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**Paris, France**

**17th November 2022**

Leasing Life Awards 2022

<https://arena-international.com/leasinglife/awards>

Information Pack

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**Entering the Awards - Categories & Eligibility**

The Leasing Life Awards 2022 will recognise winners in different categories that cover the sector.

Nominations are now open – deadline for entries is **5pm GMT on 17th October 2022**.

Nominees should follow these simple guidelines to ensure their submission has the best chance of winning.

**Submission Rules**

1. Submissions can be made either on behalf of your own company or in recognition of a colleague or partner firm.
2. **Maximum of 1,000 words**, no appendices but photos within the document are fine.
3. Entry must address the award category explicitly, not generic links to web sites, corporate marketing etc.
4. Submissions should highlight the key differentiator and competitive nature of the project or implementation
5. It is made explicit the Entrant; Judges and the publication will treat all information in strict confidence and any quotes or information to go into the public domain will be pre-cleared by the Entrant.
6. Submissions made after the publicised cut-off date will be treated on a case-by-case basis.
7. The Judges reserve the right to make no award for any specific category
8. The Judges reserve the right to move a submission to a more appropriate category at their discretion
9. In submitting for more than one category the submissions must be unique (see 3)
10. The Judges’ decision is final

Please send your entry form and any supporting documents to [thomas.steer@arena-international.com](mailto:thomas.steer@arena-international.com)

The full list of awards categories and criteria for this year’s awards can be found below.

**Please note:** *Whilst we recommend you try to submit against as many of the criteria as possible, we appreciate that for some companies this may not be possible. The more you can respond against the stronger your application will be, but we would like to highlight that submitting against all criteria is not mandatory.*

Should you wish to discuss any element of the criteria or your submission in more detail, please contact Ray Giddings [ray.giddings@arena-international.com](mailto:ray.giddings@arena-international.com)

**The Award Categories and the eligibility for each are as follows:**

**Asset Finance Intermediary**

A good intermediary serves its clients and its funder panel, placing deals for the right reasons to serve its customers. The ideal model shows a business that cares about the post transaction aspects and has a strong quality ethic to its business dealings. In the current challenging markets, it demonstrates an ability to grow, develop customer offerings that are relevant and has a risk and performance culture that is respected internally as well as externally.

For this award judges will be looking at

* Sustainable year on year business growth (not scale, but progression) measured over 5 years.
* Endorsement from the intermediary’s key funding panel members, speaking to risk quality, aftersales service and customer care.
* Evidence of lender endorsements via example transactions, showing where the deals have gone, favouring real service over simple placement.
* Clear demonstration of their ability in developing people
* Examples of “added value” and how the intermediary turns transactions and relationships into viable business where others could not.
* How the intermediary builds quality and sustainable relationships, with vendors and manufacturers, or on a regional focus.

**Asset Finance Legal Provider**

The stand-out firms are those that lead thinking, add value back to the industry and challenge the status quo while offering an exemplary service on top of their legal knowledge. Asset finance must be a core discipline and demand a real focus from the firm.

**Judges will consider:**

* Team focus – is it a specialised asset finance legal team? Can it clearly bring in other disciplines where needed?
* People development – does the legal provider demonstrate a development culture and do they bring on (and attract) strong new talent.
* Thought Development – is the firm proactive in challenging and informing the industry.
* The intermediary’s client satisfaction and market reputation.
* Growth of profile and capability; has the firm built on its successes and made inroads into developing its service reach and client capability.

**SME Champion – European**

This award recognises European asset finance lenders that that directly engage in supporting the SME market, beyond volume picked up via wholesale/intermediary type operations**.**

**Judges will consider:**

* Demonstrable interest in the SME markets, beyond the provision of finance
* Clear endorsement from clients
* Consistent growth and commitment to the SME market
* Examples of demonstrating creativity and addressing SME market demands in imaginative ways

**SME Champion – UK – Bank Lessor**

This award recognises UK asset finance lenders that that directly engage in supporting the SME market, beyond volume picked up via wholesale/intermediary type operations.

