

INTERNATIONAL AWARD "SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCES" MARMOMAC 2026

REGULATIONS

Art.1

Veronafiere S.p.A. (hereinafter also referred to as "*Veronafiere*") on the occasion of the 60th edition of the Marmomac trade show (hereinafter also referred to as the "*Exhibition*"), the International Trade Show dedicated to the entire marble production supply chain, scheduled from 22 to 25 September 2026 at the Veronafiere exhibition center (Viale del Lavoro 8 – 37135 Verona), hereby establishes the INTERNATIONAL AWARD "SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCES", as a competition open to exhibitors and co-exhibitors of machines, equipment, tools, chemical products, plants, and technologies for the processing of natural stone and its by-products (hereinafter also referred to respectively as the "*Award*" and the "*Competition*").

Art.2

The *Competition* is open to machines, equipment, tools, chemical products, plants, and technologies for the processing of natural stone and its by-products of new conception and/or presenting innovations of practical application or fundamental improvement over existing products (hereinafter referred to as "*Novelty*") participating in the *Exhibition*.

The *Novelties* must be products presented on the international market for the first time in the calendar year 2026.

In cases where the *Novelties* are already the subject of a patent application filed by the company participating in the *Competition*, the application for participation must be submitted together with a copy of the patent filing application.

Machines, equipment, tools, chemical products, plants, and technologies of new conception and/or presenting innovations of practical application or fundamental improvement over existing products, which represent an effective novelty in the company's product range, may, at the sole discretion of the Judging Committee, be admitted to the *Award*.

The innovative characteristics taken into consideration must be strongly oriented towards the concept of sustainability. They may refer to solutions for energy efficiency, reduction of environmental impact and CO₂ emissions, optimization of production and operational processes, valorization of materials in terms of durability, reuse and recovery, as well as circular economy strategies and improvement of the product life cycle. Also valued are innovations relating to the safeguarding of health and the promotion of conditions and safety of workers and communities, such as reduction of exposure to hazardous agents (including dust, chemical substances, and vibrations) and ergonomic solutions, and the minimization of the impact of production activities on surrounding communities in terms of emissions, discharges, noise, waste management, and environmental remediation. Other elements that clearly add value to the product presented are also admissible.

All applications must mandatorily be accompanied by a declaration, made pursuant to Article 76 of Presidential Decree No. 445 of 28 December 2000, signed by the Legal Representative of the manufacturing and/or importing company, certifying that the machines, equipment, tools, chemical products, plants, and technologies have not been presented at an exhibition in the form proposed for the *Award*.

The type of advertising and commercialization of the products, if any, must also be documented.

Failure to submit such declaration will automatically result in rejection of the application.

Art.3

The *Competition* will be held during the 60th edition of Marmomac, scheduled from 22 to 25 September 2026 at the *Veronafiere* exhibition center. Models of machines, equipment, tools, chemical products, plants, and technologies submitted by participants for the *Award* for which the character of *Novelty* has been recognized pursuant to Art. 2 of these Regulations shall/must be displayed during the Trade Show.

Art.4

The application for participation in the *Award* must be received via the appropriate form on the Marmomac website, no later than 31 August 2026.

Following the application, duly completed in all its parts, the following documents must be uploaded via the platform in accordance with the instructions set out below:

I. a report of approximately 2000 words, written in English (or alternatively in both Italian and English), covering all aspects that, in the participant's judgement, may constitute a novelty pursuant to Art. 2 of these Regulations;

II. all documentation (drawings, photographs, calculations, test results, videos, etc.) that the participant deems useful to present to the Judging Committee so that the validity of the proposed innovations may be recognized.

In particular, the attached documentation must highlight:

- a) the fundamental characteristics of the machines, equipment, tools, chemical products, plants, and technologies with a clear description, explanatory drawings and/or photographs;
- b) the originality of the solution presented;
- c) the advantages from the point of view of environmental sustainability;
- d) the extent of the product's scope of application;
- e) improvements in terms of productivity, performance, and reliability;
- f) ease of use and maintenance;
- g) compliance with safety conditions for operators and/or end users, as well as for the environment and surrounding communities;
- h) any practical and experimental results documenting the above, with particular reference to the aspects cited in Art. 2 of these Regulations.

Documentation that, in the sole judgement of the Judging Committee, does not conform to the above requirements will be grounds for exclusion from the *Competition*.

Any documentation which, in the sole discretion of the Selection Panel, does not comply with the above requirements will result in exclusion from the competition.

The submitted documentation will be kept strictly confidential and will remain on file even in the event that the Novelty character of the submitted production is not recognized. The Judging Committee reserve the possibility of asking for additional documentation from candidates if they believe that this would be necessary for a better evaluation.

Art.5

Participants whose documentation is deemed suitable for participation in the *Competition* will be notified of their admission to the final phase (**September 2026**).

The names of participants who, based on the submitted documentation, are not deemed suitable for participation in the *Competition* will remain confidential, and such participants will receive from the Judging Committee will provide them with the reasons for the rejection of their application.

