



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Soundings Trade Only Group opens Submissions for the 2026 EPIC Awards, the Marine Industry's Only Company-Wide Innovation Honor

Top 10 Most EPIC Companies and category winners to be unveiled on stage at the MIX Event at IBEX 2026

Chattanooga, TN, June 1, 2026 — The Soundings Trade Only Group today opened submissions for the 2026 EPIC Awards, the only marine industry awards program that recognizes the work of entire companies rather than individual products or people. Marine businesses of every size and segment are invited to enter by August 21, 2026.

The EPIC Awards have become the business-to-business marine industry's most credible and prestigious company innovation honor. Entries are reviewed by a panel of senior trade media editors and leaders, and recently retired C-suite or senior level executives, a judging body that combines decades of industry perspective with first-hand leadership experience across the marine sector.

"Real innovation isn't one breakthrough product or one bold leader. It's a million small decisions a company makes. Risks taken, ideas tested, teamwork, and paths chosen that

add up to growth for the business and the potential to reshape the industry. For nine years, the EPIC Awards, formerly the Most Innovative Marine Company Awards, have honored that work,” said Michele Goldsmith, vice president and general manager of the Soundings Trade Only Group.

What the EPIC Awards recognize

Submissions are evaluated against four equally weighted criteria: the strength of the company's initiatives, their impact on the company, their impact on the industry, and their longevity. Eligible entries cover initiatives implemented between August 16, 2025, and the submission deadline of August 21, 2026.

Companies are encouraged to go beyond the standard application fields when telling their story. Past entrants have submitted short films, narrated presentations, photo essays, customer letters, and original artwork to bring their company's work to life for the judges.

How companies are honored

Every entry is automatically considered for the Top 10 Most EPIC Companies list. On top of that, individual category awards will be presented in seven categories: Development & Technology; Manufacturing & Supply Chain; Sustainability; Workforce & Culture; Altruism & Social Impact; Start-Ups; and Training.

Category winners receive a plaque, a glass top honor award is presented to the highest-scoring company, and all winners may display the EPIC winners’ symbol, a credibility mark that may be used in marketing materials. Winners are presented on stage at the finish of the MIX (Marine Ideas Exchange) Event at the IBEX Marine Trade Show, in front of the industry executives, peers, and media. Winner profiles are included in an editorial feature in the November 2026 issue of *Soundings Trade Only*.

How to enter

Companies may submit entries at www.tradeonlytoday.com/epic-awards. The deadline is 11:59 p.m. ET on August 21, 2026.

About the Soundings Trade Only Group

The Soundings Trade Only Group is a marine business-to-business information multimedia brand. It includes monthly print publication, digital entities including e-newsletter, web, and social media sites, and hosts a range of in-person and virtual events for the marine industry. *Soundings Trade Only* offers the latest business news, and information about products, trends, statistics, management, and marketing insights, and more to the marine industry. It is owned by Firecrown Media, the leader in affluent enthusiast media with

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