



CALL FOR ENTRIES

**World's Best Financial
Innovation Labs 2026**

Entry Deadline: March 2



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In the June 2026 issue, Global Finance will name the ninth annual World's Best Financial Innovation Labs, honoring labs run by banks, governments, venture capitalists, universities and NGOs.

Financial Innovation Labs are powerful drivers of the digital revolution, bridging theory and execution to deliver innovations that reshape industries and redefine financial services. The organizations honored as Global Finance's World's Best Financial Innovation Labs stand at the forefront of this evolution.

The Best Financial Innovation Labs program is part of The Innovators 2026, Global Finance's 13th annual awards competition—also featured in the June issue—honoring organizations that promote economic growth, enhance financial inclusion, and tackle global challenges. For more information about The Innovators 2026, visit: <https://gfmag.com/awards/the-innovator-awards/>



In past years, winning organizations have been celebrated at awards ceremonies held in New York, London, and Dubai. The 2026 event is still in the planning stage, and winners will be notified about the date and location in advance.



The crowd at Global Finance's Digital Banks AI In Finance, and Innovators Awards Ceremony at 8 Northumberland Avenue in London on October 7.



Chris Giarraputo, Managing Director, Global Finance (left), with Gokhan Gokcay, EVP, Technology, Akbank (right), a Best Financial Innovation Lab honoree for Akbank Lab.



The team from Bank of America, a Best Financial Innovation Lab honoree for BofA Breakthrough Lab.



Chris Giarraputo (left) with Nimish Panchmatia, Chief Data & Digital Transformation Officer, DBS (right), a Best Financial Innovation Lab honoree for DBS Asia X (DAX).



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To submit an entry, please provide the following information where applicable. It is not necessary to enter in order to win, but experience shows entries significantly increase the chance of success. In many cases, entrants are able to present information and perspectives that may not be readily available to the editors of Global Finance. Global Finance will consider activities from January 2025 through December 2025. There is no fee to enter.

1. Please provide an overview of your lab, hub or accelerator. Please address:
 - When was your lab founded? If in operation for less than a year, what month was it founded?
 - Describe any affiliations. Is your lab the arm of a bank, a governmental entity or a consulting firm? Or is your lab a stand-alone organization?
 - What, if any, types of innovations you specialize in nurturing?
 - How many startups have worked with your organization?
 - What geographic regions you operate in?
 - How much financing have you provided/enabled for startups in your program (if applicable)?
 - What type of workspace (if any) do you offer?
2. In 500 words or less, please describe your program. If you applied for these awards last year, please be sure to note anything that has changed since your last application.
3. In 500 words or less, describe your financial stake in the startups you serve. How is financing provided? Through direct investment? Through relationships with partners? If you invest directly, how much of a stake in each startup do you receive in return?
4. In 500 words or less, describe your partner ecosystem, and mentoring/networking opportunities available to your startups — either from you directly or through these partners.
5. Name the most important financial innovations to have come out of your lab, hub, incubator or accelerator in the last year. Discuss up to three. For each, please provide contact information for someone at the startup involved. Please also provide links to any press releases or other media discussing these innovations.
6. What do you think sets your organization apart from the other financial labs, hubs, incubators and accelerators now operating? What makes you special? Why do you think your organization merits an award?
7. What other awards have you won?
8. Name/contact info - Please include your full street address, including the country and postal code, the phone number and email address that the general public can use to contact you, and the contact name, email and phone number for Global Finance to reach you.
9. Name or host/sponsor & location of innovation center.

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of this Call For Entries from the contact listed at the bottom of this page within 48 hours of sending, please resend AND notify them to ensure your entry has been received and is processed correctly.

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Send entries to: Francesca Lloyd-Hallett at francesca@gfinance.co.uk

NO APPLICATION FEE



The Value and Importance of Global Finance Awards Logos

Global Finance's awards and recognition programs are backed by a 39-year legacy of editorial accuracy and integrity. Corporate and financial leaders depend on them as the trusted standard of excellence for the corporate and financial sectors. Global Finance's awards are credible, reliable, and have stood the test of time.

The distinction of being a Global Finance award honoree is a powerful marketing advantage every winner can and should use to stand out from and above their competitors.

Some of the ways Global Finance award winners use logos to promote their status include:

- Recruitment and retention efforts
- Websites
- Investor relations information
- Conference and event signage
- Press and publicity efforts
- Internal communications
- Advertising
- Employee motivation programs
- Pitch books
- Branch signage
- Promotional videos
- Social media campaigns
- Email signatures
- Promotional materials
- Stadium, airport and outdoor signage
- Annual reports

Earning a Global Finance award also allows individual honorees as well as entire departments to stand out within their own organizations, leading to higher visibility across their industry sectors, improved staff retention, and greater professional and personal recognition.