**Judges will consider:**

* Demonstrable interest in the SME markets, beyond the provision of finance
* Clear endorsement from clients
* Consistent growth and commitment to the SME market
* Examples of demonstrating creativity and addressing SME market demands in imaginative ways

**SME Champion – UK – Independent or Privately Owned**

This award recognises UK asset finance lenders that that directly engage in supporting the SME market, beyond volume picked up via wholesale/intermediary type operations.

**Judges will consider:**

* Demonstrable interest in the SME markets, beyond the provision of finance
* Clear endorsement from clients
* Consistent growth and commitment to the SME market
* Examples of demonstrating creativity and addressing SME market demands in imaginative ways

**Vendor Finance Provider**

This award recognises an asset finance lessor that has worked in conjunction with a manufacturer to provide tailored asset finance at the point of sale. The essence of success is building strong and successful partnerships that add clear value to both sides: this is not just about the provision of funding but also about creating a strong service and partnership business culture that withstands the ebbs and flows of the external environment.

**Judges will consider:**

* Range and longevity of working partnerships
* Endorsement from vendor partners
* Evidence of developing more than “just financing”
* Growth over time and the depth of their commitment to the business sector.

**European Lessor**

To qualify for this award, nominees must have businesses across at least two of Europe’s major five economies and write at least €500m worth of new business annually. The European lessor of the year should be able to explain how it is driving change in the industry with market initiatives, product design, or value-add services.

**Judges will consider:**

* Business being written in multiple jurisdictions within the EU
* Strong brand market presence in multiple jurisdictions
* Evidencing should include deal volumes, with some ‘marquee’ deal example, with a few lines explaining size and complexity.
* Demonstrating how the lessor is driving change in the industry with market initiatives, product design, or value-added services

**Captive Lessor**

This award is open to nominations for the captive finance houses of any commercial asset or vehicle producer. This award recognises real focus on the captive’s efforts in supporting the parent and developing solutions that are relevant. Support through all parts of the economic cycle is a critical feature and the lessor should be able to demonstrate how they use their skills to improve the products and services to assist sales and create additional value.

**Judges will consider:**

* Degree of finance penetration both in absolute terms and as a percentage of parent sales
* Demonstrating a commitment to support through all stages of the economic cycle and finding creative solutions to challenges (e.g., difficult markets/locations)
* Creativity in product design, implementation and in service, both to the parent and to the customer
* Evidence of the strength of the Parent/Lessor relationship showing how they work “hand in glove” to add additional value to the customer and additional value to their group.

**Middle Ticket Corporate Lessor**

To qualify for this award, lessors must be writing business in the €20m+ ticket size. In this sector, asset knowledge, risk appreciation, skilled structuring and commitment to the sector are all important features.

**Judges will consider:**

* Demonstrable commitment to the middle ticket sector as shown by sustained and growing business volumes over time
* Asset or sector specialisation where true expertise has been created
* Evidence of creative product or service approaches. This could be shown in how other products or services have been combined into an asset finance product (e.g., export finance, EIB or similar funding programmes etc.)
* Commitment to the middle ticket sector that spans geographic boundaries
* Commitment to developing the skills and capability to grow the middle ticket asset finance product

**Digital Innovation**

This award is meant to recognise a policy, product or leasing related site or application that pushes the envelope on how commercial lessors relate to their customers. Not designed simply for ‘e-signatures’ or a back-room platform change, this award must impress the judges with its technological expertise and its novelty.

**Judges will consider:**

* The judges must understand, through a convincing narrative, about the genesis of the product or site, and about how it is new or differentiates itself from previous digital innovations.
* Evidence must be provided on how the innovation improves the customer experience, or allows an improvement on costs, speed of transaction or response and communication.
* Evidence of commercial advantage through the innovation is encouraged.
* Potential developments as well as implemented innovations qualify, e.g., regarding data quality, the use of block chain/distributed ledger technology in the areas of document and asset verification could qualify, as much as a client facing site or direct platform innovation, or an efficiency in the speed of service.

