

Press Release

INTERNORGA Awards 2026 – entries now open for the most innovative products, top talents and latest concepts

Hamburg, 16 October 2025 – **INTERNORGA 2026** will put the spotlight on the impressive potential of the sector with three prestigious awards honouring innovative solutions, entrepreneurial courage and promising up-and-coming talents in the industry. The entry phase for the **INTERNORGA Future Award**, the **NEXT CHEF AWARD** and the **Deutscher Gastro-Gründerpreis** is now open. They are looking for concepts and companies with vision, as well as talented young people who are passionate about their work.

A stage for genuine innovation

The **INTERNORGA Future Award** is one of the most prestigious prizes in the industry and has for many years been recognising companies that take responsibility with innovative concepts and point the way to a sustainable future. The focus is on market-ready solutions that serve as role models – for example in the areas of digitalisation, sustainability, resource conservation or social engagement. The submissions are evaluated by an independent jury: trend researcher **Hanni Rützler**, sustainability scientist **Dr Daniel Dahm**, environmental engineer **Carl-Otto Gensch** and catering consultant **Rainer Roehl** examine the concepts in accordance with criteria including degree of innovation, feasibility and future relevance. Anyone who wants to impress the jury in 2026 can apply directly via the [INTERNORGA website](#) from now until 10 January 2026.

Wanted: the culinary stars of tomorrow

Things will be heating up at **INTERNORGA** again in 2026: the **NEXT CHEF AWARD** gives talented chefs up to the age of 30 the opportunity to demonstrate their passion, creativity and skills in the kitchen. The competition is accompanied by top chef **Johann Lafer**, who not only personally selects the jury, but also actively supports talented young chefs as the face and driving force behind the award. 'The **NEXT CHEF AWARD** has been especially close to my heart for many years. I'm always inspired by the talent, passion, and creativity of the younger generation. With this competition, we create a stage where they can showcase themselves, grow, and take their first steps into the industry – to me, that's what real support for the future looks like,' says **Lafer**. Entries can be submitted on the [INTERNORGA website](#) until 31 December 2025.

Innovative catering concepts in the spotlight

The biggest German-language catering startup competition is back and will again be awarding prizes to the best and most innovative concepts. Whether it's a food truck, family cafe or innovative pizza sandwiches – the **Deutscher Gastro-Gründerpreis** is looking for startups from Germany,

Austria and Switzerland that are rethinking catering with creative ideas. Founders have until 8 December 2025 to enter the popular competition [online](#), impress the expert jury and ultimately appear in front of a live audience at INTERNORGA on 13 March 2026. There is not only recognition and prize money on offer, but also professional support, valuable contacts and media visibility. The award is presented by **Leaders Club Germany**, **orderbird** and INTERNORGA.

About INTERNORGA

INTERNORGA is the Global Platform for Hospitality and Foodservice. As an annual meeting place for those industries, it will take place from 13 to 17 March 2026 on the grounds of Hamburg Messe und Congress GmbH. National and international exhibitors will present their products, trends and innovations for the entire foodservice and hospitality market to trade visitors. The trade show is accompanied by international conferences, an extensive supporting programme, and innovative industry competitions.

Further information can be found on the website www.internorga.com and on the INTERNORGA [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) social media channels.



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