

RULES FOR THE 4TH ALL-RUSSIAN COMPETITION 'Best Implemented Innovative Project in WELDING 2025–2026'

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

1.1. These Regulations set out the rules for the organisation, conduct and evaluation of the Fourth All-Russian Competition 'Best Implemented Innovative Project in WELDING 2025–2026', hereinafter referred to as the 'Competition'.

1.2. The official websites of the Competition are those of its organisers: www.weldex.ru, www.mmagssvarka.ru

1.3. The Competition will run **from 1 August 2026 to 29 September 2026**.

1.4. The main principles of the Competition are the use of objective evaluation criteria, the involvement of authoritative experts and jury members, and the validation (presenting verification results to demonstrate that the technology, equipment or process complies with and meets user expectations) of the project's achieved results.

1.5. Compliance with the principles set out in paragraph 1.4 is guaranteed by the competition's supervisory board.

1.6. The organisers of the Competition are: the WELDEX Exhibition Management (www.weldex.ru), the Moscow Inter-Industry Alliance of Chief Welders (MMAGS) (www.mmagssvarka.ru); the National Technological Chamber (NTP) (www.ntp1.ru); and the Committee on Prospective Development of the All-Union Society of Inventors and Innovators (VOIR) (www.ros-voir.ru).

2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION.

2.1. The aim of the Competition is to identify the best and most significant projects implemented by heads of welding operations, chief welders or members of senior management whose remit includes the duties of chief welders within their companies – technical directors, chief engineers, chief process engineers, chief metallurgists and chief mechanics.

2.2. The objectives of the Competition are:

- a) to identify talented managers of industrial enterprises across various sectors that utilise welding technologies, capable of implementing complex projects in the field of mechanisation, automation and robotisation of welding operations;
- b) to establish a database of exemplary projects across various manufacturing sectors, implemented using a range of modern methods for improving and optimising welding and pre-welding operations;
- c) to identify and promote domestic and world-leading welding technologies and methods for improving the quality, productivity and safety of welding operations.

3. COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS.

3.1. Participants in the Competition may be legal entities operating in the following sectors of the Russian Federation's economy:

- a) extractive industries, the fuel and energy sector;
- b) all types of production across all industrial sectors of the Russian Federation utilising
welding welding, cutting, surfacing, and coating
with

the use of thermal processes (electric arc, gas-flame, electron-beam, laser and others);

- c) Research Institutes, Universities, Research Centres;
- d) distribution/engineering/services/;
- e) repair and modernisation of all types of welding products;

3.2. Projects submitted by participants for the competition must have been implemented and put into commercial operation after 1 January 2025.

3.3. Projects must not have been winners of previous or other competitions.

3.4. Each project may be entered into the competition no more than once.

3.5. Nominations for the competition may be submitted by the enterprises themselves and the managers of these production facilities who utilise advanced welding technologies, or by members of the enterprises' senior management whose remit includes ensuring the operational readiness and development of welding production facilities (directors, chief engineers, chief metallurgists, chief process engineers, chief mechanics, chief welders, heads of welding laboratories).

3.6. All communication between the organisers, experts and competition participants shall be conducted using the contact details provided by the nominee.

3.7. A nominee may only be replaced with the organisers' consent. The nominee is obliged to notify the organisers of any changes to their contact details.

3.8. The nominee is required to present the project in person during the face-to-face final.

3.9. Upon registration, the competition nominee must familiarise themselves with these Rules.

4. COMPETITION CATEGORIES.

4.1. During the Competition, winners will be selected in the following categories:

1. **Category No. 1:** 'Best project for the development of advanced welding technologies' (welding, cutting, surfacing, brazing and the application of special coatings), implemented in the field of core business processes: the extractive industries, the fuel and energy sector; all types of manufacturing across all industrial sectors; housing and communal services, etc.
2. **Category No. 2:** 'Best Project in the Field of Scientific Research in Welding' (relating to welding, cutting, surfacing, brazing and thermal coating methods), which have found application in real-world production.
3. **Category No. 3:** 'Best Project – Import Independence in Welding' – the best mechanisation and automation projects implemented exclusively (or predominantly) using domestic technologies and equipment. Category No. 3 is a 'cross-cutting' category, meaning that all projects from Categories No. 1 and No. 2 are automatically included in it.

5. COMPETITION SUPERVISORY BOARD.

5.1. The Competition's Supervisory Board is established to facilitate the achievement of the Competition's objectives and the fulfilment of its tasks.

5.2. The Supervisory Board performs the following functions:

- a) monitors compliance with the Competition rules, as well as the objectivity and impartiality of the selection of winners;
- b) helps to maintain the Competition's high reputation;
- c) considers appeals from Competition participants.

