



2026 Awards Program

The 2026 International Energy Summit (IES), being held in New Orleans, LA will feature an Awards Celebration on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 where esteemed professionals & organizations will be recognized for their outstanding achievements in the energy industry. The objective of the annual AIEN Awards is to celebrate certain impactful industry achievements, underpinned by international energy negotiations and transactions that promote and embody the principles of AIEN in the energy industry.

Award Categories

Deal of the Year: This award recognizes an outstanding and noteworthy M&A transaction, occurring between January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, and having been announced or made public.

Judging Criteria

- Complexity
- Financial Impact
- Potential Impact on the Industry
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Scope
- Strategic Vision

Venture of the Year: This award recognizes a new and significant commercial partnership, joint venture, arrangement or initiative (other than an M&A deal), occurring between January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, and having been announced or made public.

Judging Criteria

- Complexity
- Financial Impact
- Potential Impact on the Industry
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Scope
- Strategic Vision

Discovery of the Year: This award will be given to a company who has made a highly significant oil or gas discovery, or an addition to discovered resources through exploration and appraisal activities, occurring between January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, and having been announced or made public.

Judging Criteria

- Challenges
- Potential impact on the industry
- Leadership
- Scope
- Strategic Vision

Energy Transition Initiative of the Year: This award recognizes those leading the way in reducing carbon impacts through technology and innovation or creating targets to manage performance and aligning with global energy transition commitments through programs launched between January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Judging Criteria

- Innovation & Technology being used
- Potential Impact on the Industry
- Leadership
- Scope
- Strategic Vision

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Campaign of the Year: This award recognizes organizations that have demonstrated positive influence on surrounding communities, promote teamwork toward sustainable, long-term impacts, and encourage active employee participation beyond financial contributions through programs launched between January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Judging Criteria

- Benefits to Community
- Challenges
- Communications Program
- Employee Participation
- Scope

Award Methodology

In the interest of transparency, AIEN's award methodology is detailed below.

1. The AIEN "call for award nominations" will take place during an 8-week period. The award nominations period will open on January 13, 2026 and close on March 13, 2026. AIEN members will receive email notifications when the call for award nominations open, as well as reminders prior to the deadline. The call for award nominations will also be posted on the 2026 IES website.
2. Only AIEN members in good standing are eligible to make nominations. Members may nominate others or self-nominate. Nominees do not need to be AIEN members to qualify.

3. Nominating members will be asked to specify:
 - a. the Deal, Discovery, Venture, Energy Transition Initiative or CSR Campaign that they are nominating;
 - b. the reason(s) why they believe it should win the award (200 words max);
 - c. any individuals whose contributions they believe should be specifically recognized in conjunction with the award and;
 - d. a link to the official press release.

Any information included in the nomination should be in the public domain.

4. AIEN staff will compile all nominations and submit them to the Awards Committee.
5. The Awards Committee will review each nomination submission independently and decide if it:
 - a. Meets the criteria of the award category; and
 - b. Promotes or demonstrates the principles of AIEN.

Each and every nomination will be carefully considered by the Awards Committee, consisting of AIEN members from across its regional chapters. The committee will discuss the candidates and decide on the top three finalists of each category. Once finalists have been decided, the committee will select each category winner through a committee vote. The Awards Committee reserves the right to forgo giving an award in any particular year.

Timeline

January 13, 2026 – Call for award nominations open

March 13, 2026 – Call for award nominations close

March 20, 2026 – Nominations are sorted and forwarded to Awards Committee

March 31, 2026 – Finalists are announced

April 27, 2026 – Award winners are announced