

TAKING CLOUD COMPUTING TO CLOUD NINE





Welcome to the Stratus Awards!

Cloud technology has never been more powerful—or more human.

From AI-fueled automation and agentic systems to edge intelligence and the massive infrastructure buildout powering it all, the cloud isn't just running business—it's shaping how we live, connect, and adapt.

But what often gets missed in the buzz is the 🙌 people making it all work. The developers, architects, product managers, security leads, and unsung engineers who quietly build the scaffolding for progress.

That's why this year, in addition to recognizing top solutions and providers, we're putting a brighter spotlight on **individual excellence**.

Our **Specialty Awards**—including categories like Cloud Humanitarian of the Year, Invisible MVP, and Cultural Architect—celebrate those going beyond the brief. People solving problems, leading with values, and making cloud careers more meaningful.

We're also seeing some big shifts in cloud:

- AI is rewriting the stack
- Infrastructure is the story
- Hybrid is standard
- Cost is king

The Stratus Awards celebrate the people and platforms shaping this new era. Whether you're nominating a product, a provider, or a teammate doing exceptional work—we're ready to see it.

We can't wait to review your nomination and celebrate your success.



Nominations Due
August 7, 2026



Winners Notified
September 9, 2026



Winners Announced
September 22, 2026



Nomination Fee
\$999



Russ Fordyce
Managing Director
Business Intelligence Group

AWARD TYPE

Awards will be given out for superior performances in the past 12 months. Nominees will select a single award type, organization size and award category for each nomination.



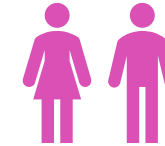
Organization

Awarded to an organization whose culture, products and people are consistently delivering innovative solutions for their community and customers.



Product

Awarded to a single product or product line launched or updated in the last 12 months whose innovative approach or product has caused market or customer disruption.



People

Awarded to an **individuals and teams (up to 7)** whose skills, management styles or performance have led to the delivery of innovative solutions for a given community.

Small Business

1-100 employees

Medium Business

101-999 employees

Large Business

+1000 employees

Global Enterprise

+1000 employees
in 2+ countries

AWARD CATEGORIES

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By Solution

- AI Data Center Infrastructure (power, cooling, density)
- Agentic AI/Autonomous Cloud Operations
- AI Infrastructure/Machine Learning Ops
- Analytics
- Backup/Disaster Recovery/Resilience
- Cloud Marketplace Innovator
- Cloud Networking & Interconnect
- Collaboration
- Colocation & Data Center Services
- Confidential Computing
- Consultant/Integrator/Migrator/Accelerator
- Container as a Service/Kubernetes
- Database / Data Platform
- Data Hygiene
- DevOps/CloudOps Innovation
- Edge Computing
- FinOps/Cloud Cost Optimization
- Infrastructure as a Service
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Hybrid Cloud/AI Solutions/Applications
- Managed Service Provider
- Observability/Monitoring
- Onboarding and Support
- Platform as a Service
- Private Cloud Provider
- Public Cloud Provider
- Security
- Serverless Hybrid Cloud
- Software as a Service
- Storage Technology
- Telemedicine



By Industry

- Advertising, Marketing, & Public Relations
- Aerospace
- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Banking and Financial services
- Broadcasting
- Business services
- Chemical
- Computer
- Construction
- Defense
- Education
- Energy
- Entertainment and Media
- Food
- Government
- Health
- Hospitality
- Insurance
- Internet and Technology
- Law
- Manufacturing
- Mass media
- Music
- News media
- Non-profit
- Petroleum
- Pharmaceutical
- Publishing
- Real Estate
- Software
- Telecommunications
- Utility



By Specialty

- Cloud for Good Impact Award
- Sustainability in the Cloud Award
- Cloud Humanitarian of the Year
- Invisible MVP
- Cloud Mentor Award
- Cultural Architect Award



For each nomination you need:
1) an award type
2) your organization size
3) one award category

There is a glossary at the end of this guide!