6. COMPETITION EXPERTS

- 6.1. The Competition's experts are managers and leading specialists in the field of welding and related technologies, who are professionals in their field.
- 6.2. The selection of experts is carried out by the Competition Organisers in consultation with major welding communities in the Russian Federation (self-regulatory organisations, non-profit organisations, associations and alliances of welders, and winners of previous WELDEX professional welding competitions).
- 6.3. The role of the Competition's experts is to audit the information on projects submitted by participants, based on a methodology developed by the Competition Organisers, which ensures a standardised, objective and impartial assessment of the projects.
- 6.4. Based on the results of the audit, the experts report their assessment and provide detailed feedback on each assessment criterion.

7. COMPETITION JURY.

- 7.1. The Organising Committee may invite representatives with high qualifications in the field of welding technologies to serve on the jury.
- 7.2. Persons with a personal interest in the results of the Competition (including those who have submitted applications to take part in the Competition, or who are employees of organisations that have submitted such applications) may not serve as members of the Competition jury.

8. STAGES OF THE COMPETITION.

- 8.1. The main stages of the Competition are:
- a) submission of online applications with descriptions of implemented projects in the field of welding and related technologies (1 August – 1/2 September 2026);
 - b) audit of projects by independent Competition experts (September 2026);
 - c) the final of the Competition (October 2026);
 - d) an awards ceremony for the winners (October 2026).
- 8.2. Applications to take part in the Competition are accepted electronically via the exhibition website at www.weldex.ru. Submitting an application involves:
- a) completing the electronic application form (see Appendix No. 1);
 - b) signing the consent form for the processing of personal data and the confidentiality agreement.
- Note: these forms must be completed in Word format.** Sample forms for submitting applications to take part in the Competition must be posted on the WELDEX and MMAGS exhibition websites by 1 August 2026 inclusive. Participants are required to provide accurate information upon registration and to ensure it remains up to date throughout the Competition.
- 8.3. No more than one project per company may be submitted to the Competition, and no more than one project per category.
- 8.4. Every application submitted via the Competition's official websites is subject to moderation (verification that applications comply with the Competition's theme and rules). Should any incorrect or insufficient information be identified, the application may be returned to the participant for revision. All necessary revisions must be completed **by 25 September 2026 inclusive**.
- 8.5. The Organising Committee reserves the right to reject an application if it does not meet the Competition's requirements or contains incorrect information.
- 8.6. The audit of projects submitted to the Competition, which includes the work of experts on verification (checking the authenticity of data and confirming the accuracy of applications),

validation (checking that the product, equipment or process meets user expectations) and, where necessary, the correction of project data, is carried out by a team of experts, primarily using video conferencing. At least two independent experts are involved in the audit of each project. During the audit stage, participants who have submitted projects that do not meet the Competition's requirements or contain knowingly false information may be excluded from the Competition final. The outcome of the audit is a formalised assessment of the project, carried out using a specific methodology, which is recorded in the project assessment sheet.

8.7. Projects that have received the highest number of points as a result of the evaluation process are invited to the in-person final of the Competition. The in-person final involves a presentation of the project to a qualified jury, which will enable the verification of the assessments from the preceding stages and make use of an additional mechanism special nominations to enhance overall motivation of participants Competition taking taking into account the duration of the selection process and the effort expended at all stages of the Competition.

8.8. The presentation is prepared by the project participants using a template provided by the competition organisers with a specified structure. The graphic design of the presentation is developed by the participants themselves.

8.9. The total time allocated to Competition participants for their presentation during the in-person final is **up to 8 minutes**. Each participant delivers their presentation (subject to a technical check to ensure it is ready for demonstration) within (no more than) 5 minutes. Following the presentation, the experts provide their feedback on the project (1 minute). A further 2 minutes are allocated for questions from the jury after the participant's presentation. The jury reserves the right not to ask any follow-up questions.

9. SUMMARY OF THE COMPETITION RESULTS.

9.1. At the in-person final of the Competition, the jury records their marks on their individual assessment forms for each participant in accordance with the established criteria. Once all participants have presented and the marks have been recorded, the jury members submit their individual assessment forms to the Competition Organising Committee so that the marks can be transferred to the final assessment sheet.

9.2. The winners of the Competition are determined on the basis of the results, which include the marks received at all stages of the Competition (the average mark from the experts is weighted at 65 per cent, the average mark from the jury is weighted at 35 per cent; the marks are calculated taking into account the weighting coefficients of the criteria within the category in which the project is competing).

9.3. The participant who scores the highest number of points in each category is declared the winner.

9.4. The results are finalised and announced on the day of the in-person final of the Competition or no later than the day following the in-person final of the Competition.

10. AWARDING OF WINNERS.

10.1. Every Competition participant who has passed the moderation process will receive an electronic certificate of participation in the Competition.

10.2. Every participant in the Competition who has been admitted to the in-person final will receive a 'Finalist's Certificate for the National Welding Award'.

10.3. The winners of the Competition (first-place winners in each category) will receive a 'Winner's Diploma of the National Welding Award' and a branded Competition statuette (cup).

10.4. Competition winners may be invited to speak at WELDEX events.

11. COMPETITION ORGANISERS AND PARTNERS.

11.1. The organisers of the Competition are the WELDEX Exhibition Management (www.weldex.ru), the Moscow Inter-Industry Alliance of Chief Welders (MMAGS) (www.mmagssvarka.ru), and the National Technology Chamber (NTP) (www.ntp1.ru); the Committee for Prospective Development of the All-Union Society of Inventors and Innovators (VOIR) (www.ros-voir.ru).

