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Most Innovative Company Award

Purpose

Awarded to the company that best demonstrates innovation through their product or service. Companies must demonstrate their ability to apply innovative thinking to find niches in the market, create an authentic product or service, overcome obstacles, and run a successful venture through hard work and dedication.

Minimum Criteria to Apply

- The Company's Business Plan must have been previously submitted
- Shareholders' Report must be submitted by deadline (April 17, 2020)
- Fixed Costs and JA Taxes (if applicable) must be paid
- 80% Attendance Rate
- Companies selected as finalists will have their financials audited and any discrepancies may affect team standings

Application Requirements

- One Page Company Overview (3000 characters) – included in application form
- Application Form
- Optional video showcasing your team's product and/or production process
- Overview and answers must be clear, concise and easy to read

How to Apply

- Complete the application form below. This is a fillable form. Please download the form and type your responses using a computer, do not print and handwrite your submission. Your President will sign this form at the bottom.
- After completing the company sections of the form, have one of your advisors complete the advisor section on the same form. They will read your answers to ensure they are complete and accurate and then will sign off on your application.
- After your advisor has signed off on your Company Overview and Application Form, submit both documents in **PDF** format at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPAwards2020> no later than **Friday, April 3rd, 2020 by 11:59pm**. An application without all required sections completed will not be considered. **No email applications will be accepted.**

Application Tip: Make sure you start writing your application well in advance of the deadline to account for editing, reviewing, advisor responses and any unforeseen circumstances. Try not to submit your answers last minute!

Award Interviews

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed by a panel of judges chosen by JA Central Ontario. Interviews will be held at the offices of Dentons LLP (Downtown Toronto) between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020**. Specific instructions will be sent to all finalists. To be eligible for an award, students **MUST** attend Interview Night in person. No phone/video interviews will be permitted.

- The award winner will be selected on the basis of their combined written responses and interview scores.
- The group award winners will be announced at ventureON on Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 at the Toronto Reference Library (Bram & Bluma Appel Salon).

Most Innovative Company Award – Application Form

This is a fillable form. Please type your responses using a computer, do not print and handwrite your submission. These questions are for short answers only; don't use more space than provided in the form.

JA Company:

President Name:

1. Company Overview - (Maximum 3000 Characters)

In the company overview, please include:

- Product/Service Description
- The vision/mission and how it plays a role in the operations of your business
- How your product/service solves a problem/need
- Additional information you wish to share

2. Company Responses

In one or two paragraphs, answer the following questions. Please type your responses. Ensure you are providing concrete examples when answering questions.

Please discuss the various ways in which your company displayed innovation and forward thinking concerning its product(s) or service. Describe the unique features/benefits of your product/service that differentiates it from other companies. (1500 characters max with spaces)

How did you foster innovation within your company during your product selection process? Briefly outline the innovative entrepreneurial strategies used by your company. (1500 characters max with spaces)

Please describe how your innovative product/service affected the overall team and business by including any challenges your team faced and how you overcame those challenges. (1500 characters max with spaces)

3. Optional Video

Submit an optional video showcasing your product/service and/or production process.

Please note the following requirements if you are submitting the video:

- Maximum 30 seconds
- Do not include any audio (music accepted, however, not required)
- Must be in mp4 format – you must upload the video into a file sharing site and share the link to the video when prompted in the online submission form

****Videos that do not adhere to the above requirements will not be passed onto judges***

4. Advisor Review

I have read and understand the application requirements of Most Innovative Company Award. I agree to comply with these requirements and with any further requirements established by JA Central Ontario.

To the best of my knowledge, all information contained in the company overview and application form is complete and accurate.

Date:

Advisor Name:

Advisor Signature:

Agreement

I have read and understand the application requirements of Most Innovative Company Award. I agree to comply with these requirements and with any further requirements established by JA Central Ontario.

To the best of my knowledge, all information contained in my company's application form is complete and accurate. If selected as an award finalist, I agree to the use of my name and photograph for promotional purposes.

Date:

President's Name:

President's Signature:

Most Innovative Company Award – Preliminary Judging Rubric

	CRITERIA	SCORE	COMMENTS
COMPANY OVERVIEW	Product/Service fills a need and the need was clear.	/10	
	Product/Service is new to the market or is an existing product/service with added value.	/10	
QUESTION RESPONSES	Product/Service has differentiated features/benefits.		
	Team demonstrates collaborative thinking and strong teamwork skills.	/10	
	Team uses creative activities or processes to aide in the product selection and development of their company.		
	Team clearly identifies challenges and uses specific examples of creative and innovative solutions to overcome these challenges.	/10	
	TOTAL	/40	