

SEAFUTURE AWARDS 2025 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Art. 1

SEAFUTURE AWARDS 2025

SEAFUTURE 2025 is the event presenting the maritime industry expertise state of the art, through high-tech conferences and seminars, exhibitions of cutting-edge products and projects, as well as B2B meetings attended by industry companies, the Italian Navy and numerous foreign navies. As part of the event, the **SEAFUTURE AWARDS 2025, now in its fifth edition**, is being launched.

The Award intends to emphasise experimental theses, three-year, master's or doctoral, developed in industries or laboratories of University Departments or Research Centers and national and international entities, concerning products or processes in the field of marine technologies, which are possibly employable in different sectors (Dual Use), and/or which refer to one or more of the following fields inherent to the Blue Economy: **Marine Technologies and Innovation, Sustainability, Maritime Transports and Infrastructures**. See the appendix on page 3 of this call for a detailed description of the target areas.

Art. 2

APPLICATIONS

The award is open to three-year and master's degree graduates, doctoral students, PhDs from the Italian and international academic world, both civil and military. Applicants must submit their papers in electronic format (pdf), along with a thesis abstract, uploading them to the dedicated platform at www.seafuture.it, **no later than noon on April 15, 2025**. Both documents must be in English.

Art. 3

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Theses will be eligible for selection if they have received a mark between **100 and 110/110** (referring to the Italian Marking System) from the graduate or doctoral Committee at the time of the thesis discussion.

Art. 4

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The thesis selection will be made by a Scientific Committee consisting of the Ligurian Cluster of Marine Technology Committee and some representatives of **SEAFUTURE 2025** partners.

Art. 5

PROMOTION OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The call will be given visibility through the official communication channels of **SEAFUTURE 2025** partners, as well as their **social pages and communities**.

Art. 6

SELECTION

Among all the theses submitted, the Scientific Committee will select 7 of them as finalists, that will have the opportunity to participate in **SEAFUTURE 2025** and will be awarded during a public event, the date of which will be announced later.

In case of a tie, the youngest candidate will have priority. Those selected will have the opportunity to present their theses in a special exhibition area (poster area) and participate in B2B, seminars and conferences. In addition, the abstracts of the theses will be included in promotional materials for the press.

Art. 7

THE THREE WINNERS AWARDING

In the further step, exhibiting companies will choose the best three theses among the seven finalists of **SEAFUTURE AWARDS 2025**. The evaluation criteria will be feasibility, usefulness and relevance. The three selected theses will be the winners of **SEAFUTURE AWARDS 2025**.

Art. 8

AWARDING THE PRIZE TO THE THREE WINNERS

SEAFUTURE AWARDS 2025 will be assigned during a public ceremony. The winner will be awarded a technology prize equivalent to 4,000 euros, the second-place winner 2,500 euros and the third-place winner 1,500 euros. Alternatively, awardees will have the opportunity to choose an internship at a prestigious company in the thesis relevant industry.

Art. 9

EVENTUAL THESIS PUBLICATION

If particularly interesting, the papers shall be included in a special publication, citing the author(s) who, in the case, will be contacted for appropriate permissions.

Art. 10

PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

By participating, the candidates automatically intend to authorize the organizing secretariat of the **SEAFUTURE AWARDS 2025** to process their personal data, under the terms allowed by Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30.6.2003, and to eventually publish their thesis.

Art. 11

CONTACTS

The following mailbox is available for information and clarifications: awards@seafuture.it.

Appendix to the SEAFUTURE AWARDS 2025 call

The thematic categories reflect the various areas of interest and development of the Blue Economy sector. Transversal to the sectors listed below may be Dual Use, i.e. maritime technologies that can be used for both civil and military purposes.

1. Marine Technology and Innovation

- **Marine technologies:** covers all advanced technologies applied in the maritime sector, from navigation to safety, from communications to automation.
- **Automation:** Robotics, autonomous vehicles, and other technologies to improve the efficiency of maritime operations, such as the Internet of Things (IoT).
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Artificial intelligence applied to monitoring, data analysis and optimisation of maritime operations and navigation.
- **Cybersecurity:** Protection of data and infrastructure, including submarine infrastructure, through secure digital solutions.
- **5G Communication:** The use of 5G connectivity to improve maritime communications and real-time monitoring and support the application of technologies in different sectors (autonomous vehicles, renewable energy facilities, energy grids, environmental monitoring, ship-to-port communication, maritime traffic monitoring).
- **Underwater technologies:** Drones, sensors, robots, used in activities such as research, environmental and underwater infrastructure monitoring, mining and archaeology.

2. Sustainability

- **Renewable Energy:** Renewable energy sources at sea to reduce the environmental impact of maritime activities, mitigating the effects of climate change.
- **Green technologies:** Technologies aimed at improving energy efficiency, promoting the use of eco-sustainable, innovative and recyclable materials, reducing environmental pollution (e.g. through the use of alternative fuels such as hydrogen, biofuels, methanol, ammonia, LPG, LNG, hybrid or full-electric propulsion) and mitigating the acoustic impact on the marine ecosystem.
- **Research and Development:** Activities aimed at identifying innovative solutions to make maritime-related operations more sustainable and efficient.

3. Maritime Transports and Infrastructures

- **Shipbuilding:** Ship and boat building, a key sector in the Blue Economy, can be oriented towards the adoption of new technologies and sustainability: design for disassembling, design for sustainability, innovative and sustainable materials, propulsion systems with low environmental impact, virtual design and simulation (3D models, augmented reality and virtual reality) to optimise design, improve quality and reduce construction costs.
- **Maritime Safety:** International practices, technologies and regulations adopted to ensure the safety of maritime operations, protect people at sea, the marine environment and natural resources, and ensure the smooth operation of activities related to the Blue Economy.
- **Smart Ports:** Ports using advanced technologies and communication systems to optimise port operations, improve logistics efficiency, reduce environmental impact and costs.