEs and Large-Scale Companies are eligible to apply.
- For the category **Outstanding R&D in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**: Only **SMEs** are eligible to apply.

Classification into **SME** or **Large** will follow accepted Sri Lankan benchmarks, including turnover thresholds (SMEs: up to Rs. 500 million annual turnover; Large: above Rs. 500 million annual turnover).

- To be eligible for **Special Awards and Certificates of Merit**, applicants must first submit an entry to the relevant main category award.
- This ensures that recognition through special awards or certificates is grounded in a primary, substantive contribution and that only projects meeting the main eligibility criteria are considered for additional accolades.

## 3. Industry Sector Alignment:

- Applicants are **strongly advised to carefully review the Key Industry Sectors table** before submitting their application, in order to correctly select the award category that aligns with their project.
- While an applicant may operate in any industry, it is essential that the project is submitted under the **industry sector to which the work is most relevant**.
- If applicants are uncertain about the appropriate sector for their project, they may refer to the table further down in this document titled **“Key Industry Sectors and Subsectors Classification”**, which provides detailed guidance for accurate categorization.

## 4. Submission of Applications

- Applications must be prepared using the official template provided on the SLTC Research & Innovation Awards 2025 webpage.
- Each application must be completed, signed, and submitted directly by the applicant company.
- Applicants are required to ensure that **all relevant sections of the application form are filled in accurately and completely**, leaving no mandatory field blank.
- The completed application, along with all supporting evidence compiled in separate **PDF files**, must be submitted through the **Google Form link provided on the Awards webpage**.
- The deadline for submission of applications is **15th September 2025**, and submissions received

after this date will not be considered.

- Each company may submit **more than one application**, provided that each entry relates to a distinct project that was carried out during the defined eligibility period. A different primary contact from the company may fill each application form.

## 5. Supporting Documentation

Applicants should include the following supporting documents:

- A **valid Business Registration Certificate (BRC)**.
- A **company profile** detailing operations, capabilities, and areas of expertise.
- **Audited financial records for the last two financial years**, including Profit and Loss statements.
- Any additional documentation demonstrating certifications, awards, or achievements relevant to the submitted project.
- The fully completed and signed **application form**.

The Organizing Committee may request **additional documents during the review process** to verify the authenticity and eligibility of submitted projects.

## 6. Guidelines on Indexed Publications

- When submitting research publications, the indexing status must be verified using authoritative sources, such as the Clarivate Master Journal List, Scopus Sources List, or PubMed catalog.
- Recognized indexing services include: Science Citation Index (SCI), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Scopus, PubMed/MEDLINE, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI), and Ei Compendex.
- Any publication appearing in predatory journals or unverified outlets will not be considered.

## 7. Evaluation Process

- The evaluation of applications will be conducted through a **two-stage process**.
  - **Stage One:** Applications and supporting documents will be reviewed to shortlist projects for further consideration.
  - **Stage Two:** Shortlisted applicants may be invited to participate in a **live presentation or interview session**, where they will present their project to the Panel of Judges.
- During the evaluation, judges will consider aspects such as relevance, methodological rigor, originality, innovation, feasibility, and overall impact.

- The assessment process will be conducted with the highest standards of impartiality, confidentiality, and fairness.
- The decision of the Panel of Judges is **final**, and awards may be withheld if no submission meets the required standards.

## 8. Confidentiality of Submissions

- Applicants are strongly advised not to include highly confidential or commercially sensitive information in their submissions.
- This measure is intended to **protect the value of applicants' work** and ensure a smooth evaluation process without unnecessary exposure of sensitive information.
- Applicants retain full ownership of their intellectual property. However, SLTC reserves the right to use non-confidential details of submissions for promotional and reporting purposes related to the Awards.

## 9. Post-Award Publication and Promotion

- Award winners may be requested to provide a short article, photographs, or a brief video clip about their research project.
- All materials will be prepared under the guidance of the Organizing Committee of the SLTC Research & Innovation Awards 2025 and may be used for internal and external publication purposes, including promotion through SLTC channels and media.

## 10. Declaration

All applicants must complete a declaration confirming that:

- The information provided in the application is **true, accurate, and complete** to the best of their knowledge.
- The applicant company will provide an **authorized e-signature** as part of the submission.
- Any false or misleading information, or any attempt to influence judges, may result in disqualification or withdrawal of any awarded recognition.

## Description of Award Categories

### 1. Excellence in In-House R&D Award

Recognizes exceptional research and innovation conducted entirely within a company's own teams, laboratories, or facilities, demonstrating internal expertise, technical rigor, and the ability to generate impactful solutions that advance industry practices. Eligible projects must have been carried out **between 30th June 2022 and 30th June 2025**. If executed by a team, all members shall preferably be employees of the same company. **Major research activities must not be outsourced**, and planning, design, and execution of the research work should be fully undertaken under the applicant company. Winners will receive an award with a certificate.

