Barcelona Cybersecurity Congress

Cybersecurity Leadership Awards 2026

Terms and Conditions

Entering the competition implies full acceptance of its rules

Content

1. Purpose and Vision

The **Cyber Leadership Awards**, organized by the Barcelona Cybersecurity Congress, celebrate exceptional cybersecurity executives and leaders from both the public and private sectors. These awards honour individuals and projects that demonstrate vision, innovation, and measurable impact in strengthening digital trust, resilience, and security worldwide.

By recognizing excellence across large enterprises, SMEs, public institutions, and critical infrastructure operators, the awards highlight the diverse strategic approaches that are shaping and advancing the global cybersecurity community.

2. Who can participate?

The Cyber Leadership Awards recognize cybersecurity leaders who have successfully implemented or are leading transformative initiatives and improvements within their organizations.

- CISOs, senior security executives, or equivalent roles responsible for defining and overseeing cybersecurity strategy in public or private organizations worldwide.
- Open to organizations of all sizes - including enterprises, SMEs, government bodies, academic institutions and non-profit organizations.
- Nominees must have held a relevant leadership position for at least 12 months prior to nomination.
- Nominations can be submitted by the individuals themselves or by the organizations they represent. Submissions from partners or vendors are not permitted.
- Achievements submitted must have occurred between **January 2024 and May 2026**.

3. Timeline

Opening: The application form will open on **12th May 2026.**

Submission: Awards must be submitted by **14th September 2026**.

Notification: All the participants will be notified of their acceptance (3 nominees per category) or rejection by **22nd September 2026.**

Nominees' publication: All 3 nominees per category will be published on the official website at the beginning of October 2026.

Award Winners: Announced during the Cybersecurity Leadership Awards Ceremony, **4th November** at the main Auditorium (Fira Barcelona Gran Via venue, hall 2.1).

4. Award Categories

With these awards, the Barcelona Cybersecurity Congress aims to recognize and celebrate digital leaders and IT teams who are leveraging technology in innovative ways, driving measurable and tangible impact on business performance. These categories are designed to spotlight the most critical areas of innovation in cybersecurity and digital transformation.

Category	Description
Next-Generation Cyber Defense & Innovation Award	Awarding an **end-user project or initiative** who has, or it is redefining digital defense through groundbreaking technologies, novel architectures, and forward-looking approaches that address emerging and future cyber threats. This category evaluates a specific initiative; however, submissions must be made by the **cybersecurity manager** who was or is directly responsible for leading and implementing the initiative.
Operational Technology (OT) Security Innovation Award	Awarding an **end-user organization** who has, or it is delivering innovative security solutions that protect industrial systems and critical infrastructure through intelligent, resilient, and future-ready OT security strategies. This category evaluates a specific initiative; however, submissions must be made by the **cybersecurity manager** who was or is directly responsible for leading and implementing the innovation.
Cyber Resilience & Incident Response Award	Awarding an **end-user organization** that exhibited excellence across preparedness, detection, response, and recovery capabilities, demonstrating superior agility, coordination, and effectiveness in cyber incident management. This category evaluates a specific organization; however, submissions must be made by the **cybersecurity manager** who had direct responsibility for leading and implementing the security measures.
Third-Party & Software Supply Chain Security Award	Awarding an **end-user organization initiative** that strengthen the security of vendors, partners, and software ecosystems, enhancing transparency, trust, and resilience across the entire digital supply chain. This category evaluates a specific initiative; however, submissions must be made by the **cybersecurity manager** who was directly responsible for leading and implementing the initiatives.
Data Privacy, Ethics & Digital Trust Award	Awarding an **end-user organization** that advance data protection, ethical technology use, and regulatory compliance while building lasting digital trust with customers and partners.

