Rise AV AWARDS

ENTRY GUIDELINES

Your Work Deserves to be Recognised.

Entering an award can feel uncomfortable - particularly if you're putting yourself forward. You might think:

> ***“I don't nominate myself for things.”***
> ***“I don’t want to appear arrogant”***
> ***“Am I good enough?”***
> ***“I haven't done anything extraordinary.”***

We want to challenge that...

You don’t need to wait for someone else to recognise your work.

The Rise AV Awards recognise the women, advocates and organisations making a difference- from solving difficult problems to being creative visionaries, developing people, challenging outdated ways of working and creating a better industry.

And if self-nominating feels awkward? No one other than Rise AV and the judges will know you entered.

You don’t need a huge team or a massive budget. Tell us what you did, why you did it, the difference it made and the evidence behind it.

If your work has made a difference, we want to hear about it.

How The Awards Work.

14 categories. One global AV industry. Every stage of a career.

The Rise AV Awards recognise women, advocates and businesses making a difference across AV, events and production globally. You don't need a traditional AV job title. If your work contributes to the industry and fits the spirit of a category, we encourage you to enter.

Who can Enter?

YOU
Self-nominate your own work

SOMEONE ELSE
Nominate a colleague or industry peer

A BUSINESS
Enter a business where the category allows

What Makes a Strong Entry?

01 - ACHIEVEMENT What did you actually achieve, deliver or change?

02 - APPROACH What did you do, and what made it effective or different?

03 - IMPACT What difference did it make? Who benefited?

04 - EVIDENCE What can you show us? Results, data, examples or testimonials.

05 - CONTRIBUTION How did your work make a difference beyond your immediate role?

The Categories

Category	Description	Who Might Enter	What the Judges Are Looking For
Early Careers Award	Recognising an outstanding student, apprentice or graduates making their mark in AV.	Students, apprentices or graduates in the early stages of their AV career, across any job function or discipline.	• Be a student, apprentice, or graduate • Have brought a fresh perspective to a project or team. • Developed new skills or taken on additional responsibility. • Made an impact despite being early in their career.
Rising Star	Recognising an emerging professional demonstrating exceptional potential, achievement and contribution within their first four years in the industry.	Anyone within their first four years of an AV career, across any job function or discipline.	• Have achieved something notable within their first four years. • Taken on responsibility beyond what might normally be expected at their career stage. • Demonstrated exceptional development or progression. • Already be making a noticeable contribution to their organisation or the industry.
Technical Excellence Award	Recognising outstanding technical achievement across AV, integration, sound, lighting, production, technical support and service.	Engineers, technicians, programmers, designers, integrators, technical directors, service engineers, support specialists and other technical professionals working across AV, integration, sound, lighting, production and related disciplines.	• Solve complex technical challenges. • Demonstrate exceptional knowledge or technical skill. • Deliver outstanding work across AV, integration, sound, lighting or production. • Provide exceptional technical support or service. • Develop innovative technical solutions.

Category	Description	Who Might Enter	What the Judges Are Looking For
Creative Visionary Award	Celebrating exceptional creativity in AV design, experiences, content, technology or innovative approaches.	Designers, creatives, producers, experience designers, content specialists, technologists and anyone whose work demonstrates exceptional creativity, originality and imagination across AV and live experiences.	• Develop an innovative creative concept.• Create memorable experiences.• Combine technology and creativity in new ways. • Challenge conventional approaches. • Use design, content or technology to deliver something exceptional.
Operational Excellence Award	Recognising outstanding operational excellence and achievement behind successful delivery, including project coordination, service, support, logistics, processes and customer operations.	Project and programme managers, procurement and operations teams, event and service professionals, customer support teams, coordinators, logistics professionals and anyone responsible for turning plans into successful delivery. This category is open to both hands-on practitioners and senior professionals leading teams, suppliers, projects or operational functions.	• Lead complex project or event delivery. • Coordinate people, suppliers, logistics or resources. • Improve processes or ways of working. • Manage customer or service delivery. • Solve problems under pressure. • Keep projects, teams and customers moving.
Product Innovation Award	Recognising innovation in AV products, platforms, technologies or solutions that solve problems and change what is possible.	Product developers, engineers, manufacturers, software and technology teams, product managers, innovators and anyone involved in developing, designing or bringing an AV product, technology or solution to market. Open to both technical specialists and senior professionals leading product strategy, innovation or development.	• Develop a new AV product or technology. • Improve an existing product or solution. • Solve a significant customer or industry problem. • Create a new platform or approach. • Make AV more accessible, efficient or effective.