**Best ‘ESG/Sustainability’ Initiative of the Year**

The European Commission's (EC) [Action Plan](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0097) on sustainable finance is a major policy objective by the European Union (EU) to promote sustainable investment. As per the plan, banks are expected to finance sustainable economic activities to transition to a carbon neutral economy. The plan was introduced in March 2018 in response to the [Paris Agreement](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjo-4v318f3AhVKSPEDHcYlApEQtwJ6BAhMEAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2Fclimatechange%2Fparis-agreement&usg=AOvVaw1ZfL9P9dW9qVNtfFPQa6o7) and to the United Nations' [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiTiPeL2Mf3AhV4Q_EDHbZgCsYQFnoECBgQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fsdgs.un.org%2F2030agenda&usg=AOvVaw3sijbbYEWTr7ksX0x_82S7). The plan is also aligned with the goals of the [European Green Deal](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiBrszq18f3AhXUSfEDHVhvB-UQFnoECAIQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Finfo%2Fstrategy%2Fpriorities-2019-2024%2Feuropean-green-deal_en&usg=AOvVaw2dRx9auDLlqnKYoUbejQWx), which aims to see the EU carbon neutral by 2050.

**Judges will consider:**

* An initiative designed to help customers achieve transition to a carbon neutral status.
* Evidence of uptake and success of the programme.

**Young Professional of the Year**

The young professional of the year category will recognise someone under 40 years of age who in 2022 has demonstrated the depth of their talent and the breadth of their expertise in the leasing and asset finance industry. The winner does not need to have risen to a senior position but will be someone who peers agree has had a positive impact on the leasing community, influencing not just the success of their company but also the wider industry, and is judged by the Leasing Life editorial team.

The following awards are presented to individuals and as such these will be awarded by the judging panel without prior nomination.

**Industry Ambassador of the Year**

This award will be given to an individual who is considered to have done more than any other to promote, develop and enhance the reputation, economic role and social status of the leasing industry in 2022

**Lifetime Achievement**

This prestigious award goes to an individual who has helped to build and to shape the international leasing industry during their career. Their contribution will have driven new developments across the industry. They will have successfully steered companies and mentored colleagues through challenges and taken strategic leadership within their organization and the leasing community. They will be a top influencer among their leasing peers, and with the wider business community. The LifetimeAchievement award recognizes talent, tenacity, experience and commitment.

To enter the awards, simply fill in the awards entry form which can be downloaded on the Leasing Life Website: <https://arena-international.com/leasinglife/>

**Additional Details**

Please find below additional details with regards to the Awards. If you are looking for additional information that you cannot find here, please contact Thomas Steer on [**thomas.steer@arena-international.com**](mailto:thomas.steer@arena-international.com)

**Deadline**

All entries must be received by **5pm GMT on 17th October 2022**. Late entries will NOT be permitted.

**Awards Entry**

Please make sure your form is complete and you have selected the categories that are most appropriate for your entry and agree to the authorisation declaration.

**Awards Sponsorship & Table Hosting**

The Leasing Life Awards provide the perfect platform to target industry leaders and influencers and showcase your products and services in an exclusive forum. Our awards allow you to ensure maximum return on investment and the opportunity to assert yourself as a leader within your industry.

If you would like to find out more about sponsorship opportunities at the awards, get in touch with **Ray Giddings -** [**Ray.Giddings@arena-international.com**](mailto:Ray.Giddings@arena-international.com) - who can advise which sponsorship opportunities are still available.

**Awards Announcement**

The Awards winners for 2022 will be announced at the Leasing Life Conference & Awards on 17th November, in Paris. A general press release will be issued the following day. For more information on the event, please visit our website > <https://arena-international.com/leasinglife/>