SOLUTION DEFINITIONS

AI Data Center Infrastructure Powers high-density AI workloads through advances in liquid/immersion cooling, HVDC power, or modular facility design.

Agentic AI/Autonomous Cloud Operations Runs autonomous AI agents in production or self-manages cloud operations with minimal human intervention.

AI Infrastructure/Machine Learning Ops Supports scalable ML pipelines, training efficiency, or AI model deployment in cloud environments.

Analytics Enables real-time or advanced data analytics that drive insights and business decision-making.

Backup/Disaster Recovery/Resilience Protects cloud workloads through reliable backup, rapid recovery, and continuity during disruption or failure.

Cloud Marketplace Innovator Delivers exceptional innovation or usability through a public cloud provider marketplace platform.

Cloud Networking & Interconnect Optimizes cloud traffic, bandwidth, and reliability through dedicated interconnects or next-generation network infrastructure.

Collaboration Cloud-native solutions improving communication, file sharing, or teamwork across distributed workforces.

Colocation & Data Center Services Provides colocation, hosting, or facility services with measurable uptime, density, and operational efficiency.

Confidential Computing Secures data in use through hardware-based Trusted Execution Environments, protecting workloads even in untrusted environments.

Consultant/Integrator/Migrator/Accelerator Delivers exceptional cloud migration, repatriation, strategy, or optimization services to clients or enterprises.

Container as a Service/Kubernetes Drives efficient deployment, scaling, or orchestration of containers in cloud infrastructure.

Database / Data Platform Delivers innovative cloud databases, data warehouses, or lakehouse platforms that unify and activate data at scale.

Data Hygiene Improves cloud data quality, consistency, validation, or governance at scale.

DevOps/CloudOps Innovation Enhances or transforms cloud operations and lifecycle management through automation or integration.

Edge Computing Executes data processing close to the source, improving latency and responsiveness at the edge.

FinOps/Cloud Cost Optimization Innovatively reduces cloud and GPU/AI-workload spend while maximizing operational efficiency and performance.

Infrastructure as a Service Provides flexible, scalable, and high-performing IaaS solutions with measurable impact.

Internet of Things (IoT) Supports or advances cloud-connected smart devices and data-driven IoT ecosystems.

Hybrid Cloud/AI Solutions/Applications Connects on-prem, private, and public clouds with AI-driven capabilities or solutions.

Managed Service Provider Offers outstanding managed cloud services with measurable uptime, security, and client satisfaction.

Observability/Monitoring Provides deep visibility, metrics, or intelligent monitoring for cloud-based services and environments.

Onboarding and Support Delivers seamless onboarding, training, or support for cloud-based solutions and services.

Platform as a Service Empowers developers through PaaS offerings that simplify app building, testing, and scaling.

Private Cloud Provider Delivers secure, scalable, and customizable private cloud environments for enterprise workloads.

Public Cloud Provider Offers robust, secure, and scalable public cloud platforms for diverse users and businesses.

Security Defends cloud environments with outstanding threat detection, protection, or compliance solutions.

Serverless Hybrid Cloud Simplifies and accelerates workloads using serverless architecture in hybrid environments.

Software as a Service Delivers innovative SaaS applications that solve real problems across industries or users.

Storage Technology Drives breakthroughs in cloud-native data storage performance, resilience, or cost-efficiency.

Telemedicine Delivers virtual healthcare using secure, cloud-powered platforms for providers and patients.

SPECIALTY DEFINITIONS

Cloud Humanitarian of the Year Recognizes cloud professionals solving urgent global or humanitarian issues through innovation.

Sustainability in the Cloud Award Honors environmental impact via cloud optimization, clean energy, or carbon-conscious design.

Invisible MVP (Most Valuable Practitioner) Celebrates behind-the-scenes experts whose quiet work keeps cloud systems running flawlessly.

Cloud Mentor Award Acknowledges individuals guiding, mentoring, or uplifting the next generation of cloud professionals.

Cloud for Good Impact Award Highlights projects using cloud to drive positive social or community change.