Category	Description	Who Might Enter	What the Judges Are Looking For
Independent Professional of the Year	Celebrating exceptional creativity in AV design, experiences, content, technology or innovative approaches.	Freelancers, consultants, contractors and independent professionals working across any AV role, discipline or specialism.	• Build a successful freelance or consultancy career. • Bring specialist expertise to clients. • Solve complex problems. • Build strong long-term client relationships. • Make a significant contribution across multiple organisations or projects
Sales Professional of the Year	Recognising outstanding operational excellence and achievement behind successful delivery, including project coordination, service, support, logistics, processes and customer operations.	Sales executives, account managers, business development professionals, internal sales teams, channel and partner managers, service and after-sales professionals, and anyone working in a commercial role focused on growing the business and delivering value for customers.	• Deliver outstanding sales results. • Develop new business. • Build long-term customer relationships. • Identify and respond to customer needs. • Grow accounts or enter new markets. • Deliver value beyond simply achieving a sales target.
Leadership in AV Award	Recognising a woman in a senior leadership role who demonstrates exceptional leadership, influence and mentorship, making a meaningful difference to people, teams and the wider AV industry.	Senior leaders, directors, department heads, technical leaders, operations leaders and senior managers across the AV industry. This category recognises leadership rather than business ownership.	• Lead a team, department or significant function. • Develop and mentor others. • Create opportunities for people to progress. • Influence positive change within their organisation or the industry. • Build a strong and inclusive team culture. • Lead through challenging circumstances.

Category	Description	Who Might Enter	What the Judges Are Looking For
Marketing & Communications Professional of the Year	Recognising excellence in marketing, communications, content, brand or audience engagement within the AV industry	**Marketing, communications, PR, content, digital, social media, brand and events marketing professionals at all career stages. Working in-house, freelance or as an agency — from hands-on specialists and practitioners to senior marketing leaders and strategists.**	• **Deliver an exceptional campaign.** • **Build or reposition a brand.** • **Create compelling content.** • **Grow awareness or engagement.** • **Develop communications that influence audiences.** • **Demonstrate measurable marketing impact.**
Business Leader of the Year	**Recognising a founder, owner, CEO or Managing Director leading or growing an outstanding business, demonstrating strategic vision, commercial achievement and meaningful impact.**	**Founders, owners, CEOs and Managing Directors of AV businesses.**	• **Have founded or grown a business.** • **Deliver strong commercial performance.** • **Develop a clear business strategy and vision.** • **Create jobs and opportunities.** • **Expand into new markets.** • **Build a sustainable, innovative and people-focused organisation.**
Advocate Award	**Celebrating an individual of any gender advancing inclusion and opportunity and helping create positive change across the AV industry.**	**Anyone, in any role or at any career stage, and of any gender, whose actions demonstrate meaningful advocacy or allyship.**	• **Advocate for greater diversity and inclusion.** • **Mentor or support people from underrepresented groups.** • **Challenge barriers or outdated practices.** • **Open doors and create opportunities.** • **Use their influence to create positive change.** • **Champion inclusion within their organisation or the wider industry.**

Category	Description	Who Might Enter	What the Judges Are Looking For
Company Award for Investment in Women	Recognising an organisation demonstrating a measurable commitment to attracting, developing, supporting, progressing and retaining women.	**AV manufacturers, integrators, distributors, rental companies, agencies, consultants, end-user organisations and any organisation employing or working with AV professionals.**	• **Demonstrate measurable progress in representation.** • **Invest in development and progression.** • **Provide mentorship or sponsorship.** • **Improve flexibility or workplace culture.** • **Create pathways into leadership.** • **Demonstrate improved retention or career progression for women.**
Woman Of the Year	**A special Rise AV award recognising an extraordinary woman whose contribution, influence and leadership have made a significant impact on people, organisations or the wider AV industry in 2026.**	**Anyone can enter or nominate a woman for this award — colleagues, peers, employers, customers, industry partners, mentees or anyone who believes she deserves recognition. There are no restrictions on role, seniority or discipline.**	• **Exceptional impact on people, organisations or the industry.** • **Leadership and influence, whether through a formal role or by inspiring others.** • **Outstanding contribution beyond the expectations of her role.** • **Championing others, through mentoring, advocacy, opportunity or support.** • **Positive change, innovation or action that has made a meaningful difference.** • **A compelling story that demonstrates why this woman has stood out in 2026.**

Entry Fees.

We charge a small entry fee of £50+VAT to cover the costs of the software platform we use for entries and as a non-profit, all our costs need to be covered. If you're entering yourself, your line manager should have no issues with you expensing this, but if you need support please contact us. If you're nominating someone for an entry, you will likely need to cover this at your own expense or ask your business if they are OK with expensing this on the business.

