

SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD 2026 COMPETITION RULES



PURPOSE OF THE SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD

The SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD 2026 ("SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD") is the 5th edition of the international design competition organized by the EUROPEAN ALLIANCE for SMC BMC ("SMC BMC ALLIANCE"), a Sector Group of the European Composites Industry Association aisbl ("EUCIA"), having its offices at Boulevard Reyers 80, B-1030 Brussels, Belgium.

The SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD is recognizing and promoting design excellence in SMC and BMC composite materials across a wide array of industries and applications. The SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD is conducted bi-annually for design students or young design professionals with less than 3 years of experience ("ENTRANTS").

The SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD is intended to reinforce that SMC and BMC are innovative, versatile, cost effective and safe materials, used in products that make significant beneficial contributions to individual consumers and to society.

Innovations submitted for the SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD ("PROJECT ENTRIES") are judged by an independent panel of expert jury members ("JURY").

Through the SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD, the SMC BMC ALLIANCE offers entrants an opportunity to promote their SMC BMC related innovation.

ENTRANTS

1. ENTRANTS must be design students, or young design professionals with less than 3 years of working experience.
2. ENTRANTS must be living and working either in one country of the European Union, or in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom.
3. ENTRANTS do not need to be members of SMC BMC ALLIANCE in order to participate.

PROJECT ENTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE AWARDS

The theme of the SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD in 2026 is “Live Better, Live Green – SMC solutions for improving Quality of Life”. ENTRANTS are asked to submit a PROJECT ENTRY in line with this theme.

A PROJECT ENTRY in the scope of SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD is evaluated by the JURY along the following combined criteria:

Criteria	Detail	Weight
Creativity	Includes unique shape, aesthetics, functional integration	30
End user functionality - Marketability	Includes positive impact on consumer life, major improvement in functional performance, ability to market and demonstrate added value	30
Sustainability	Reduction of environmental footprint, low cost to implement, long lasting, solutions available for many people (not for happy few)	20
Feasibility in SMC BMC	Manufacturing ability, production feasibility in large production series, using at least 4 of the most important functional performance benefits of SMC BMC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated strength and stiffness • Solutions for weight reduction • Precision and predictability of dimensions • Great Class A surface • Resisting elevated temperatures • Part safety through great Fire resistance • Electrical insulating performance • Low emissions from the parts after moulding 	20



KEY DATES

- PROJECT ENTRIES will be accepted until December 31st, 2025.
- The JURY will select the finalists in January 2026.
- Announcement of the 3 winners will take place in February 2026.
- Award Ceremony will be at JEC World 2026 trade show in Paris (ceremony date to be confirmed).

HOW TO ENTER

- ENTRANTS should register their name and contact details before September 30th, 2025 through info@smcbmc-europe.org.
- ENTRANTS should send their PROJECT ENTRY before December 31st, 2025 to thomas.wegman@aocformulations.com.
- For their PROJECT ENTRY the ENTRANTS should submit:
 - A Power Point presentation to explain proposed design.
 - Details on key market drivers and functional requirements, key choices made, benefits offered by the design, manufacturing-ability, market-ability, commercial viability.
 - Demonstrate that the SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD criteria can be met
 - Optional: provide structural analysis and costing
 - In English language only
 - One page word document accompanying the prototype
 - One high resolution picture of the design (300 dpi min)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND PUBLICITY

All ENTRANTS authorize the SMC BMC ALLIANCE and its members to use for advertising and communication purposes or for the organisation of the SMC BMC DESIGN AWARD, their PROJECT ENTRY (including files and photographs), as well as the developments as a result of any collaboration between ENTRANTS and the SMC BMC ALLIANCE.

All intellectual property rights related to the PROJECT ENTRY, including but not limited to patents, drawings, models, copyright, rights to software, know-how, belong exclusively to the ENTRANTS concerned.

No rights are granted to the SMC BMC ALLIANCE and its members, except for communication and advertising purposes to the largest extent and by any means possible, concerning the ENTRANTS, the PROJECT ENTRIES, as well as the



developments as a result of any collaboration between ENTRANTS and the SMC BMC ALLIANCE.

The ENTRANTS guarantee that they have full powers to dispose of all the intellectual property rights related to their PROJECT ENTRY and developments and do not infringe any third party's intellectual property rights. ENTRANTS will take all precautions and steps necessary to protect their PROJECT ENTRY and any results and developments deriving thereof and guarantee to the SMC BMC ALLIANCE and its members the peaceful use thereof.

The ENTRANTS safeguard the SMC BMC ALLIANCE and its members from any liability or claim by a third party on the grounds of a violation of the intellectual property rights of that third party in the framework of this agreement, provided that the SMC BMC ALLIANCE immediately informs the ENTRANTS concerned of the claim.

Any intellectual property rights, technical and product information, know-how belonging to the SMC BMC ALLIANCE and its members prior to entering in the agreement, which may be disclosed to the ENTRANTS, shall remain the whole and exclusive property of that company.

THE JURY

- The projects submitted by the ENTRANTS will be evaluated by an independent panel of five or more expert jury members.
- Any decision of the JURY is final.
- All entrants waive any recourse against the SMC BMC ALLIANCE, its members, and the JURY by reason of any decision taken by the JURY.

THE AWARDS

- The Awards will present winning entries with the following prices :
 - Gold award: 7,500 € in cash/ 7,500 € in coaching
 - Silver award: 1,500 €
 - Bronze award: 1,000 €
- Participation in award ceremony at JEC World 2026 in Paris, with travel expenses paid for 2 members per finalist team
- Follow-up workshops to discuss Marketing, Design, Manufacturing, Business opportunities



AWARD CEREMONY

The SMC BMC DESIGN AWARDS 2026 will culminate in an Award Ceremony at JEC World in Paris, France (exact date to be confirmed).

TRAINING AND PREPARATION

Interested designers are invited to join the specially organised training events. These will show some of the existing markets and applications, explain the SMC/BMC manufacturing processes in more detail, and provide guidelines for proper part and manufacturing process design. Participation in one these training events are free of charge for eligible young designers.