Cultural Architect Award Recognizes individuals shaping strong, inclusive, and people-first cultures on cloud teams.



THE NOMINATION PROCESS

All nominations are 100% confidential. Neither the nomination nor any of its content will be shared with anyone other than our staff and judges.

You may submit multiple nominations in multiple categories as a means of increasing your odds of winning.

If you need to amend a nomination already submitted, you can resubmit the nomination following the same process but using the coupon code "RE-WORK".

1

Download the entry kit at bintelligence.com

2

Use our handy worksheet to write your nomination

3

Click NOMINATE NOW to submit

FEES & RULES

Nomination Fees

The \$999 nomination fee is collected when your nomination is submitted online. We accept all major credit cards, bank transfers, and checks. If paying by check or wire transfer, enter in your nomination and use coupon code "ALT-PAYMENT" when promoted.

Contact us for banking information to complete your submission via wire or ACH transfer.

Mailing Address:
Business Intelligence Group
28 Park Ave, Beverly, NJ 08010 USA

Rules

Nominations must be for performances in the last 12 months.

Nominations must not be duplicative work of others.

You should be able to show the impact or potential impact of your organization, product or individual performance through concrete measurements or analysis.



5 REASONS TO ENTER



- 1 Recognize, honor, and show gratitude to the team that works so hard to innovate.
- 2 Establish credibility, build your brand, and show your commitment to innovation and employee culture.
- 3 Build moral, galvanize your team, and show future employees that their hard work and dedication to innovation is part of something BIG.
- 4 Experts in your field review submissions; folks that are in the trenches each day and that understand the difficulty it takes to create something truly unique.
- 5 As a winner we will work with you to promote your success. As part of your entry, you will receive the winner's logo, press release templates, social media exposure, and a great BIG trophy to put in your lobby, take pictures with, and have a physical award for the team to see each day!

WINNING

Should your nomination be selected as a winner, you will receive:

- One personalized trophy and secure digital certificate per winning entry
- A digital logo for royalty-free use online and in print
- A press release announcing the winners
- A press release template suitable for release by your organization
- Feedback and scoring on your entry as provided by judges
- Recognition to the community of global 100,000+ executives and leaders
- Recognition on the Business Intelligence Group's website
- Recognition on the Business Intelligence Group's social communities (LinkedIn, X, and Facebook)
- Opportunity to tell your story on the Winners' Circle Podcast and
- Additional trophies and secure digital certificates available for purchase

Note: Shipping of a trophy to the United States is included with each nomination. Winners outside the US will need to supply their own shipping carrier and account number or arrange for a pickup in the US.