	This category evaluates a specific organization; however, submissions must be made by the **data protection manager** who had direct responsibility for leading and implementing the measures.
Workforce Development & Cyber Culture Award	Awarding an **end-user organization** who had or has impactful programs and leadership initiatives that develop cybersecurity talent, foster inclusive and resilient cultures, and elevate security awareness across organizations. This category evaluates a specific organization; however, submissions must be made by the **cybersecurity manager** who had direct responsibility for leading and implementing the measures.
Public Sector Cybersecurity Initiative Award	Awarding a **public administration** who had or has a transformative program that safeguard citizens, protect national and municipal infrastructure, and drive innovation in government cybersecurity. This category evaluates a specific public organization; however, submissions must be made by the **cybersecurity manager** who had direct responsibility for leading and implementing the measures.
Women in Cybersecurity Leadership Award	Awarding a **women leader** who has or is shaping the future of cybersecurity through measurable impact, thought leadership, mentorship, and a sustained commitment to empowering the next generation. This category recognizes leadership, career achievements, and professional standing, focusing on the individual, their role, and their sustained impact.
Global CISO of the Year Award	Awarding an exceptional **Chief Information Security Officer** whose visionary leadership, strategic influence, and ability to inspire high-performing teams have driven enterprise-wide cyber resilience and transformation. This category recognizes leadership, career achievements, and professional standing, focusing on the individual, their role, and their sustained impact.
Lifetime Achievement in Cybersecurity Leadership Award	Awarding a **distinguished cybersecurity pioneer** whose career-long contributions have profoundly influenced, advanced, and defined the global cybersecurity landscape. This category recognizes leadership, career achievements, and professional standing, focusing on the individual, their role, and their sustained impact.

5. Evaluation Criteria

All categories are scored on a **100-point scale**, weighted across key dimensions relevant to the category. Jury members will provide numeric score (0-100) in each category according to the following criteria.

Criteria	Weight	Description
Strategic Vision & Innovation	30 pts	Demonstrated evidence of forward-thinking strategy and/or a transformative approach that addresses a significant cybersecurity challenge. This may include disruptive initiatives such as AI-driven defense, Zero Trust architecture implementation, automation-led security transformation, or other innovative frameworks that meaningfully advance the security posture of the organization.
Measurable impact	30 pts	Clear, quantifiable outcomes supported by relevant KPIs and performance metrics. Examples include reductions in Mean Time to Detect (MTTD) and Mean Time to Respond (MTTR), improved threat containment, cost efficiencies through automation, enhanced resilience, or successful regulatory/compliance audit achievements. Submissions must demonstrate tangible business and security value.
Leadership & Culture	20 pts	Evidence of strong cybersecurity leadership that builds resilient, high-performing teams and fosters a culture of accountability, collaboration, and continuous improvement. Includes effective engagement with executive leadership, boards, and non-technical stakeholders, as well as demonstrated commitment to inclusive and organization-wide security awareness.
Execution & Governance Excellence	20 pts	Quality and consistency of implementation, operational discipline, and governance oversight. This includes risk management practices, policy alignment, control effectiveness, compliance maturity, and sustainable long-term security operations. Demonstrated ability to translate strategy into scalable, well-governed execution will be highly valued.

6. Selection & Evaluation Process

The technical office of the organization will conduct a first evaluation to check whether the proposals comply with the requirements and selection criteria defined which could be subject to additional request of information and clarification. The jury will then evaluate the proposals of each category.

The evaluation is conducted by an international jury composed of cybersecurity experts, academics, and policymakers with recognized professional credibility and diverse sector representation.

Final nominees from all categories will be informed by **22nd September 2026.** At this stage all finalists from each category will be required to provide the organizers with graphic material to be determined, which will be mandatory condition, to remain finalist, for the promotion of the award.

The Ceremony will be held during the Barcelona Cybersecurity Congress on **4th November 2026**, where the winners will be announced. For the ceremony's organization purposes, all finalist candidates must confirm their attendance at the Award Ceremony. All finalists in each category are required to attend the Ceremony in person in Barcelona or designate an official representative to attend on their behalf. The presence of the finalists at the Award Ceremony is a mandatory condition to be considered as finalist. If any finalist candidate or a designated representative is unable to attend the ceremony, the organization reserves the right to select another candidate who fulfils all requirements to be a finalist.

