sc awards
EUROPE

ENTRY KIT

SCAWARDSEUROPE.COM
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Entry rules and information

Who can enter?

The SC Awards Europe 2024 are open to all cybersecurity vendors, service providers and professionals. Vendors and service providers which offer a product and/or service for the commercial, government, educational, non-profit or other industries can enter the product/ service- and the company related categories. Entrants must be carrying out work in the UK or elsewhere in Europe. Cybersecurity professionals from end-user companies can enter the categories related to individual (CISOs, CSOs, etc.) and team honours.

These professionals and teams should be working in the UK or elsewhere in Europe. It is acceptable and, indeed, encouraged for vendors to nominate their thought leading customers. End-user companies can enter their cybersecurity executives or teams or, alternatively, these professionals can nominate themselves for consideration. (Again, no service or product provider professionals will be considered. Rather, the Professional categories have been created to honour the accomplishments of their end-user customers.)

Other Professional categories relate to both professional certification providers and those professional advancement companies that offer training on various cybersecurity issues to end-user companies. These, too, should be based in the UK or elsewhere in Europe.

Entry requirements and qualification questions?

You'll notice as you review the entry kit that categories are split into sets to reflect the various groups covered in the 'Who can enter?' section. For each of these sets, there is a list of questions you must answer in order to qualify your nomination. Please answer these completely. Be sure that your product or service is a fit for the categories in which you are nominating, as SC Media UK reserves the right to eliminate a product from consideration if our editorial team and/or judges find that the offering is inappropriate for that category.

Also, if you are entering multiple categories, you must offer unique answers for each. That is, avoid copying and pasting the same answers for each category you enter as this may yield a negative response from our judging panel.

Nomination tips from former judges

Use your product development staff and customer champions to help describe and promote your products and solutions – with less focus on marketing materials The judges are CISO-level and buyers of your products and services. Treat this award application as an opportunity to sell to them, but you only get one pitch meeting and this is it.

Make sure you have an adequate product description in your entry.

Online nomination submission

Each nomination must include:
- Each nomination must include:
- Answers prepared for the qualification questions for each nomination.
- Payment - online payment of Visa, Mastercard or invoice payment is accepted.

Once you have prepared your nominations, please visit our website to submit your nomination: **scawardseurope.com**.

Shortlist notification

The Shortlist will be announced in **April 2024** on the SC Awards Europe website - **scawardseurope.com**.

Winners will be announced on the night of the event - **4 June 2024**.

Click on a category to jump to that section

Entry rules and information

Terms and Conditions

The mission of the SC Awards Europe is to honour the achievements of companies and cybersecurity professionals striving to safeguard critical data in the UK and Europe. Cybersecurity products and services nominated for product service related categories, therefore, should be available for sale to UK and European companies, as well as provide customer service and support to users in these regions. Competitors for all categories are voted on by a panel of judges comprised of independent and objective industry leaders who are chosen and invited to participate by members of SC Media UK's editorial team. Each judge securely submits his/ her scores to SC Awards event managers electronically. Results are completely independent. Awards sponsorship and/or other sales/advertising considerations play absolutely no part in the results.

Questions

Please contact: Jenny Pirrie
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*KEY INFO

Deadline for nominations:
Early bird deadline - Thursday 18 January 2024, by submitting early you will be eligible for a reduced fee per entry.

Nominations submitted after 18 January will be charged at our normal rate and you will have until 22nd February. our normal rate and you will have until 16 March 2023.

£ **Nomination entry fees:**
Product/service, company and market categories: £360 + VAT per entry (£516+ VAT after 18 February)

Professional categories: £200+ VAT per entry

Judging Information

Excellence Awards:
Threat Solutions & Industry Leadership

Winners in this category are decided by an expert panel of judges. These judges are handpicked by SC Media UK's editorial team for their breadth of knowledge and experience in the cyber security industry. Our judges come from all walks of life – from end-user companies and the analyst and consulting communities to academia. Many are practicing and former chief security officers from the private and public sectors who also may have been honoured themselves at SC Awards galas in previous years. Not only are judges advised to review the materials provided by entrants, they also are asked to check out any applicable research or analyst reports.. There will be one winner chosen per category.