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WINNERS MAKE GOOD COMPANY



SEE ALL THE WINNERS

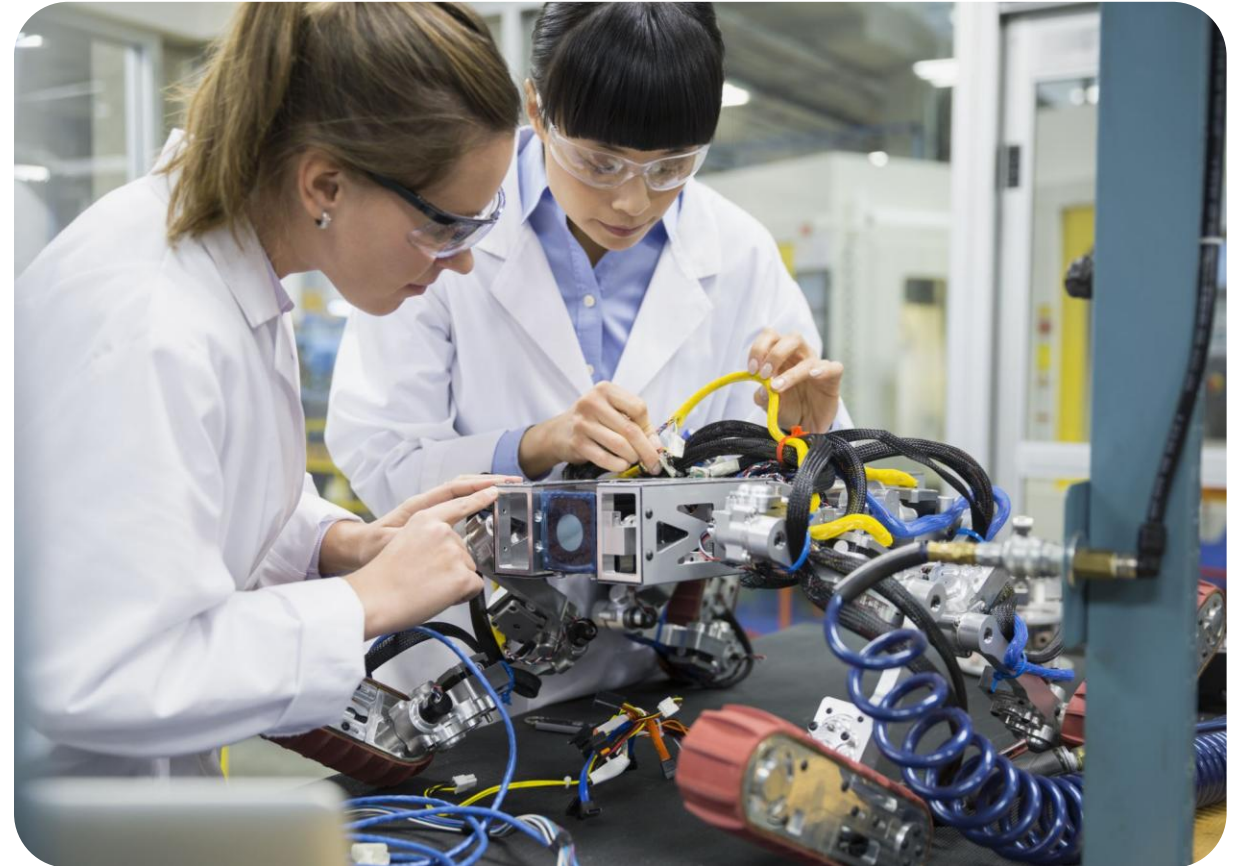


TIPS & TRICKS

A successful nomination should tell a great story. Effectively communicating your message within the entry includes:

- Strong written descriptions
- Clear, concise, and easily understood explanations and descriptions of your product or service.
- Correct spelling and grammar is important. (Former winner, Grammarly, is a great resource!)
- Write it so your mother can understand it. Articulate your message in a way where, more people than your organization's internal experts understand what you are attempting to convey.

Telling a Good Story Creates
a GREAT Nomination



Use additional resources to help enhance your chances of winning.

- Make sure your website is easy to navigate and to learn more about what you do. Is there a clear message about the nomination? Does it showcase its purpose, benefits, and value clearly? Be sure that the URL you want our judges to see is visually appealing and has a clear theme.
- Most successful nominations have videos on their website that clearly showcase and explain their product or service as well.

OUR JUDGING PHILOSOPHY

Judging Process

Every nomination is scored by our volunteer panel of business experts and industry leaders using our unique model that affords judges the opportunity to share public and private feedback. Not Artificial Intelligence, these are real humans delivering real results. Private feedback can be used to improve your future results. Public feedback can be used to maximize the third-party acknowledgement of your performance.

Judging is based upon your business execution and performance for each award.



Additional Exposure

While an executive is not able to judge his or her own award category or those of his or her peers, we strongly encourage business experts to become judges. Judges are asked to score nominations and to share meaningful feedback with nominated candidates.

Business leaders with experience, insight, and knowledge are sought to be part of the volunteer panel of independent experts. Judging nominations is easy and usually only requires an hour or two of time.

