

Call for Entries! 2026 InnovMetal Award (IMA)

I. Overview

The InnovMetal Award (IMA), formerly known as the China Hardware Products International Industrial Design Competition, was established in 2006. It is a professional design competition dedicated to hardware products. With the goal of empowering industrial upgrading through design innovation, IMA brings together outstanding design resources from around the world and promotes the deep integration of excellent design achievements with the hardware manufacturing industry in Yongkang, China.

II. Objectives

Centered on the theme of “**Design Driving the Future of Hardware**”, IMA seeks to explore new functions, values, and user experiences for traditional hardware products. The Award aims to guide the hardware industry toward sustainable development and create infinite possibilities for future living.

III. Organization

Organizer: Yongkang Municipal People's Government

Partners: Zhejiang University of Technology

Zhejiang Industrial Design Association

Zhejiang Provincial Industrial Design Technology Innovation Service Platform

Undertaken by: Yongkang Science and Technology Bureau

Co-organizers: Yongkang Economic and Information Technology Bureau

Yongkang Human Resources and Social Security Bureau

Yongkang Administration for Market Regulation

Zhejiang Hardware Industry Industrial Design Demonstration Base

Zhejiang Yongkang Hardware Industry Innovation Service Complex

Yongkang Industrial Design Association

Intellectual Property Consultant: Yongkang Intellectual Property Protection Center

Co-organizer(Enterprises): Zhejiang Feijian Technology Co., Ltd.

Zhejiang Lijiujia Sports Equipment Co., Ltd.

Zhejiang Long Yard Industry & Trade Co., Ltd.

Zhejiang China Science & Technology Hardware City Group Co., Ltd.

Buyang Group Co., Ltd.

Zhejiang Sifang Agricultural Machinery Equipment Pilot Service Co., Ltd.

Technical Support Organization: Hangzhou FeisiPlus Industrial Design Co., Ltd.

Zhejiang Yongkang Hardware Productivity Promotion Center Co., Ltd.

Jury Committee:

The jury will consist of distinguished figures from the global design community, professors and experts from universities and research institutes, senior corporate designers, marketing specialists, industry experts, investors, corporate representatives, and veteran design professionals. A renowned figure from the global

design community will be invited to serve as Jury Chair. The jury will independently evaluate submissions and provide professional recommendations on relevant matters.

IV. Competition Categories

IMA comprises two main tracks: the Product Track and the Creative Track.

(i) Product Track

The Product Track primarily solicits design products and services with outstanding commercial and social value that can be rapidly commercialized. There are no category restrictions. This track aims to attract outstanding innovation projects and teams and promote their deep integration with Yongkang's manufacturing industry.

Contact: +86 579-87226523 / +86 18869932465 (Mr. Mei, WeChat available)

(ii) Creative Track

1. “FEIJIAN” Green and Healthy Drinkware Design

Industry Partner: Zhejiang Feijian Technology Co., Ltd.

Company Website: www.feijiankj.com

Contact: +86 18015377839 (Mr. Xu, WeChat available)

Product Categories: Titanium-based products, including tea vessels for brewing, stewing, drinking and storage; coffee vessels for brewing, drinking and storage; sports bottles and cups; kitchenware such as bowls, plates, pots, knives, forks and chopping boards; and small household appliances such as vacuum electric kettles, tea makers, health kettles and portable electric cups..

Design Requirements: Submissions should focus on heat retention, cold retention and freshness preservation. Designs are encouraged to explore innovation in materials, structures, sealing methods and temperature control, so as to maintain the freshness, flavor and nutritional value of drinks, food or nutritional supplements. Designs should also emphasize human-centered experience, Eastern aesthetics, environmental sustainability and functional integration. Products should be naturally and effortlessly integrated into daily life, improving user experience in handling, opening, drinking, carrying, cleaning and storage. Proposals may be developed around scenarios such as outdoor activities, office use, home living, solo dining and family dining, elderly-friendly use, and health-oriented lifestyles.

2. “LONGYARD” Multi-functional Quick-Assembly Room/Shed Design

Industry Partner: Zhejiang Long Yard Industry & Trade Co., Ltd.

Company Website: www.sunor.cn

Contact: +86 15888917061 (Mr. Wu, WeChat available)

Product Categories: Tool rooms/sheds, sunrooms/sun sheds, pergolas, carports, garden houses, greenhouses, pet houses, and related products.

Design Requirements: Submissions should use metal components as the primary material and propose innovative quick-assembly and quick-disassembly structures. Designs may also explore new structural systems and packaging methods that improve container loading efficiency, as well as more modular, systematic product innovations and service solutions.

3. “LIJIUJIA” Home Fitness Equipment Design

Industry Partner: Zhejiang Lijiuja Sports Equipment Co., Ltd.

Company Website: <https://lijiujia.com>

Contact: +86 13549295403 (Mr. Liu, WeChat available)

Product Categories: Home-use motorized treadmills, spinning bikes, elliptical trainers, rowing machines, fitness equipment, rehabilitation equipment, and medical rehabilitation devices.

