



United States Patent and Trademark Office

Frequently Asked Questions about the National Medal of Technology and Innovation (NMTI)

Q: Who can be nominated?

A: The NMTI is awarded to individuals, teams of up to four individuals, or companies/non-profits or divisions of companies/non-profits. Individuals and teams must be living and also be U.S. citizens. Companies must be U.S. owned, defined as 50% of shares or assets are owned by U.S. citizens.

Q: What makes a good nomination?

A: The NMTI seeks to recognize outstanding contributions to the nation's economic, environmental, and social well-being through technological innovation, commercialization, or development of the technological workforce. A good nomination will clearly demonstrate how the contribution affected the U.S.'s well-being via the nomination form and typically have three to six quality recommendation letters.

Q: Who can submit a nomination?

A: Anyone can submit a nomination (e.g., a colleague, a student, a mentor, or staff). Self-nominations are also accepted.

Q: What is the role of the nominator?

A: The nominator fills out biographical information and describes the achievement, filling out the bulk of the online nomination. They also solicit a maximum of six letters of recommendation.

Q: Who should write the letters of recommendation?

Letters should be written by individuals from varied organizations and backgrounds (i.e. they should not all come from the nominee's workplace). The letters should reflect direct knowledge and expert understanding of the nominee and his/her work.

Q: What makes a good letter of recommendation?

A: The NMTI Evaluation Committee is looking for letters that describe the technological innovation, commercialization, or development of the technological workforce, and the impact the contribution has had, including lasting contributions to America's competitiveness, standard of living, quality of life, or strengthening the nation's technological workforce. The letters do not need to be long - most are a page or two on institutional or personal letterhead. See our sample letter at www.uspto.gov/nmti for more tips.

Q: How is the nomination evaluated?

Nominations are reviewed by the NMTI Evaluation Committee. Evaluation criteria are described in the Nomination Guidelines posted on www.uspto.gov/nmti.

Q: When will a decision be made on the winners?

A: After committee review, the U.S. President makes the final decision on who will be awarded the NMTI, and the White House makes the announcement. There is no set schedule on making the announcements.

Q: How often can I submit a nomination? Can I nominate more than one person or the same person again?

A: You can make as many nominations as you like - of the same person or different people. Starting in 2019, each nomination is eligible for three years - the year it is submitted and the two following years.