BECOME A JUDGE



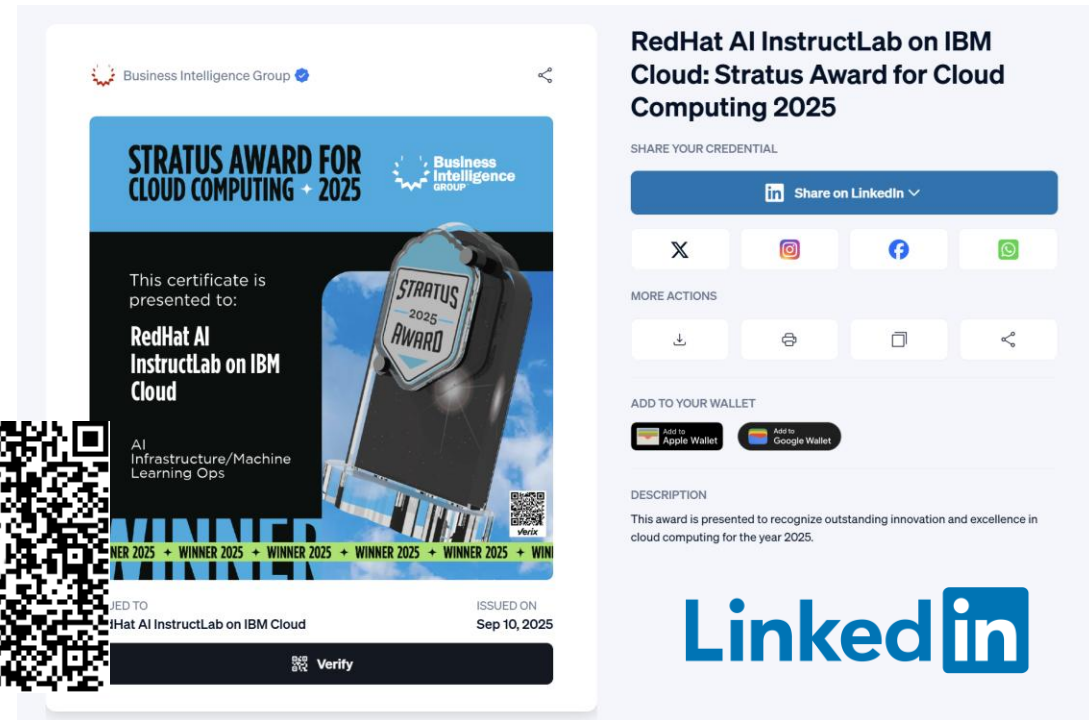
MAKE IT OFFICIAL. MAKE IT IMMUTABLE.

WHY BLOCKCHAIN CERTIFICATES?

- ✓ Tamper-Proof – Authenticated and verifiable by anyone, anytime
- ✓ Shareable – Easily added to LinkedIn, resumes, email signatures
- ✓ Permanent Record – No re-issuing, no lost PDFs
- ✓ Branded – Your course, your logo, fully white-labeled
- ✓ Secure – Built on Verix's trusted blockchain platform

- 🖼️ No frames to dust.
- 😭 No PDFs to lose.
- 👁️ No gimmicks.

Just real, verifiable achievement.



SEE HOW IT WORKS



AMPLIFY YOUR WIN

Winning isn't the finish line. It's the beginning of your story.

Every winner is invited to join us on the **Winners' Circle**, where we spotlight the innovators, leaders, and changemakers shaping the future of business. With your complete approval, you'll reach thousands of industry peers, analysts, and executives.

Podcast Interview

A relaxed, story-driven discussion featuring you or your team, shared across all major listening platforms.

Social Media Clips

Professionally edited highlight reels optimized for social feeds, designed for engagement and shareability.

Feature Blog Article

Based on your podcast transcript. SEO/GEO-enhanced and published on [bintelligence.com](https://www.bintelligence.com) for ongoing exposure.

Your story could be the one that inspires the next wave of change.



TUNE IN AND SUBSCRIBE



SHARE YOUR VOICE



Our advisory boards include industry experts who shape categories, ensure judging integrity, provide feedback on trends, guide program evolution, and elevate the credibility of each of our award programs.