Design Requirements: Fitness equipment should primarily serve home-use scenarios and meet users' needs for indoor exercise, body shaping, wellness, and healthy living, making exercise enjoyable and accessible. Rehabilitation equipment may be used indoors or outdoors and should feature intelligent functions. Innovation directions include, but are not limited to, form design, new materials and manufacturing processes, one-touch electric or mechanical folding, ultra-quiet performance and active noise reduction, intelligent shock absorption based on different exercise habits, and the use of AI, cloud computing, and health data to provide scientific fitness guidance and reduce sports injuries.

4. “Hardware City” City Souvenir Design

Industry Partner: Zhejiang China Science & Technology Hardware City Group Co., Ltd.

Company Website: www.hardwarecity.com.cn

Contact: +86 17280567858 (Ms. Wang, WeChat available)

Product Categories: City souvenir products that use hardware products as the medium and Yongkang's urban identity as the core, transforming hardware objects into “cultural tokens” that embody the city's character, intangible cultural heritage, and craftsmanship.

Design Requirements: Design directions include: (1) gift-oriented design of distinctive hardware products, focusing on the innovative design of Yongkang's leading and advantageous hardware products, including product series and packaging; and (2) Yongkang-themed cultural and creative derivatives, using hardware craftsmanship to reinterpret Yongkang symbols through IP characters, cultural and creative products, tourism souvenirs, and packaging. Proposals should address real-world scenarios such as business exchanges and event commemorations, convey a sense of ceremony, focus on tangible products (excluding agricultural and sideline products), comply with modern manufacturing technologies, and meet the necessary conditions for implementation.

5. “BUYANG” Smart Entry Door Design

Industry Partner: Buyang Group Co., Ltd.

Company Website: www.buyang.com

Contact: +86 18857960303 (Mr. Cheng, WeChat available)

Product Categories: High-end entry doors for apartment residences, villas, and related residential scenarios. Designs should use metal as the primary material and differ from interior doors and wrought-iron products, focusing on integrated innovation for entry-door systems in which the lock structure is embedded into the door body.

Design Requirements: Submissions should focus on entry scenarios, balancing practical security performance with residential adaptability, and should use intelligent technologies to optimize the entry experience. Designers are encouraged to explore door-lock integrated innovation, smart functional integration for entry doors, CMF aesthetic systems, surface textures, original decorative patterns, modular design, and systematic product design. Designs should be adaptable to apartments, villas, private residences, and other scenarios, while taking into account manufacturing processes, safety, aesthetics, and commercial application.

6. “SIFANG” Smart Agricultural Machinery for Hilly and Mountainous Areas

Industry Partner: Zhejiang Sifang Agricultural Machinery Equipment Pilot Service Co., Ltd.

Company Website: www.sifanggroup.com

Contact: +86 18368695838 (Mr. Chen, WeChat available)

Product Categories: Smart agricultural machinery and equipment for hilly and mountainous scenarios, covering equipment used in agricultural production processes such as tillage, planting, harvesting, storage, transportation, and field management.

Design Requirements: Designs should address the characteristics of hilly and mountainous farmland, including fragmented plots, steep slopes, and insufficient farm-access roads. The products should emphasize lightweight design, high maneuverability, high stability, easy operation, safety, labor-saving performance, and adaptability to complex working conditions. Innovation directions include, but are not limited to, improved user experience for farmers, obstacle-crossing and climbing mechanisms, modular and foldable structures, unmanned autonomous operation, integration of AI and intelligent sensors, while also considering mass-production feasibility, environmental requirements, and practical commercial value.

V. Eligibility

IMA is open to participants worldwide, including students and faculty members from universities and research institutes, design institutions, individual designers or design teams, design studios, and enterprises.

For the Product Track, a parallel selection mechanism combining public registration and institutional/expert recommendation will be adopted. Publicly submitted works will undergo preliminary evaluation. Works recommended by institutions or experts may proceed directly to the second-round evaluation after review and approval by the Organizing Committee. For team submissions, each team may include no more than five members.

For the Creative Track, submissions are open to students and faculty members of domestic and international universities, design institutions, enterprises, independent designers, and other eligible participants. For group submissions, each team is recommended to include no more than three members.

Entry Fee: FREE.

VI. Awards & Prize

IMA offers the following awards: 1 Gold Star Award, 2 Silver Star Awards, 3 Bronze Star Awards, and 10 Excellence Awards in the Product Track; 6 Gold Creation Awards, 12 Silver Creation Awards, 18 Bronze Creation Awards, 120 Creative Excellence Awards, no more than 200 Creative Merit Awards, and 16 Outstanding Instructor Awards in the Creative Track and related award categories. The total prize fund is RMB 3.84 million.