Professional Awards

Like the Excellence Awards, not only are judges advised to review the materials provided by entrants, they also are asked to review any applicable research or analyst reports. In some cases, the panel may be offered further insight or additional notes from SC Media UK's editorial team. There will be one winner chosen per category

Categories & requirements

Excellence Awards:
Threat Solutions

**Click on a
category to jump
to that section**

Categories & requirements

Best Authentication Technology

Products here provide enhanced security to end-users or devices by offering credentials for access to an authenticator or authentication server. Solutions that specialise in the biometric authentication of users is also included here. These solutions may use a tangible device (something you have) for authentication and knowledge (something you know) for authentication. For biometrics, the solution provides identification and authentication using any of the following methods: finger/ thumb print/retinal scan/voice recognition/ hand/palm geometry/ facial recognition, or other unique user identifier.

Best Behaviour Analytics/ Enterprise Threat Detection

These products focus on detecting insider threats, targeted attacks and other fraudulent activities by examining human behaviours, identifying patterns that are then analysed to detect anomalies that may indicate threats of loss or compromise to organisations' critical data.

Best Cloud Security Solution

These technologies are deployed to protect data and/or applications in a cloud environment. They may also protect the cloud computing infrastructure itself. Cloud computing security concerns are numerous for both providers and their customers – and include security and privacy worries, supply chain issues, compliance issues and legal/contractual problems. Solutions or services in this category can provide for the protection of data or applications in the cloud, protection for traffic flowing between companies and their cloud service providers, policy management and encryption capabilities, privileged user access and controls or more.

Best Communications Security Solution

Products in this category deal with consumer-owned and controlled devices being used to get at corporate resources. At a minimum, these devices likely will require strong endpoint security, point-to-point encryption and more. This is a broad category - if your product is used to secure this type of small device/handheld, it may fit. Security can be for data at rest in the device itself, secure access to data in the enterprise, and encryption for data in motion between the enterprise and the device.

Best Data Leakage Prevention (DLP) Solution

Products in this category include those that help organisations safeguard their intellectual property and customers' critical data persistently – inside and outside the company. Network based and endpoint data leakage prevention products will be considered. Products should prevent data from unauthorised exit from the network, or protect data on the endpoint – whether the endpoint is connected to a network or not.

Categories & requirements

Best Email Security Solution

Email security addresses the ability to exchange email messages with assurance, as well as the ability to filter email messages based on content, source or other criteria. Solutions should ensure the privacy of sensitive messages, limit the repercussions of email forgery (phishing), and manage other aspects of safeguarding email within the organisation. These products are enterprise-centric and should have, but are not required to have, some form of centralised management. They may include spam filters, junk mail filters, malware filters, unauthorised content (sometimes called "extrusion protection" or "data leakage protection"), and other types of undesirable content. However, these are not simply anti-spam filters. These email security products should be evaluated on their effectiveness, manageability, non-intrusiveness, ease of use and other factors that impact the implementation of this type of product in the enterprise environment. They typically provide features such as email encryption, digital signatures, automatic shredding of messages and attachments, and more.

Best Endpoint Security

While the emphasis has moved from protect to detect, it's not time to take down the barriers, and strength in depth reach still needs endpoint protection.

Best Identity Management Solution

Products in this category address the identity management lifecycle in an enterprise environment, including password management, user provisioning and enterprise-access management.
What's more, privileged users can have the keys to the kingdom. So impersonating them and taking control of their access is a key target for attack groups, from criminals to nation states. Hence ramped up versions of identity and access control, network segmentation tools, and approaches to outsourcing and third parties are appropriate here.

Best Incident Response Solution

The faster and more effectively you respond to an incident, the shorter time you give attackers to steal from or do damage on your systems. But care also has to be taken to preserve digital forensic evidence in the event of criminal action. While IR is led by policies, procedures and training, there are tools and organisations that can help, from specialist services in the event of a crime, to complete outsourced teams. We are looking for those services and tools that stand out as a must have.

