



2026 ENTRY CATEGORIES & CRITERIA

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GENERAL ELIGIBILITY (Applies to ALL Project Categories)

All Projects entered into the categories below must:

- include an external wall insulation system
- be located within the UK and ROI and Channel Islands
- have a completion date after 1st January 2025 and MUST NOT have been entered previously.
- have U-value achievement of 0.30 W/m². K or less
- have the approval of all parties involved in the project including the building owner if deemed to be required, in order to enter
- provide high-quality images and confirmation of usage rights

BUILDING HEIGHT DEFINITIONS (For all Categories)

To ensure consistency in judging:

Classification	Definition
High Rise	18 metres and above
Mid Rise	11 to 17.99 metres or 4 storeys and above up to 18 metres
Low Rise	Below 11 metres

The above must be measured from the highest external ground junction to the top of the top floor.

ENTRY STATEMENT PROMPTS (FOR ALL CATEGORIES)

What makes a good entry:

1. What was the project brief and key objectives?
2. What technical, design or site challenges were overcome?
3. What thermal performance improvements were achieved? Before and after data if applicable
4. What makes this project stand out? Factors such as design, location, aesthetics etc.
5. If MMC, why EWI was selected for this project?
6. Any client/resident feedback? Quotes, testimonials etc.
7. Supply as much information as possible with good quality images (high end smartphone quality is acceptable). Please ensure you have rights / permissions to include all images you provide as they may be used for promotional purposes and will be published on the INCA website.

2026 PROJECT CATEGORIES OVERVIEW

ENTRY CATEGORIES OVERVIEW

This year there are **TEN PROJECT ENTRY categories**

Designed to cover the full range of skills required for External Wall Insulation (EWI) work across both **new-build and refurbishment** projects. These categories recognise practical competence across a variety of façade systems, materials, and finishes, including:

- Render Systems
- Traditional finishes
- Brick and Brick-Effect Finishes
- MMC (Modern Methods of Construction)

This year, all External Wall Insulation (EWI) systems will be assessed within a single comparative framework, meaning that brick-slip systems, render systems, traditional finishes, and MMC-based solutions will be evaluated directly against one another in the following categories.

INCA reserve the right to re-allocate entries if we feel it is better suited in another category or we need to create a new category based on the entries received.

2026 PROJECT CATEGORIES

1. **NON-RESIDENTIAL HIGH RISE**
2. **NON-RESIDENTIAL MID RISE**
3. **NON-RESIDENTIAL LOW RISE**
4. **NON-RESIDENTIAL SMALL PROJECT OF THE YEAR - 300m² or less ***

5. **RESIDENTIAL HIGH RISE**
6. **RESIDENTIAL MID RISE**
7. **RESIDENTIAL LOW RISE**
8. **RESIDENTIAL SMALL PROJECT OF THE YEAR - 300m² or less ***

9. **NEW BUILD PROJECT OF THE YEAR ****(installer and manufacturer must be INCA members)
10. **RETROFIT PROJECT OF THE YEAR ****(installer and manufacturer must be INCA members)

.....See next page for Judging Criteria

2026 PROJECT JUDGING & CRITERIA

GENERAL JUDGING CRITERIA

Each category will be judged using the same weighted principles to ensure fairness.

Core Judging Themes (applies to all categories)

<u>Theme</u>	<u>What Judges Look For</u>
Design & Aesthetics	Visual impact, façade treatment, detailing, finish quality, integration with surroundings
Technical Excellence	System specification, detailing, fire compliance, substrate challenges, interfaces
Installation Quality	Workmanship, sequencing, logistics, working at height complexity
Performance Outcomes	Thermal improvement, energy efficiency, durability, compliance
Project Challenge & Innovation	Access issues, heritage, live occupancy, MMC, creative problem solving

** SMALL PROJECTS

For any project 300m² or less, a simple tick box automatically ensures that your project will be submitted into the Small Project of the Year and judged fairly against similar size projects.