### 2. Outstanding Research Collaboration Award

Honors R&D projects carried out in collaboration between companies and academic or research institutions, emphasizing synergistic efforts that drive innovation, knowledge exchange, and mutually beneficial outcomes for both industry and academia. Eligible projects must have been undertaken between **30th June 2022 and 30th June 2025**. **Applicants must clearly state all collaborating entities involved in the project in the application form**, including the roles and contributions of each partner. Intellectual property (IP) ownership and related rights must be declared, and all collaborators must provide consent confirming the submitted project and associated IP arrangements. Winners will receive an award with a certificate.

### 3. Outstanding Research Commercialization Award

Acknowledges research projects successfully transformed into commercially viable products, technologies, or services, demonstrating practical impact, market relevance, and contribution to business growth and industry competitiveness. Eligible projects must have been completed and commercialized between 30th June 2022 and 30th June 2025. **The commercialization entity may be the same as the research entity or a separate entity**, but IP ownership rules must be observed, with applicants providing declarations on the ownership of intellectual property related to the commercialized project. Winners will receive an award with a certificate.

### 4. Outstanding R&D in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Celebrates innovative research initiatives led by SMEs, emphasizing agility, resourcefulness, and tangible contributions to industrial development. Eligible SMEs are defined as companies with a **total turnover of up to LKR 500 million as of the most recent financial year**. Projects must have been carried out between 30th June 2022 and 30th June 2025, with research and development efforts largely undertaken within the applicant company. This award recognizes practical problem-solving, innovation, and the potential for broader sectoral impact. Winners will receive an award with a certificate.



## 5. Green Impact Award for Environmental Sustainability

Recognizes research projects that demonstrate exceptional contributions to environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, and eco-innovation. Eligible projects must have been carried out between 30th June 2022 and 30th June 2025. Applicants should clearly articulate the environmental impact of their research, including measurable improvements in energy efficiency, waste reduction, carbon footprint mitigation, or adoption of sustainable practices. **To be eligible for this special award, applicants must first apply for one of the main industry award categories (1-4 above).** Both SMEs and large scale companies are eligible to receive the award without restriction. Winners will receive an award with a certificate.

## 6. Inclusive Growth Award for Socio-Economic Empowerment

Honors research initiatives that contribute meaningfully to social inclusion, community resilience, and equitable economic development. Eligible projects must have been undertaken between 30th June 2022 and 30th June 2025. Applicants should demonstrate how their research addresses societal challenges, empowers underserved communities, or creates opportunities for inclusive growth. **To be eligible for this special award, applicants must first apply for one of the main industry award categories (1-4 above).** Both SMEs and large scale companies are eligible to receive the award without restriction. Winners will receive an award with a certificate.

### Key Industry Sectors and Sub Sector Classification

Industry Sector	Key Subsectors
1. Textile & Apparel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textile Manufacturing Innovations</li> <li>• Apparel Design and Development</li> <li>• Sustainable Textile Processes</li> <li>• Smart and Functional Fabrics</li> <li>• Supply Chain and Logistics in Apparel</li> <li>• Textile Machinery and Automation</li> </ul>
2. Agriculture & Food Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop and Livestock Production Technologies</li> <li>• Food Processing and Preservation</li> <li>• Feed and Beverage Innovation</li> <li>• Agricultural Machinery and Equipment</li> <li>• Precision Agriculture and Digital Farming</li> <li>• Sustainable Agricultural Practices</li> </ul>
3. Energy, Electronics & Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable Energy Technologies</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency Solutions</li> <li>• Electrical and Electronic Device Innovation</li> <li>• Engineering Design and Automation</li> <li>• Advanced Machinery and Industrial Equipment</li> <li>• Smart Grid and Energy Storage Solutions</li> </ul>

4. Health, Wellness & Life Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthcare Innovations and Medical Devices</li><li>• Ayurveda and Traditional Wellness Products</li><li>• Natural Products and Cosmetic Innovations</li><li>• Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals</li><li>• Digital Health and Telemedicine</li><li>• Health and Wellness Service Models</li></ul>
5. Environment & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Conservation Technologies</li><li>• Sustainable Resource Management</li><li>• Pollution Control and Waste Management</li><li>• Green Building and Energy Solutions</li><li>• Climate Change Mitigation Innovations</li><li>• Circular Economy and Recycling Technologies</li></ul>
6. Materials, Polymers & Coatings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advanced Materials and Composites</li><li>• Polymers and Plastics Innovations</li><li>• Paints, Inks, and Coating Technologies</li><li>• Mineral and Metal Processing</li><li>• Nanomaterials and Functional Materials</li><li>• Sustainable and Bio-based Materials</li></ul>
7. ICT & Digital Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information and Communication Technologies</li><li>• FinTech Solutions and Innovations</li><li>• Cybersecurity and Data Protection</li><li>• Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Applications</li><li>• Software Development and Platforms</li><li>• Digital Infrastructure and Cloud Technologies</li></ul>
8. Creative Industries: Design, Digital, and Future Economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Creative Futures (e.g., animation, VR/AR)</li><li>• Sustainable and Social Design Innovations</li><li>• Performing Arts and Cultural Technology</li><li>• Media and Entertainment Technology</li><li>• Digital Content Creation and Distribution</li><li>• Design for Future Economies (e.g., smart cities, IoT)</li></ul>