Best IOT/IIOT Security Solution

One of the biggest concerns for the security sector is the truly exponential growth of the Internet of Things, and the Industrial Internet of Things, increasing the attack surface to include everything from previously isolated industrial processes to everyday consumer appliances. Anything that connects to the internet is potentially hackable, so what solutions are there that organisations and their key employees can deploy to minimise and mitigate the threat posed by myriad connected devices?

Best Managed Security Service

These offerings provide a turnkey approach to an organisation's primary technical security needs. These offerings can either be a co-located device at the client organisation facility, or can be a completely outsourced solution (SaaS) where the application to be protected would reside at the vendor's data centre.

Best Privileged Access Management

Privileged users can have the keys to the kingdom. So impersonating them and taking control of their access is a key target for attack groups, from criminals to nation states. Hence ramped up versions of identity and access control, network segmentation tools, and approaches to outsourcing and third parties are appropriate here, where they may have been considered too cumbersome for the average user. Yet these, often senior, users are just as resistant to friction as any other, so how do you reduce reliance on trust while still letting people do their job?

Click on a category to jump to that section

Categories & requirements

Best SIEM Solution

Security information and event management (SIEM) tools are used to collect, aggregate and correlate log data for unified analysis and reporting. Typically, these tools can take logs from a large number of sources, normalise them and build a database that allows detailed reporting and analysis. While forensic analysis of network events may be a feature of a SIEM, it is not the only feature, nor is it the primary focus of the tool.

Best Threat Intelligence Technology

Contenders in this category should help cybersecurity teams research and analyse cybercrime and other threat trends and any technical developments being made by those engaging in cyber criminal activity against both private and public entities. These technologies facilitate the understanding and contextual relevance of various types of data, often an overwhelming amount, collected from internal network devices, as well as from external sources (such as open source tools, social media platforms, the dark web and more). Armed with these more digestible analysis on risks and cyber threats, security teams should be able to enhance their tactical plans preparing for and reacting to an infrastructure intrusion prior to, during and after an attack, ultimately improving their overall security posture so their long-term security strategy is more predictive rather than simply reactive.

Best AI Solution

The long-harboured promise of AI is finally manifesting. AI-driven cybersecurity capabilities are no longer just simple pattern- and rule-based capabilities. From big data analysis, dealing with millions of logs, to cutting-edge analytics, AI is powering cybersecurity more than ever before.
Amid record and sophisticated attacks, today's cybersecurity industry is inherently dependent on speed and precision to be effective – both intrinsic characteristics of AI.
The more AI is leveraged across security, the faster it will drive security teams' ability to perform. AI is today's critical lynchpin in building organisational cyber resilience and rapid defence armory.

Best Vulnerability Management Solution

These products perform network/device vulnerability assessment and/or penetration testing. They may use active or passive testing, and are either hardware or software-based solutions that report vulnerabilities using some standard format/reference.

Categories & requirements

Qualification questions

(150-word maximum on each response)

- How does this product/service answer the specific market need or application for which it was designed and is being nominated?
- How does this product/service significantly differ from its competitors?
- What are the business and technical advantages to enterprises or SMEs investing in this product/service?
- What is this product's/service's total cost of ownership? If applicable, what is the frequency of updates to the product/ service?
- How has this product/service helped customers to meet/ surpass corporate budgetary expectations?
- How does this product/service show a sound business benefit and/or return on investment? That is, how is it enabling customers and their businesses?
- What is the market share for the sales of this product?
- This year, we're giving competitors the opportunity to provide   an optional video about their entries. Your video (two minute-maximum) should explain to us why your product should win the particular category you are entering, detailing things like what the solution does, what makes it stand out from competitors, how many customers and what types of customers currently use it and why, etc
- Please upload an image on the entry page upload button to represent your entry. If your entry should win at the SC Awards this image will represent your work. It is recommended that all lead images be supplied landscape 1920x1080px. All files should be in JPEG format labelled clearly as LEAD-IMAGE.jpeg.

Please note we cannot accept logos for this image.

