
Most Creative 5S Solution - Application

Submission deadline: October 25, 2026 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time

Eligible performance period: January 1-July 31, 2026. All fields are required. If a requested item is not applicable, enter N/A.

FACILITY LOCATION REQUIREMENT

The participating facility must be physically located in Nevada, Arizona, or Utah.
Facilities located in any other state are not eligible for the 2026 awards.

SECTION 1 - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name

Job Title

Company / Organization

Direct Email Address

Direct Phone Number

OpsVectra may use this contact information to request clarification, additional information, or verification regarding the application.

Most Creative 5S Solution - Application

SECTION 2 - FACILITY & SOLUTION INFORMATION

Company Name

Facility Street Address

City

State

ZIP Code

Approximate Number of Regular Employees at This Facility

Is the facility part of a larger parent company or corporate organization? (Yes / No)

Parent Company / Organization Name (enter N/A if not applicable)

Creative 5S Solution Name

Date Solution Was Implemented

WHAT THIS CATEGORY IS LOOKING FOR

This is not an award for the best overall 5S program, the cleanest work area, or the most expensive organization system. It recognizes a specific, unusually creative 5S solution that solves a real workplace problem and makes the work easier, safer, clearer, faster, or more reliable. Creative use of simple materials, visual controls, color coding, custom holders, fixtures, storage methods, mistake-proofing, or other practical ideas may qualify.

Most Creative 5S Solution - Application

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

To submit this application, the participating facility and solution must meet all applicable eligibility requirements below.

- ☐ I confirm that this facility has 100 or fewer regular employees.
- ☐ I confirm that this facility does not operate under a formal Continuous Improvement, Lean, Operational Excellence, or equivalent improvement program.
- ☐ If this facility is part of a larger organization, I confirm that it does not receive structured Continuous Improvement, Lean, or Operational Excellence direction, personnel, resources, or program support from its parent company.
- ☐ I confirm that the 5S solution being submitted was implemented during January 1-July 31, 2026.

WHAT COUNTS AS A FORMAL CI PROGRAM?

A formal program generally includes established improvement infrastructure such as dedicated Continuous Improvement/Operational Excellence personnel, a formally deployed Lean or CI operating system, or structured CI direction, resources, or support provided by a corporate parent. Individual employee certifications or independent use of tools such as 5S, Kaizen, standard work, visual management, or problem-solving methods do not by themselves constitute a formal CI program.

If you cannot confirm the applicable eligibility statements above, the facility is not eligible for this award.

Most Creative 5S Solution - Application

SECTION 4 - CREATIVE 5S SOLUTION STATEMENT

In no more than 500 words, describe the specific 5S solution, the workplace problem it was designed to solve, and what makes the solution creative.

Creativity & Ingenuity: What is unusual, inventive, customized, or resourceful about the solution? Explain what makes it more than routine labeling, cleanup, purchased storage, or basic organization.

Operational Usefulness: What real workplace problem does the solution solve? How has it made the work easier, safer, clearer, faster, more reliable, or less prone to error?

Improvement From Before Condition: What was the condition before the solution was implemented, and what changed afterward?

Simplicity & Practicality: How easy is the solution for employees to understand, use, and maintain during normal work?

Sustainability: How has the solution been kept in place, and what helps prevent the area or process from returning to its previous condition?

Visual Effectiveness: How does the solution make the correct condition, correct item, location, status, or abnormal condition obvious at a glance?

This category is not judged on appearance alone. A simple, low-cost, highly creative solution can outperform an expensive purchased system when it solves the workplace problem more effectively.

Maximum: 500 words

Most Creative 5S Solution - Application

SECTION 5 - REQUIRED PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Photographic evidence is required for this category.

When submitting your completed application by email, include:

A minimum of 1 photograph clearly showing the creative 5S solution.

Before-and-after photographs are strongly preferred because they help demonstrate the workplace problem and the improvement created by the solution. If a before photograph is not available, the submission remains eligible, but the judges may have less evidence available to evaluate the improvement from the original condition.

EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

Do not insert photographs into this application. Attach all photographs as separate files to the same email used to submit this completed application.

SECTION 6 - CERTIFICATION & PERMISSIONS

- ☐ I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ I understand that OpsVectra Partners may contact me or the company to request clarification, additional information, or verification related to this application.
- ☐ I understand that submitting an application does not guarantee an award or recognition and that OpsVectra Partners may withhold recognition when submissions do not meet the standards established for the award.

If selected for recognition, may OpsVectra Partners publicly identify the company and approved solution information in connection with the OpsVectra Manufacturing Excellence Awards?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No - Please contact me regarding publicity permissions.

Applicant Full Name

Date

Typing your name above constitutes acknowledgment of the certifications and permissions selected.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Email the completed form and all required photographs to: awards@opsvectrapartners.com

Email Subject: Most Creative 5S Solution - [Company Name] - [Solution Name]

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Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.