Your Entry.

You don’t need to be a professional writer.

01. DON’T OVERTHINK IT

The judges don't need corporate language, complicated terminology or a perfectly polished story. They need to understand what you did, why it mattered and what happened as a result.

02. INSTEAD OF SAYING...



“I am a strong leader who supports my team.”

03. SHOW US



“When our department went through a restructure, I introduced weekly development sessions and individual career plans. Within six months, two team members moved into new roles and employee engagement increased from X to Y.”

SHOW US. DON'T JUST TELL US.

The Questions.

Why?

WHY SHOULD THIS BE RECOGNISED?

150 words

- Who are you?
- What do you do?
- What is your role or responsibility?
- Why is this relevant to the category?
- Why does this work deserve recognition?

What?

WHAT DID YOU ACHIEVE?

500 words

- What did you do?
- What were you trying to achieve?
- What motivated you?
- What challenges did you face?
- How did you overcome them?
- What made your approach effective or different?

IMPACT

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE?

500 words

- What changed?
- What results did you achieve?
- Who benefited?
- Did you create opportunities?
- Did performance, processes or experiences improve?
- What evidence can you give us?

Don't worry about sounding boastful. This is your chance to tell us clearly what you've achieved.

Impact doesn't always have to be a number.

Extras and Evidence.

SUPPORT YOUR ENTRY.

Your story is the entry. Evidence makes it stronger.

TESTIMONIALS
Colleague, client, participant or stakeholder feedback

RESULTS & DATA
Performance figures, growth, progression or other measurable outcomes

CASE STUDIES & PROJECTS
Examples of the work you're describing

VISUAL EVIDENCE
Images, before-and-after examples or project materials

CUSTOMER / EMPLOYEE FEEDBACK
Real-world evidence of the difference you made

ARTICLES & CONTENT
Relevant campaigns, media coverage, projects or online content

You don't need to include everything. Choose evidence that strengthens your story.

EXTRAS TO BE AWARE OFF.

Bring your entry to life.

VIDEO — optional

Up to 5 minutes. No professional production needed. A simple, authentic explanation of what you achieved and why it matters is enough.

HEADSHOT / LOGO
High-resolution colour image. May be used in finalist and awards promotion.

100-WORD SUMMARY
Third person, maximum 100 words. This may appear in the finalists guide and Rise AV marketing, so make it clear, engaging and easy to understand

Be specific. Be honest. Sound like a human. Give us examples.

Hints & Tips for a Great Entry.

Your entry doesn't need to be perfect. It needs to tell a clear, convincing story.

Take your time, be specific and let the judges understand what you did, why it mattered and what changed as a result.

01 — TELL THE STORY
Think about the story behind your achievement. What was the challenge? What did you do? Why did it matter? What changed?

02 — ANSWER THE QUESTIONS
Answer each section directly and make your key points easy to find. Don't repeat yourself — use each question to add something new to your story.

03 — DON'T BE MODEST
This is your opportunity to talk about what you achieved. If you led it, solved it, created it, changed it or made it happen — tell us.

04 — SHOW THE IMPACT
Use results, numbers, testimonials, feedback, progression, customer outcomes or real examples where you have them. Not every achievement needs a number — explain the difference your work made.

05 — SOUND LIKE A HUMAN
You don't need corporate language, jargon or marketing speak. Write clearly, honestly and in your own voice. Imagine you're explaining your achievement to someone outside your part of the AV industry.

06 — DON'T HOLD BACK
Your entry is confidential. Our judges are bound by confidentiality requirements, so don't be afraid to share the detail needed to demonstrate your achievement. The more specific you can be, the stronger your story will be.

07 — TAKE YOUR TIME
Great entries aren't written in a rush.
Draft in Word, come back to it, edit it and ask someone you trust to read it. Give yourself time to gather evidence and strengthen your story.

Don’t talk yourself out of entering.

You don't have to believe you're the obvious winner. You just need to believe that the work you've done is worth telling us about.

If you've made a difference, we want to hear your story.

If you're unsure which category is right for you, whether your achievement is suitable or whether you have enough evidence to enter, don't automatically rule yourself out.

Email: rachael@rise-av.com

Key Dates.

Applications Open: Now

Deadline: 27 November 2026

Judging: January 2027

Shortlist Announced: 4 Feb - ISE 2027

Table Sales: 8 February 2027

Awards Evening: May 2027
(alongside the Peerless Technology Showcase and live streamed to our global audience.)