This award recognises:

- Exceptional quality despite small scale
- Attention to detail
- Technical difficulty in confined/sensitive sites
- Visual transformation
- Value delivered relative to size

** NEW BUILD PROJECT OF THE YEAR

NOTE: Automatic entry when installers and manufacturers are both INCA members.

This award recognises new construction using EWI as a design-led facade and entries must demonstrate:

- Architectural Impact
- Technical & Installation Quality
- Long-Term Performance

The winner will be selected by an expert panel.

** RETROFIT PROJECT OF THE YEAR

NOTE: Automatic entry when installers and manufacturers are both INCA members.

This award recognises existing building upgrades and entries must demonstrate:

- Environmental Impact
- Retrofit Design Quality
- Installation Excellence

The winner will be selected by an expert panel.



2026 NON-PROJECT CATEGORIES

NEW: INNOVATION AWARD PRODUCT / SERVICE

Recognises a company that has introduced an innovative product, system enhancement, or service that delivers measurable benefit to the EWI sector.

Open to: System Manufacturers, and Associate Members.

Entries will be assessed on:

- Level of innovation – How the product/service advances current practice
- Industry impact – Contribution to performance, efficiency, safety, or quality
- Problem solving – How it addresses a recognised industry challenge
- Evidence of success – Case studies, data, or user feedback
- Sustainability benefits – Environmental performance or reduced waste (where applicable)
- Adoption potential – Scalability and wider industry relevance

Images or documents uploaded will support nominations.

The winner will be selected by an expert panel.

NEW: INITIATIVE AWARD FOR EWI TRAINING

Celebrates an organisation that has delivered an outstanding training or workforce development initiative benefiting the EWI industry.

Open to: Any INCA Member

Entries will be assessed on:

- Quality of the initiative – Structure, content, and delivery approach
- Industry relevance – Alignment with current skills needs and competency standards
- Impact on learners – Qualifications achieved, progression, or retention
- Innovation in delivery – New methods, accessibility, or engagement approaches
- Commitment to workforce development – Long-term investment in skills
- Inclusivity – Support for new entrants, career changers, or underrepresented groups (where applicable)

Images or documents uploaded will support nominations.

The winner will be selected by an expert panel.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

(Previously Component Supplier of the Year)

Recognises the contribution of INCA Associate Members in supporting the performance, reliability, and advancement of the EWI industry.

Up to 3 online nominations by: INCA Contractor & System Designer Members

Companies may wish to consider the following when nominating:

- Customer service
- Reliability and lead times
- Product or service range
- Innovation and added value
- Technical/site support

The winner will be selected by a scoring system based on points for 1st, 2nd or 3rd choices.



2026 NON-PROJECT CATEGORIES

INSTALLER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Installer of the Year Award recognises the achievements of INCA contractor members for excellence of installation and service. This award is for INCA Contractor members only.

Up to 3 online nominations by: System Designer & Associate Members.

Companies may wish to consider the following when nominating:

- Quality of workmanship
- Commitment to training
- Communication & Client satisfaction
- Health & safety commitment
- Pay on time

The winner will be selected by a scoring system based on points for 1st, 2nd or 3rd choices.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AWARD

(Replacing Outstanding Achievement Award)

This award honours an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the EWI industry.

Open to individuals at all levels - Operatives, Managers, Technical Specialists, and Directors, and others working in the EWI sector.

Online nominations should clearly outline why the individual deserves this recognition, demonstrating how they have championed EWI and helped raise the profile of the industry.

Submissions may reference contributions in areas such as:

- **Leadership & Influence** - demonstrated leadership that has shaped industry practices or thinking
- **Industry Advancement** - evidence of improving standards, quality or safety outcomes
- **Skills & Development** - mentoring, training, or supporting workforce development
- **Sector Impact & Legacy** – measurable and lasting positive impact on the industry
- **Promotion of EWI** – active commitment to raising awareness and enhancing the industry's reputation

Please include at least one piece of supporting evidence in your nomination text, such as a testimonial, performance data, or documented results. No additional documents need to be uploaded.

The recipient will be selected from the submitted nominations by the INCA Board of Directors.