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

BIG Innovation Awards	Wed., June 11, 2025
Best Places to Work	Wed., April 09, 2025
Artificial Intelligence Excellence Awards	Wed., October 29, 2025
Excellence in Customer Service Awards	Wed., November 5, 2025
Fortress Cyber Security Awards	Wed., November 12, 2025
The Sammy - Sales and Marketing Awards	Wed., December 10, 2025
Sustainability Awards	Wed., January 14, 2026
Stratus Award for Cloud Computing	Wed., March 04, 2026
Herizon Awards	Wed., April 08, 2026
BIG Awards for Business	Wed., May 06, 2026



JOIN A 2026 ADVISORY BOARD



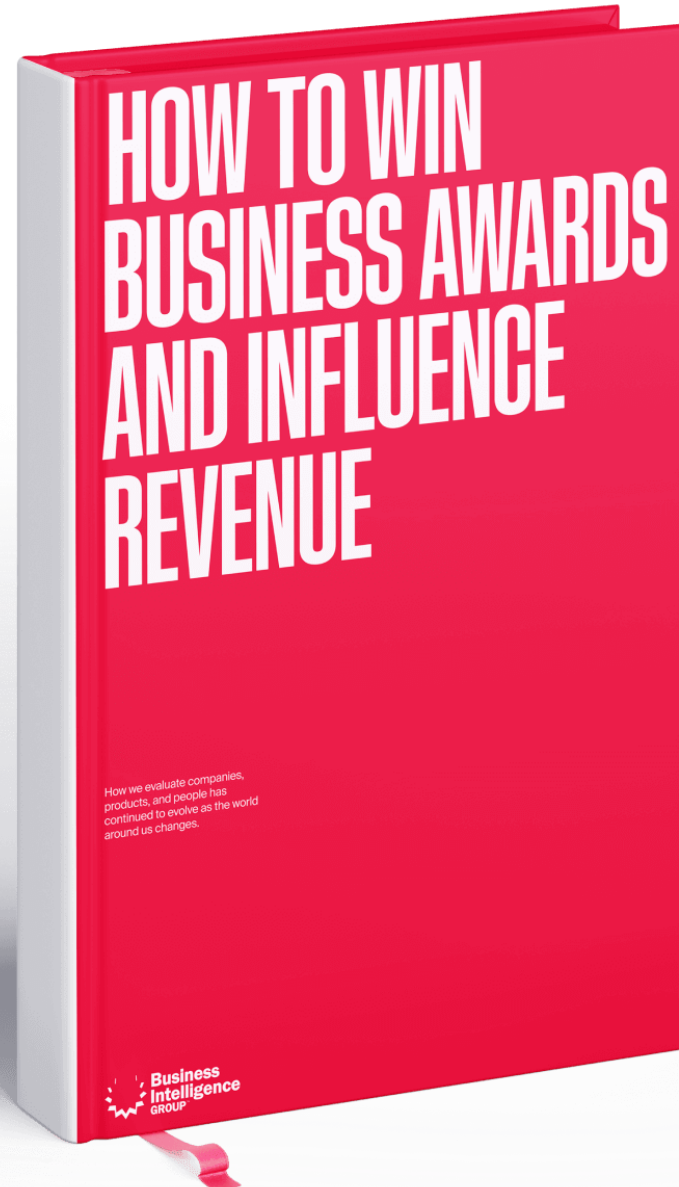


WINNING BIG!

Drive clicks, sales and eyeballs with insider tips and tricks on how to win and leverage business awards!



STAND OUT IN A WORLD GONE DIGITAL



How we evaluate companies, products, and people has continued to evolve as the world around us changes – just as companies have had to revamp the ways they earn their customers' trust. Learn how business and industry awards can help put your company ahead of the curve.

DOWNLOAD OUR EBOOK



2026 AWARD CALENDAR

JAN		FEB		MAR	 
APR		MAY		JUNE	 
JULY		AUG		SEPT	
OCT		NOV		DEC	



GET ALL THE DEADLINES



TAKING CLOUD COMPUTING TO CLOUD NINE

Nominate Now



www.bintelligence.com
+1 (909) 529-2737
contact@bintelligence.com