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Categories & requirements

Excellence Awards:
Industry Leadership

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Categories & requirements

Best Customer Service

Support as well as service of products and services sold are critical components of any contract. For many organisations that seek out help from cybersecurity vendors and service providers, the assistance they get from customer service representatives is crucial to the deployment, ongoing maintenance and successful running of the technologies they've bought and to which they have entrusted their businesses and sensitive data. For this category, we're looking for vendor and service providers that offer excellent support and service – the staff that fulfilled its contracts and maybe even goes a little beyond them to ensure that organisations and their businesses are safe and sound against the many threats launched by today's savvy cyber-criminals.

Qualification questions

- Are (150-word maximum on each response)
- Do you offer installation documentation, online manuals, user oriented manuals and/or any supplemental documentation needed for your customers to implement and manage the product/ service successfully? (Which ones do you offer?)
- Are the various forms of documentation associated with the product/service understandable and effective?
- What customer service and support is standard with product/ service purchase?
- Do you offer customers telephone support? Do customers pay additional fees for this? How much more?
- Do you offer customers web-based downloads? Do customers pay additional fees for this? How much more?
- Do you offer customers online forums or FAQs sections? Do customers pay additional fees for this? How much more?
- Can customers get additional on-site help whenever needed? Do they pay additional fees for this? How much more?
- Do customers get on-site help in deploying the solution/ service? How long is this available to them? Do they pay additional fees for this? How much more?
- Is there anything unique or special you'd like to call out about your customer service and support offerings? Would you say these help to differentiate you from competitors?

Additional Support

- Please attach three testimonials from clients, along with contact details should the judges choose to follow-up. Testimonials may be submitted under non-disclosure for Judges-eyes-only, but must be clearly marked as such.

Click on a category to jump to that section

Categories & requirements

Best Emerging Technology

What cutting-edge technologies are bursting onto the scene to address the newest cybersecurity needs facing organisations with some innovative capabilities? This category welcomes both new vendors and old pros looking to provide products and services that look to help shape the future by addressing fast-evolving threats through the creation of these types of offerings. The product must have been launched not more than 18 months prior to entry, and entries should have some customers available who can act as references. The company should also have an office in UK/ Europe and provide ready support and service to customers in the UK/ Europe.

Qualification questions

(150-word maximum on each response)
- What segment of the market does this new product/ service address?
- What threats does this product/service deal with and why do you consider this to be critical in today's environment?
- How does this product's/service's features and capabilities tackle organisations' newest cybersecurity needs?
- How strong is the customer base and continued customer growth for this product/service?
- Does the company offer strong customer service and support for this product/service? How? What is this product's/ service's total cost of ownership? Is it possible that some of your customers find that scalability issues, management of updates/ configurations, and more, increase costs associated with deployment of your solution/ service?
- If applicable, what is the frequency of updates to the product/ service?
- Are efforts underway to continue developing and strengthening this product/service? What do these efforts entail?
- Overall, how well is this product/service meeting the needs of its customers?

Additional Support

- Please attach three testimonials from clients, along with contact details should the judges choose to follow-up. Testimonials may be submitted under non-disclosure for Judges-eyes-only, but must be clearly marked as such.

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Categories & requirements

Best Enterprise Security Solution

This includes tools and services from all product sectors specifically designed to meet the requirements of large enterprises. The winning solution will have been a leading solution during the last two years, having helped to strengthen the IT security industry's continued evolution.

Best Risk Management and Regulation Solution

There have long been regulatory compliance tools, but they have been thrust to the fore in the cybersecurity sphere in the wake of GDPR, though this category encompasses other regulations and compliance requirements relevant to cybersecurity and GRC teams. Solutions can be software, algorithms, or other innovative approaches that aid companies so that they know their compliance requirements, or prevent, identify, or remediate non-compliance. These products measure, analyse and report risk, as well as enforce and update configuration policies within the enterprise, including but not limited to network, encryption, software and hardware devices. Entrants' products should be enterprise-centric; collect data across the network; report associated risk, endpoint configuration, enforcement, auditing and reporting; provide remediation options (but are not exclusively patch management systems); and, finally, offer centralised reports based on regulatory requirements and local policies.