7. Jury

The awards jury is composed of digital leaders and experts across various areas of cybersecurity, who are not affiliated with the technology industry providers (software and hardware vendors, solution integrators, or IT talent providers). Jury members serve voluntarily and independently. Jury members serve voluntarily and independently.

The role of the jury members is essential to the success of our awards, as they are responsible for reviewing and evaluating the submitted entries. Their expertise and judgment are critical in identifying the finalists and, ultimately, the winners in each category.

Jury members are expected to:

- Maintain the confidentiality of information provided by participants and final decisions.
- Evaluate entries in an impartial and objective manner. They may not evaluate categories in which they, their teams, or their company have submitted an entry.

You can view the jury members on the awards website XXXX.

8. Award Prizes

The winners will be awarded with the following prizes. All benefits are applicable to the 2027 edition of the Barcelona Cybersecurity Congress-

The winners of the 2026 awards will, during the 2027 edition of the Barcelona Cybersecurity Congress, have the right to:

- 1 speaking slot in the Barcelona Cybersecurity Congress, defined by the organization.
- 5 Full Congress Passes (three-day full pass to the expo and congress sessions).
- Publicity of the award via various communication media.

9. Presentation of Proposals

- To enter in the running Cyber Leadership Awards, please fill in the form available online
- Proposals must be submitted electronically via our website and are to conform to the terms and conditions here included.
- The form and all complementary information will have to be filled out entirely in **English.**
- No proposals in any other languages will be accepted.
- The organization reserves the right to ask for any clarification or additional information about the submitted entries.
- No additional documents to the web form will be accepted, unless requested by the organization

10. Restrictions & Limitations

- Each nominee may be submitted in a maximum of 2 categories.
- Jury members and BCC organizers are not eligible for nomination.
- All deliberations are confidential, and the jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal.
- Individual scores remain confidential and are not publicly disclosed. However, the jury or organizing committee may share aggregated or anonymized feedback to support transparency and continuous improvement.
- **Any attempt to improperly influence jury members will result in disqualification.**

11. Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights

The Participant authorizes FIRA DE BARCELONA to record and photograph the speech he/she performs, being such recording able to be reproduced, as part of the materials of the general conference. The Participant will in every case maintain the intellectual property rights related to his/her own work.

Moreover, the Participant grants FIRA DE BARCELONA the right to reproduce copies of the his/her presentation (for example, PowerPoint slides or supporting documents) in paper and/or electronically, allowing the referred materials to be published in the media, magazines, broadcast streamed on the Event's website, or posted on web pages related to the theme of the Event, for a minimum period of one (1) year since the date of publication.

Likewise, the Participant represents and warrants to FIRA DE BARCELONA that the papers/abstract and all materials used in the presentation are original and authentic, and that such materials do not infringe any intellectual property rights or other rights of third parties. The Participant shall be solely responsible for any claims or actions brought against FIRA DE BARCELONA arising from a breach of this commitment.

12. Data Protection

Due to the sensitive nature of the information supplied, the award organizer and the members of the judging panel and technical committee guarantee to keep the identity of participants and the content of their projects confidential outside of the sphere of the Cyber Leadership Awards. This also includes any information about its current state of use or development.

Once the proposal has been selected as a nominee, the organizers may make public any details considered as public (submission title, organization in charge, person in charge, websites, description, organization logo, sent images or pictures, purpose and category).

Controller: FIRA INTERNACIONAL DE BARCELONA, Tax Code (CIF) Q -0873006-A, and registered address Av. Reina Maria Cristina, s/n, 08004 Barcelona. Purpose: To process your data in relation to your participation in the BARCELONA CYBERSECURITY CONGRESS CALL FOR CONTENT 2026. Lawful basis: Legitimate interest. Recipients: Your data is not transferred to third parties except for legal obligation. Your rights: the right to access, rectify, and erase your personal data, as well as the rights of data portability and restriction of processing that are set forth in the additional information. Additional information: You can view the additional detailed information on Data Protection on our website www.firabarcelona.com "Privacy Policy".

13. Contact

Technical Office

For any doubt, contact us at: bcc.congress@firabarcelona.com

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