11.2. The organisers of the Competition shall ensure:

- a) the development of procedures for organising events to collect and evaluate projects in the field of welding;
- b) the organisation of IT support for the event on the official websites of the Competition organisers;
- c) the formation and operation of the Competition's Supervisory Board;
- d) the auditing of submitted projects, for which independent experts are engaged;
- e) the conduct of the in-person stage of the Competition;
- f) recruiting partners for the Competition;
- g) organising a formal awards ceremony for the winners.

11.3. Partners of the Competition may include state, private and public organisations at all levels that provide resource support (technical, organisational, expert and other) for the Competition's activities.

12. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

12.1. All information provided by Competition participants is used exclusively for the purpose of evaluating projects and selecting the winners.

12.2. Access to the information is restricted to the project team, including the organisers, experts, the judging panel and members of the supervisory board.

12.3. Information provided by participants in the initial questionnaire (application), the final presentation, and the video recording of the finalist's in-person defence may be used by the competition organisers for publication in the media, including on social media and on the project organisers' websites.

12.4. Competition finalists have the right to submit a request to the organisers to restrict the publication of information within 3 days of the end of the final. The request must be sent to the competition's official email address: mmags2012@mail.ru . If a competition participant has not exercised this right, publications may be made in accordance with clause 12.3.

13. FINAL PROVISIONS.

13.1. The Competition Organising Committee reserves the right to immediately suspend or terminate the rights of Competition participants, having notified them accordingly, in the event of a breach of these Rules.

13.2. Grounds for exclusion from the Competition may include:

- a) the submission of forged documents or knowingly false information when completing questionnaires and interactive project forms;
- b) unverified key parameters of the project when the validation by the Competition's independent experts;
- c) multiple registrations using fictitious details or the details of third parties;

d) the publication of false or defamatory information about the Competition and its participants.

13.3. Should any amendments be made to the Regulations, they shall be published on the official websites of the Competition Organisers. If a participant continues to take part in the Competition, they are deemed to have agreed to the amendments made to the Regulations.

**To the Rules of the ‘Best Implemented Innovative Project in the Field of Welding 2025–2026’
Competition**

ENTRY FORM

for the ‘Best Implemented Innovative Project in the Field of Welding 2025–2026’ Competition

1. General Information on the Project

Company Name:	
Company website:	
Region and town where the company is based:	
Industry of the company that implemented the project:	
Competition nominee, full name:	
Position:	
Contact telephone numbers/email:	
Short title of the project:	
Brief description of the project (briefly outline the essence of the changes that have taken place and the technologies used to achieve them. A full description of the project is detailed in the sections ‘Project Organisational Scope’ and ‘Project Technological Scope’:	
Project start date, month, year (project start date according to the company’s internal company documents):	
Project end date: month, year (official end of the project: transition to commercial, pilot-scale or trial operation):	
Contact person at the Company, full name (for communication with the Competition organisers):	
Position of the contact person:	
Contact person’s email address (copies of):	
Contact person’s telephone number:	

2. Scope of the project

What was the Company’s objective? (What problem did the project address, and what were its aims?):	
Description of the key outcomes achieved (How were the quantitative and qualitative outcomes were achieved? Which risks were mitigated? For example, the automation of such-and-such	

operations led to a XX per cent reduction in costs or an increase in revenue due to...):	
Have the Company's external relationships changed? Has the project succeeded in creating new scenarios for the company's development, and open up new opportunities to boost the company's profitability? (Describe the key changes in the company's relationship with with counterparties, and whether internal processes have been optimised as a result of the Project's implementation):	
In your opinion, to what extent is the project unique (does the project have any industry-specific characteristics, and are there similar projects within the sector or at other companies?):	
What were the main challenges encountered during the project and how were they resolved? (Please specify up to three main organisational, engineering and technical challenges that arose during the project's implementation)	

3. The project's technological scope

List all the technologies involved in the project (all technologies, software, hardware components and units used):	
List the key technological challenges of the project (e.g. numerous integrations, high workload, high degree of distribution, complex algorithms, etc. Where possible, provide quantitative indicators):	
Use of domestic developments (Specify which technologies, technical solutions and developments can be considered domestic):	
Level of use of domestic developments (In the case of procuring domestic technology – the proportion of domestic projects in the project's external costs. In the case of in-house development – the proportion of labour required for in-house development relative to the total labour required for the project):	
Main supplier of technologies and technical solutions (Main from	

in terms of the project budget. This includes in-house development):	
Implementation contractors:	

4. Consent

By submitting this application to take part in the competition, I confirm that I have read and agree to the Competition Rules 'Best Implemented Innovative Project in the Field of Welding 2025–2026'	
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5. Completion of the form by the competition moderator (organiser)

Full name of the verifier:	
Comments:	
Result:	