

2026 Excellence in Production Technology

Process:

The newly expanded group of competitive categories represents excellence in a technical innovation that enhances or revolutionizes the experience of the broadcast viewer. The submissions in these three categories will be judged on a scale of excellence by anonymous peer judges. An independent accountant will review the scores and present them to the National Awards Committee for review. The nominees will be announced in advance of the October event, with winners known only to the accountant until the ceremony.

Each entry is for a single innovation or new application of that technology. A submitter MAY have more than one entry but only one innovation may be included per entry. Submitters may be from a network, production house or a technology company (or a collaboration of multiple entities).

The Entry:

Each submission consists of an essay as well as a video upload not to exceed ten minutes as submitted via the Orthicon entry platform. Every entry must include a one-page synopsis detailing specific objectives and challenges that were overcome as a result of the technical achievement. The entry video may include a produced, explanatory clip of no more than three minutes, but must remain within the 10-minute time limit for the video submission. Any explanatory feature that aired during the telecast can be used as the explanatory excerpt in whole or in part, but its length counts against the 3-minute limit. The explanatory video cannot be the only video excerpt submitted with the entry; actual application of the technology, as-aired must be included in the video submission. Dip to black for 1 second between excerpts of non-continuous programming and include time code for any edit points in the excerpt log in the Orthicon submission site.

Original Broadcast example of the application (use) of the technology must be January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Disclosures:

A previously entered technical innovation or application will be allowed if, in the opinion of NATAS, it has been significantly improved or modified in either how it looks on the screen or in how it is brought to the screen. Submitters **must** disclose any previous submissions – on any network - and in any other NATAS competition (including Regional, Sports, News & Documentary or Technology and Engineering Emmy Awards)

in the one-page essay, and include a statement explaining the significant modifications or improvements over the previous generation or utilization of the technology.

Who earns the award:

There is a limit on the number of entrants/innovators (10) who may be entered as statue-eligible. The term “Innovator” is defined as those individuals who invent, make changes, create or introduce new processes, devices, techniques or systems. Generally they are the creators of the innovation, planners not executors of the idea, i.e. not managers, supervisors, executives, approvers or financiers of the project. All names must be submitted at the time of entry. Only the first entrant will be given a statuette at the time of the ceremony. Any other people named on the entry may purchase an award after the event. Up to three commemorative awards may be purchased for public display by affiliated and responsible corporations in the event of a winning entry.

Category Viability:

In the event that contest administration and the National Awards Committee deem a category non-viable due to the number of entries, NATAS may eliminate the category, merge the category with another similar category or split a category into two. If a category is canceled, affected entrants will receive a full refund. If a category is merged with another category, or split into two categories, entrants in each affected category shall be given the option to remain in the competition in the new category framework, or to withdraw from the competition and receive a full refund of associated entry fees.

Membership is not required to participate in the competition. However NATAS does offer National membership for qualified individuals. In the future all judging will be conducted among members of NATAS and the Television Academy. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information about judging.

Timeline:

May 7-June 18, Submission window

August 18, 2026 Nominations Announced

October TBD Technology & Engineering Emmy Awards

Categories:

101 Excellence in Production Technology Application: ENG, Field Shoots, Remotes

102 Excellence in Production Technology Application: Studio Production

Fees:

\$300 per entry

ONLY PEOPLE LISTED AT THE TIME OF ENTRY WILL BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE A STATUETTE IN THE EVENT OF A WIN. A PRODUCER PROOF WILL BE EMAILED TO THE SUBMITTER AFTER THE ENTRY DEADLINE. THERE IS A ONE-CALENDAR-WEEK GRACE PERIOD TO ADD NAMES (UP TO TEN). NO CHANGES WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER THAT GRACE PERIOD.

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Category Descriptions:

101 Excellence in Production Technology Application: ENG, Field Shoots, Remotes

This category represents excellence in a technical innovation that enhances or revolutionizes the experience of the broadcast viewer on a field shoot or remote production.

Submissions in this category will be judged on a scale of excellence by anonymous peer judges. An independent accountant will review the scores and present them to the National Awards Committee for review. The nominees will be announced in advance of the October event, with winners known only to the accountant until the ceremony.

Each entry is for a single innovation or new application of that technology. A submitter MAY have more than one entry but only one innovation may be included per entry. Submitters may be from a network, production house or a technology company (or a collaboration of multiple entities).

102 Excellence in Production Technology Application: Studio Productions

This category represents excellence in a technical innovation that enhances or revolutionizes the experience of the broadcast viewer for a studio production.

Submissions in this category will be judged on a scale of excellence by anonymous peer judges. An independent accountant will review the scores and present them to the

National Awards Committee for review. The nominees will be announced in advance of the October event, with winners known only to the accountant until the ceremony.

Each entry is for a single innovation or new application of that technology. A submitter MAY have more than one entry but only one innovation may be included per entry. Submitters may be from a network, production house or a technology company (or a collaboration of multiple entities).

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