Product Track			
Award	No. of Winners	Prize per Winner	Total
Gold Star Award	1	RMB 1,000,000 (approx. USD 140,000)	RMB 1,000,000 (approx. USD 140,000)
Silver Star Award	2	RMB 500,000 (approx. USD 70,000)	RMB 1,000,000 (approx. USD 140,000)
Bronze Star Award	3	RMB 200,000 (approx. USD 28,000)	RMB 600,000 (approx. USD 84,000)
Excellence Award	10	RMB 20,000 (approx. USD 2,800)	RMB 200,000 (approx. USD 28,000)
Creative Track			
Award	No. of Winners	Prize per Winner	Total
Gold Creation Award	6	RMB 50,000 (approx. USD 7,000)	RMB 300,000 (approx. USD 42,000)
Silver Creation Award	12	RMB 20,000 (approx. USD 2,800)	RMB 240,000 (approx. USD 33,600)
Bronze Creation Award	18	RMB 10,000 (approx. USD 1,400)	RMB 180,000 (approx. USD 25,200)
Creative Excellence Award	120	RMB 2,000 (approx. USD 280)	RMB 240,000 (approx. USD 33,600)
Creative Merit Award	≤ 200	Honor only	/
Outstanding Instructor Award			
Award	No. of Winners	Prize per Winner	Total
Outstanding Instructor Award	16	RMB 5,000 (approx. USD 700)	RMB 80,000 (approx. USD 11,200)
Total Prize Money		RMB 3,840,000 (approx. USD 537,600)	

Note: USD equivalents are approximate and provided for reference only.

VII. Participation Procedures

1. Participants shall carefully read the Entry Instructions for the 21st InnovMetal Award (IMA) and accurately complete the registration form. By submitting the registration form, participants are deemed to have carefully read the Call for Entries and to have agreed to and accepted all competition rules.
2. For the Creative Track, awards will be determined through preliminary evaluation, second-round evaluation, and final evaluation. The Gold Creation Awards and Silver Creation Awards will be judged through on-site final presentations.
3. For the Product Track, awards will be determined through preliminary evaluation, second-round evaluation, and final evaluation. The final evaluation will be conducted through on-site final presentations.
4. The list of Outstanding Instructor Award winners will be determined by the Organizing Committee in accordance with the evaluation criteria.
5. After the results are announced, trophies and certificates will be issued to winners of all Product Track awards, Creative Track Gold Creation, Silver Creation, Bronze Creation, Creative Excellence Awards, and Outstanding Instructor Awards. Creative Merit Award winners will receive certificates.
6. The IMA Organizing Committee will award prize money based on the evaluation results. All prize money is pre-tax. In accordance with relevant financial and tax laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China, designated entities will fulfill applicable personal income tax withholding obligations. Prize money will be transferred by bank transfer to the personal account designated by the participant or to the corporate account of the participant's affiliated organization, including its branch where applicable.

VIII. Evaluation Criteria

(i) Product Track

- **Innovation (20 points):** The work demonstrates distinctive innovative elements, forward-looking thinking, and the ability to identify and lead future product trends.
- **Feasibility (30 points):** Materials, processes, structures, and related factors align with modern manufacturing technologies and meet the necessary conditions for implementation.
- **Completeness (20 points):** Beyond the product itself, the proposal presents a product series or a systematic service solution.
- **Market Value (30 points):** The work meets market demand while demonstrating high market value and strong potential to become a commercially successful product.

(ii) Creative Track

- **Innovation (30 points):** The work demonstrates innovation in design concept, function, materials, and processes, while reflecting design aesthetics and forward-looking thinking that captures future product trends.
- **Feasibility (20 points):** The work complies with modern manufacturing technologies, reflects modular design thinking and the potential for customization, and meets the necessary conditions for implementation. It should be able to optimize manufacturing processes through design, reduce enterprise costs, and improve economic benefits.
- **Completeness (20 points):** The work fully and clearly expresses its design concept and features and proposes a complete product and service design based on a series-based or systematic approach.
- **Market & Industry Value (30 points):** The work should be practical for economic and social life and daily use, meet market demand, demonstrate high market value and strong product potential, and have a model or demonstrative role that contributes to the development of the hardware industry and value co-creation.

(iii) Outstanding Instructor Award

The top 16 instructors will be determined based on the weighted total of the number of guided submissions, shortlisted works, and award-winning works, and will receive the Outstanding Instructor Award.

IX. Schedule

- Announcement Release: August 1, 2026
- Poster Distribution & Media Promotion: August–October 2026
- The Organizing Committee provides poster mailing services. Interested institutions may contact the IMA Organizing Committee by phone or email.
- Submission Deadline: October 31, 2026, 24:00 (Beijing Time)
- Preliminary Evaluation: Mid-November 2026
- Enterprise Matching for Product Track Projects: November–December 2026
- Second-Round Evaluation: Late December 2026
- Final Evaluation and Award Ceremony: March–April 2027

X. Contact Information

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Submission Contact: +86 579-87226523 / +86 18869932465 (Mr. Mei, WeChat available)

Online Submission: submission system will open in September

Official WeChat Accounts:

Yongkang Hardware Productivity
Promotion Center



Zhejiang Provincial Industrial Design
Technology Innovation Service Platform



Chuangye Yongkang