Qualification questions

(150-word maximum on each response)

- How strong is the customer base and continued customer growth for this product/service?
- How strong is the customer base and continued customer growth for this product/service?
- Does the company offer strong customer service and support for this product/service? How?
- What is this product's/service's total cost of ownership? Is it possible that some of your customers find that scalability issues, management of updates/ configurations, and more, increase costs associated with deployment of your solution/ service?
- If applicable, what is the frequency of updates to the product/ service?
- Are efforts underway to continue developing and strengthening this product/service? What do these efforts entail?
- Overall, how well is this product/service meeting the needs of its customers?
- What is the market share for the sales of this product/ service?
- How is the company using its products and services to help enable/strengthen its customers' business?
- Are customers seeing a benefit in using your product/ services to differentiate themselves from the competition? That is, are customers finding market value in touting the use of the company's product/ service?
- Competitors have the opportunity to provide an optional informational video about their entries. Your two-minute maximum video should explain to us why your product should win the particular category you are entering, detailing things like what the solution does, what makes it stand out from competitors, how many customers and what types of customers currently use it and why, etc.

Additional Support

- Please attach three testimonials from clients, along with contact details, should the judges choose to follow-up. Testimonials may be submitted under non-disclosure for Judges-eyes-only, but must be clearly marked as such.

Categories & requirements

Best Security Company

Nominees should be the tried-and-true, longer-standing companies which have been offering products and services to customers for at least three years. Nominations can come from all sectors. Areas that will be accounted for in the judging process include: product line strength, customer base, customer service/support, research and development, company growth and solvency, innovation and more.

Qualification questions

(150-word maximum on each response)

- How strong is the company's customer base and continued customer growth?
- Does the company have a strong product/service portfolio? Explain.
- Does the company offer strong customer service and support for the products/services it supplies? How?
- Is the company engaged in compelling research and development efforts that will lead to continued innovation? How?
- How well is the company meeting its overall mission and vision? In what ways?
- How is the company using its products and services to help enable/strengthen its customers' business?
- Are customers seeing a benefit in using your products/ services to differentiate from the competition? That is, are customers finding market value in touting the use of your company's product/service?

Additional Support

- Please attach three testimonials from clients, along with contact details, should the judges choose to follow-up. Testimonials may be submitted under non-disclosure for Judges-eyes-only, but must be clearly marked as such.

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Categories & requirements

Best SME Security Solution

This includes tools and services from all product sectors specifically designed to meet the requirements of small- to mid-sized businesses. The winning solution will have been a leading solution during the last two years, having helped to strengthen the IT security industry's continued evolution.

Qualification questions

(150-word maximum on each response)

- How strong is the customer base and continued customer growth for this product/service?
- Does the company offer strong customer service and support for this product/service? How?
- What is this product's/service's total cost of ownership? Is it possible that some of your customers find that scalability issues, management of updates/ configurations, and more, increase costs associated with deployment of your solution/ service?
- If applicable, what is the frequency of updates to the product/service?
- Are efforts underway to continue developing and strengthening this product/service? What do these efforts entail?
- Overall, how well is this product/service meeting the needs of its customers?
- What is the market share for the sales of this product/service?
- How is the company using its products and services to help enable/strengthen its customers' business?
- Are customers seeing a benefit in using your product/services to differentiate themselves from the competition? That is, are customers finding market value in touting the use of the company's product/ service?
- Competitors have the opportunity to provide an optional informational video about their entries. Your two-minute maximum video should explain to us why your product should win the particular category you are entering, detailing things like what the solution does, what makes it stand out from competitors, how many customers and what types of customers currently use it and why, etc.

Additional Support

- Please attach three testimonials from clients, along with contact details, should the judges choose to follow-up. Testimonials may be submitted under non-disclosure for Judges-eyes-only, but must be clearly marked as such.