Art.6

The Judging Committee, appointed by *Veronafi* in collaboration with the President of the Committee itself, shall, where possible, have an international character and shall be composed of university professors, researchers, technicians, and sector experts with proven and recognized experience.

Specifically, the Competition Judging Panel will be composed as follows:

- two members from the technical and training sector
- three members from the academic and university sector

There will also be two members acting as coordinators of the Judging Panel from the academic and university sector, and one coordinator from the technical and training sector. The coordinators are non-voting members.

A brief biography of each member of the Judging Panel will be available on the Marmomac website.

Art.7

The *Award* is structured into 4 categories:

- **Machines & Plants:** autonomous machines or complete mechanised systems dedicated to specific operations in stone processing;
- **Tools:** physical components or technical devices that support processing operations but do not operate autonomously;
- **Software:** autonomous or integrable digital solutions designed for the management, control, optimization, or monitoring of processes, machines, and plants;
- **Chemicals:** auxiliary materials used in stone processing, such as resins, abrasives, powders, or binders.

A "Eureka" plaque will be awarded to startup companies presenting an innovative product in one of the above categories (Machines & Plants, Tools, Software, and Chemicals). The company must submit the necessary documentation to certify its startup status.

The product categories admitted and awarded in the *Competition* will be the following (see Marmomac 2026 Product Category Annex):

- a) **Sections: machines/equipment/plants, tools/abrasives/chemical products – all**
- b) **Services with product category codes F1006, F1016, FF1018**

Each participant in the *Competition* may submit only one innovation per admitted category.

For each category, the Judging Committee will select meritorious candidates, awarding a winner and giving special mentions, at their own discretion.

Art.8

The evaluation criteria for the award of prizes in the *Competition* will be defined during the proceedings of the Judging Committee and will focus on the following characteristics:

- technological innovation characteristics for the specific category;
- improvement of environmental sustainability performance, with reference to energy efficiency, reduction of CO₂ emissions, circular economy strategies, durability, and product life cycle;
- the extent of the product's scope of application;
- improvement of productivity, performance, and reliability;
- ease of use and maintenance;
- safeguarding and improvement of safety conditions for operators, the environment, and surrounding communities, with reference to the reduction of exposure to hazardous agents and chemical risk (dust, chemical substances, noise, and vibrations) and/or the adoption of ergonomic solutions;
- validity and applicability of the proposed technical solutions in real-world scenarios.

Art.9

Based on the decisions of the Judging Committee, *Veronafi* will award all finalists and any recipients of special mentions a certificate of participation in the competition, stating the reasons for the recognition, as well as a special label to be displayed on the awarded product.

Art.10

Veronafi reserves the right to delay the awarding of the certificate or prize referred to in Art. 7 and 8, in order to conduct the necessary investigations, should reports and/or disputes be received concerning the intellectual and industrial property of the *Novelty* to be awarded. Should the certificate and/or prize have already been delivered and the counterfeiting activity on the part of the awarded company or companies be proven, *Veronafi* will proceed to revoke the certificate or prize.

Art.11

All *Novelties* submitted by participants in the *Award* will be described and illustrated on the official website of the trade show and in the official publication(s) of Marmomac 2026, promoted through the trade show's promotional channels (including, by way of example: press releases, social media, etc.) and made available to the specialist press.

To this end, participants in the *Award* undertake to provide *Veronafi* with additional illustrative material relating to the products entered in the competition in electronic format, in the manner and timeframes that will be promptly communicated to them.

Veronafi also reserves the right to set aside a dedicated promotional exhibition area for the presentation and promotion of the awarded products.

The official award ceremony will take place during one of the events connected to Marmomac 2026, at which the selected companies will receive their awards.

Art.12

Participants who have obtained recognition of *Novelty* for one of their products may publicize said recognition for that specific model (using the Marmomac mark referred to in Art. 9), but may not extend it to the company's overall production.

Art.13

It shall be the responsibility of the individual companies participating in the *Award* to take steps to safeguard their industrial property and to file any relevant patents. *Veronafiere* guarantees the utmost confidentiality in the use of the material submitted for the competition. To this end, members appointed to the Judging Committee must sign a confidentiality commitment declaration; failure to do so will result in their exclusion from the committee. If an applicant company is presenting a machine, equipment, tool, chemical products, plant, and/or technology which has been or being developed together with one or more member(s) of the Judging Committee, those members will be excluded from evaluating that specific submission.

Art.14

The participating company must guarantee that the project submitted represents a technical novelty and an unpublished patent. The participating company also assumes all liability towards third parties for any disputes arising from intellectual property and anti-counterfeiting.

Art.15

Participation in the *Competition* implies full acceptance of these Regulations.

For matters not expressly provided for herein, reference is made to the General Regulations of the Marmomac 2026 Exhibition and to the terms and conditions of use of the Business Portal.

Veronafiere S.p.A. reserves the right to make organizational changes to the service for technical or operational reasons, providing timely notice to exhibitors.

Art.16

For any dispute arising from the interpretation, execution, and/or termination of this contract, the Parties elect the Court of Verona as the sole court of competent jurisdiction.