



champI4.0ns AWARD 2026

Data-driven innovation in production

– champI4.0ns wanted!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Your data-driven approach (use case) deserves the spotlight – at the champI4.0ns AWARD 2026! Show how your company innovatively uses data and have your approach evaluated by an expert jury. The best approaches will be presented and honored at the champI4.0ns closing event in April 2026.

Why participate?

The champI4.0ns AWARD 2024 impressively demonstrated how data-driven innovations can improve processes in the manufacturing industry and enable societal progress.

Nine visionary pioneers presented their approaches at the Global Data Spaces Connect in Vienna – from AI-powered rubber manufacturing to Causal AI in electronics production, the participants showed how intelligent data use can boost efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness – from the very first process step to the finished product.

In 2026, the champI4.0ns AWARD enters its next round, once again seeking forward-looking, data-driven approaches for the industry of tomorrow.

The **champI4.0ns AWARD 2026** will once again honor outstanding approaches that demonstrate how the manufacturing industry can benefit from data usage.

Take this opportunity to showcase your innovations to a wide audience and connect with other pioneers in the field of data-driven solutions.

Whether your approach is still in the development phase or already celebrating market success – we want to hear your success story!

What to submit?

- We are looking for approaches (use cases) from companies of all sizes and industries that demonstrate creative, effective, and sustainable data usage in production.
- From initial concept to full deployment — approaches can be submitted regardless of the implementation phase
- Approaches can be limited to a single company or involve multiple companies.

What's in it for you?

- Announcement and presentation of the highest-rated approaches (use cases)
 - as part of a press release for the champI4.0ns closing event
 - on the champI4.0ns-Website (<https://www.champi40ns.eu/>)
 - through social media coverage on the champI4.0ns LinkedIn channels (www.linkedin.com/company/champi4-0ns/) and selected project partners
- Expert feedback on submitted approaches
 - from the independent expert jury
 - from project partners with relevant expertise
- Invitation to professional exchange with champI4.0ns project partners to explore possibilities for further development of your approach
- Presentation of the award before an international audience at the champI4.0ns closing event in Karlsruhe

What will be evaluated?

- **Degree of Innovation:** How novel and original is the submitted approach (use case)?
- **Strategic Fit:** How well does the submitted approach align with the strategic goals and resources of the submitting company or its customers? The focus should be on the user of the approach in the manufacturing industry.
- **Impact:** What effects does the implementation of the approach have or is expected to have on the submitting company, its customers, and their environment? Again, the focus should be on the user of the approach in the manufacturing industry.
- **Degree of Implementation:** How advanced is the implementation of the approach, and how realistic does its execution appear?
- **Presentation:** How convincing is the presentation of the submitted approach?

How does it work?

Submitted approaches (use cases) will be evaluated in a two-stage process: a pre-selection by the organizing team (Stage 1) followed by an assessment by an independent expert jury (Stage 2).

Stage 1:

- Submit the completed questionnaire **by July 31, 2025**, either via the online form or as a PDF by email to award@champi40ns.eu.
- The organizing team will review the submissions and decide on acceptance or rejection.
- You will be notified whether your submission has been accepted. If accepted, you will be invited to submit a short video clip highlighting the core of your approach and what makes it stand out.

Stage 2:

- Submit the video clip **by December 15, 2025** via email to award@champi40ns.eu.
- The independent expert jury will evaluate the submission based on the video and the completed questionnaire.
- The winning companies will be announced and awarded during the **champl4.0ns closing event**.

Important notes


- Submissions must be received within the submission deadlines.
- Entries may be submitted in German or English.
- Only complete submissions will be evaluated by the organizing team and the jury.
- Legal recourse is excluded.

Who's behind it?

The **champl4.0ns AWARD 2026** is presented as part of the bilateral flagship project champl4.0ns – in cooperation with the [Plattform Industrie 4.0](#) (Austria) and [Labs Network Industrie 4.0](#) (Germany).

The project is jointly funded by the **Austrian Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI)** and the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)** (FFG funding number 891793). Over a four-year period, with a total volume of EUR 8,613,396 (including EUR 5,467,935 in funding), a consortium of 18 partners is working on sustainable innovation at the intersection of the wood industry and data science. The project aims to make the added value of intelligent and sovereign data usage in production tangible — both in the wood industry and beyond.

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You can find more information about the competition at: <https://www.champi40ns.eu/en/champi4-0ns-award-2026/>