

# 2026 Design Intelligence Award Innovation Incubation Initiative

## Announcement

### I. Introduction

The Innovation Incubation Initiative is a core part of the Design Intelligence Award (DIA) system. It is an industry-university-research collaborative innovation platform integrating competition, industry, education and incubation. Following the core model of “challenges from enterprises, solutions from universities, and transformation in industry”, it connects real industrial demands with innovative forces of universities and builds a practical path from creativity to commercialization.

### II. Organizational Structure

- Host: China Academy of Art
- Co-host: Cumulus Association
- Organizer: Design Intelligence Award Committee

### III. 2026 Innovation Incubation Initiative Agenda

Event	Schedule	Content
Enterprise Challenge Release	March 2026	Partner enterprises release challenges; universities submit participation application.
Course/Workshop Organization	March 2026 – October 2026	University teams advance solution design and implementation around enterprise challenges.
Competition Registration	Deadline: October 8, 2026	Submit project materials and innovation solutions, entering the evaluation process.
Online Evaluation	Mid-October, 2026	Select teams for the next stage through online evaluation.
Physical Entry Delivery	Mid-November, 2026	Shortlisted teams shall refine their prototypes and

		submit physical entries for the next round of evaluation.
Venture Capital Roadshow	Early December, 2026	Conduct venture capital roadshow and on-site defense, competing for the core awards.
Award Ceremony	Late December, 2026	Innovative achievements exhibition and incubation related communication will be carried out concurrently with the awards ceremony.
Industrial Incubation	2027 – 2028	High-quality projects continue to receive industrial resources and incubation support.

#### IV. Eligible Participants

The initiative is primarily open to students and faculty teams from universities both in China and abroad. Interdisciplinary teams are highly encouraged. Participants are required to compete in teams by responding to enterprise challenges.

#### V. Award Setting

Phase	Incentives
Creation Phase (shortlisted through online evaluation)	Excellent Entries (10 winners: RMB 20,000/winner + qualification for the venture capital roadshow)
	Merit Entries (20 winners, RMB 10,000/winner + qualification for the venture capital roadshow)

<p>创新孵化阶段（创投路演） Innovation Incubation Phase (venture capital roadshow)</p>	<p>Innovation Incubation Award (6 winners, RMB 50,000/winner) Creative Excellence Award (24 winners, certificates) Honorable Mention Award (approx. 30 winners, certificates) Outstanding Organizing Award (6 winners, certificates) Best Mentor Award (6 winners, certificates)</p>
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## VI. Participation Method

- Registration Deadline: October 8, 2026
- Registration Channel: Complete registration via the Innovation Incubation Initiative section on the official DIA website (<https://en.di-award.org>).
- Contact: [incubation@di-award.org](mailto:incubation@di-award.org)