Categories & requirements

Professional Awards

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Categories & requirements

Best Professional Training or Certification Programme

This category targets companies and organisations that provide end-user awareness training and/or certification programmes for those looking to ensure that its employees are knowledgeable and supportive of IT security and risk management plans. It also considers training and certification organisations that provide programmes for end-user organisations' IT security professionals to help them better address components of their IT security and risk management plans, such as secure coding, vulnerability management and incident response/computer forensics. Programmes usually entail training and education or examination/assessment by outside industry experts who may hold various seminars, hands-on classes, etc. and recommend additional activities that further support training sessions. Entrants should include companies and organisations that offer such training without the requirement or need to secure any particular professional certification, as well as certification programmes that may or may not provide training. Programmes typically are defined as professional industry groups offering certifications to IT security professionals wishing to receive educational experience and credentials. Entrants can include organisations in the industry granting certifications for the training and knowledge they provide.

Qualification Questions

(150 word maximum on each response)
- How is the certification/training organisation helping to educate and strengthen the knowledge of the IT security professional?
- How does the certification/training programme differentiate itself from other offerings?
- How well is the certification/training programme meeting the needs of the IT security professional? Explain.

Additional Support

- Please attach three testimonials from clients, along with contact details, should the judges choose to follow-up. Testimonials should explain why the nominee is best qualified to win this category.

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Categories & requirements

Rising Star of the Year

The Rising Star of the Year award is a category that commends newcomers with the cybersecurity industry. The award recognises individuals who have been in the industry five years or less who are making great strides in the cybersecurity sector. This award is focused on highlighting and commending emerging cyber talents who are bringing fresh innovation, ideas and influence to the industry.

Qualification Questions

(600 word max)

Contenders should complete a comprehensive write up of how the rising star nominee is influencing and shaping the cybersecurity market.

Please include answers to the following questions:

- How is this newcomer outstanding, in terms of their direct contribution to innovation and change within the cyber sector?
- Give three examples of how the rising star nominee has excelled within the cyber industry in the last year.
- How has the nominee gone above and beyond in the cybersecurity sector?
- How is this person a role model for others in the cybersecurity sector?

Click on a category to jump to that section

Categories & requirements

Woman of Influence Award

In theory, cybersecurity is a results-oriented industry where no one notices your age, sex, background or other characteristics not relevant to your ability to deliver. But in reality there are obstacles in society, education, companies and organisations that have resulted in women representing less than 20% of the industry. This award recognises the women leaders who are paving the way in the industry and challenging the status quo. This award will recognise women for their professional success, community involvement and leadership roles.

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Qualification Questions

(800 word max)
Entrants should complete a 800 word write-up explaining exactly what the nominee has done to deserve the Award, the circumstances in which it has been done, the role of the individual in achieving or bringing about the result, and the consequences of this result, as it impacts their own discipline and if applicable, the wider cybersecurity Landscape.

Some questions you may want to think about:
- By what means has the nominee gained the support of corporate leaders and colleagues?
- How has the nominee helped to propel her position to a footing of influence within the organisation and the corporate world as a whole?
- How has the nominee helped to strengthen the influence of the department in meeting business initiatives and goals?
- In what ways does the Woman of Influence continue to better the expertise of internal IT security?

Additional Support

- Please attach three testimonials from Internal & external stakeholders, along with contact details, should the judges choose to follow-up. Testimonials should explain why the nominee is best qualified to win this category.

Categories & requirements

Professional Awards
Not for entry

Click on a category to jump to that section

Categories & requirements

CSO / CISO of the Year

This award commends the standout champions who have led best-in-class programmes of IT security. Whatever the company size that they represent, they have demonstrated to peers and stakeholders at every level, the importance of sound security strategy and implementation. Their planning and execution of a balanced tech and people-led approach will be demonstrably clear from projects and delivery.

For this award, a carefully curated shortlist of exemplary CSOs/ CISOs will be sent to the judge by our editorial team. The judge will choose one standout winner from this list.

Editor's choice

This coveted award is chosen by the editor alone, and commends a trendsetting, authoritative and outstanding company who has led the charge in reshaping and innovating security strategy in a changed post-pandemic world.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This exceptional award will be chosen by the editorial team and will commend a lifetime of service, innovation and influence within the cyber-security field. This commendation is for those who have truly gone above and beyond and will leave behind a changed – and bettered – cyber landscape as a legacy.