

## Call Advert National ICT Award

### Introduction

The National ICT Awards 2025 will serve as a prestigious platform to inaugurate, celebrate, and recognise outstanding achievements in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) across Botswana. This event will honour the exceptional contributions of individuals, organisations, and initiatives that have demonstrably advanced the ICT sector through exemplary innovation, leadership, and the implementation of impactful solutions.

The primary aims of the awards are to highlight excellence, promote industry best practices, and inspire continued advancement within the national and global ICT landscape. In doing so, the awards reflect the dynamic and transformative nature of the industry, encouraging collaboration between public and private sectors to further growth and development in Botswana.

### The theme of the ICT Awards 2025

"Empowering the Digital Economy: Innovation, Inclusion, and Impact"

### Objectives of the ICT Awards 2025

The objectives of the ICT Awards 2025 awards are as follows:

1. To recognise and honour individuals, organizations and initiatives that have made significant contributions in ICT.
2. To promote innovation in the ICT sector by showcasing groundbreaking projects, services and products
3. To contribute to the Digital Transformation national agenda in socio-economic development by promoting the use of ICT for entrepreneurship and sustainable development
4. To promote inclusivity and empower underrepresented women and minorities within the ICT industry.

### Categories for ICT Awards

The categories for ICT Awards are structured to encourage and recognize groundbreaking advancements across various sectors and industries. They will feature categories that encompass a wide range of sectors, including the following:

1. **Digital Transformation Project of the Year:** The Award recognizes organizations or projects that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in leveraging digital technologies to transform business processes, enhance customer experiences, and drive overall organizational success
2. **Start-up of the Year (ICT):** The Award recognizes a promising new business that has demonstrated exceptional growth, innovation, and potential in its industry
3. **Best Digital Service – Public Sector:** The Award recognizes a government agency, government department, or parastatal organisation that has excelled in delivering exceptional public services through digital platforms

4. **Best Digital Service – Private Sector:** The Award recognizes a private company that has excelled in delivering outstanding services through digital platforms
5. **The ICT Pioneer Award:** The award honours an individual or organization that has demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and contributions to Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
6. **ICT Educator of the Year – Tertiary Education:** The award honours an outstanding educator who has demonstrated excellence in teaching and advancing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) education. This award celebrates individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of ICT skills and knowledge, inspired students, and promoted the integration of ICT in education
7. **ICT Educator of the Year – Basic Education:** The award honours an outstanding educator who has demonstrated excellence in teaching and advancing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) education. This award celebrates individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of ICT skills and knowledge, inspired students, and promoted the integration of ICT in education.
8. **Cybersecurity Excellence Award:** The award recognises initiatives that demonstrate innovation and leadership in protecting digital systems. Categories can include best cybersecurity company, best cybersecurity product, best cybersecurity team, and various individual awards for cybersecurity professionals.
9. **ICT Product Innovation Award:** The award honours the most outstanding product within the ICT sector, recognizing innovation, performance, market impact, and customer satisfaction. It highlights excellence in product development and showcases innovations that drive technological advancement and market leadership within the ICT industry
10. **Youth in ICT Award:** The award recognizes young individuals who have demonstrated exceptional talent, innovation, and leadership in ICT. This award typically focuses on celebrating young ICT professionals or entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions or achievements.
11. **Women in ICT Award:** The award celebrates and honours women who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, leadership, and innovation in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. This award recognizes the significant contributions of women professionals in various roles within ICT.
12. **CIO of the Year -** For outstanding ICT leadership and organisational impact. The award serves as a benchmark for IT excellence and leadership within organizations, highlighting individuals who play a pivotal role in driving technological innovation and business success through strategic IT management
13. **Minister's Special Recognition Award:** For extraordinary contributions to Botswana's ICT sector, chosen by the Minister. The Minister's ICT Award serves to acknowledge and celebrate leaders, organizations, or initiatives that have made significant contributions to advancing ICT policies, infrastructure, and digital transformation efforts within their respective entities or individuals.
14. **ICT Media Excellence Award -** For journalism, reporting, or campaigns that promote ICT adoption and awareness. This award typically honors journalists, media organizations, or specific articles, reports, or broadcasts that have excelled IN ICT reporting, innovation journalism, ICT education, ICT public awareness, and community engagement etc.

- 15. CSI & Societal Impact Award** - Recognises corporate or community initiatives using ICT to improve livelihoods and societal wellbeing. The award aims to highlight and promote ICT initiatives that demonstrate measurable positive outcomes and contribute to building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies

## Evaluation Process

The evaluation process for the 2025 ICT Awards is designed to be thorough and transparent, involving several key stages to ensure a comprehensive and fair assessment of all submitted applications. The evaluation process will be as follows:

1. **Screening** - All submitted applications undergo an initial screening process to ensure they meet the basic eligibility criteria.
2. **Internal Review** - Shortlisted applications from the screening stage are then subjected to a review by a panel of experts in relevant fields. An example: digital transformation project of the year shall include fields representation from government, private sector, academia, telecommunications, financial inclusion and ERP solutions etc.
3. **Due Diligence** - Following the review process, applications that pass this stage undergo a more in-depth due diligence process. This will include project impact assessment, sustainability review, ethical and compliance assessment, and technical validation.
4. **Aggregation to Determine Winners** - The evaluations and assessments from the screening, external review, and due diligence stages are aggregated to determine the final winners.

The Judge's decision is final.

## Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for the ICT Awards are meticulously designed to identify and celebrate outstanding contributions across various domains with relevance to Botswana context. Entries will be assessed based on the following key factors:

1. **Innovation**: The degree of novelty and creativity in the ICT solution or initiative.
2. **Impact and Relevance to Botswana**: The measurable effects or benefits achieved through the ICT solution or initiative, with clear evidence of how it addresses needs within Botswana and contributes to local or national priorities.
3. **Scalability**: The potential for the solution or initiative to be applied on a larger scale or in different contexts.
4. **User Experience**: How well the solution enhances user experience and usability.
5. **Technical Excellence**: The level of technical sophistication, reliability, and performance of the ICT solution.
6. **Business Value**: The contribution of the ICT solution to achieving business objectives, such as cost savings, revenue generation, or efficiency improvements.

7. Sustainability: Consideration of environmental, social, and economic sustainability aspects in the ICT solution or initiative.
8. Leadership and Vision: The leadership, vision, and strategic direction demonstrated in the development and implementation of the ICT solution.
9. Adaptability and Flexibility: The ability of the ICT solution to adapt to changing technological or business environments.
10. Customer or Stakeholder Feedback: Feedback and testimonials from users, customers, or stakeholders regarding the ICT solution's effectiveness and impact.

These criteria help ensure a thorough evaluation process that considers both technical excellence and real-world impact, ultimately identifying and honouring the most deserving contributions to the ICT industry.

### Key Dates and Timeline

<b>Application Open Date:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Judging Period:</b>	October to November 2025
<b>Winners Announcement / Award Day:</b>	November 2025

### Application Process

#### Online Application Portal

Submission of an application package should be in a form of electronic copy. The deadline for submission is **13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 2300 hrs, Botswana Time.** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. The electronic copy should be in PDF.

Access to the ICT Awards document and submission are made available in the BITS website. URL: [www.bits.org.bw](http://www.bits.org.bw) and use the submission link per instructions provided for your nomination.

Complete application form available at: [www.bits.org.bw](http://www.bits.org.bw)

#### Required Documents and Information

Ensure your application includes the completed application form and the necessary attachments as indicated in the application form. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

**End**