Procedures

M&A Awards 2026

Showcasing excellence in M&A, corporate finance and private equity.

MAAwards.nl - MenA.nl

Powered by M&A

An event by Sijthoff

Explanation M&A Awards Procedures

This document outlines the procedures determining who will be the winners of this year's M&A Awards.

There are five categories of M&A Awards:

1. M&A Deals
2. M&A Firms
3. M&A Professionals
4. M&A Young professionals
5. M&A Best Diversity Firm

We will explain the procedures for each of the five categories.

1. Category M&A Deals

The first category is for M&A Deals. In this category we present three Awards:

1. Best Deal, values of € 250 million and >
2. Best Deal Mid-Market, values of € 50 million – € 250 million
3. Best Small Cap Deal, values of € 5 million – € 50 million

Nominations and longlist category M&A Deals

On Monday 17 August all experts and professionals active in M&A are called upon to nominate M&A Deals that should be considered for a M&A Award. Nominations can be submitted until Monday 12 October 2026 using an online form. On the form the nominations can be substantiated and supported with facts. Deals that are eligible for an award must have been completed in the period from November 1, 2025, to November 1, 2026.

Each submitted nomination in the category M&A Deals is checked against the criteria by the M&A Awards organization and supplemented with data from Dealmaker.nl if necessary. After the nomination period is closed, the M&A Awards organization compiles a longlist of all nominated M&A Deals.

Shortlist: Judge, evaluate, vote, and rank

In the category M&A Deals, the ultimate winners are determined for 75% by a Panel of Judges and for 25% by votes from the M&A Community members. There are two panels of judges. One to evaluate the longlist of nominated M&A Deals in the category Best Deal and the category Best Deal Mid-Market and one to evaluate the longlist of nominated M&A Deals in the category Best Small Cap Deal. The longlists of nominated M&A Deals that match the criteria are made available for the jury no later than Monday, October 19.

Sijthoff Company BV Weesperplein 4A 1018 XA Amsterdam The Netherlands +31(0)20 573 36 70

Judging process Best Deal and Best Deal Mid-Market

In the first week of November, the Panel of Judges for the category Best Deal and Best Deal Mid-Market comes together to discuss, evaluate and rank the submitted M&A Deals.

Based on the criteria and an in-depth exchange of arguments, each member of the Panel of Judges scores the nominated Deals. The individual scores of the judges determine the total number of points and the ranking of the nominated M&A Deal. The shortlists for the Best Deal and Best Deal Mid-Market Awards consists of the top 6 ranked deals for each of the two categories. The results of the jury count for 75% of the final score.

Judging process Best Small Cap Deal

In the first week of November, the Panel of Judges for the category Best Small Cap Deal comes together to discuss, evaluate and rank the submitted M&A Deals. The nomination of each deal on the longlist is presented, explained, and defended by the nominators in a 3-minute pitch. This is followed by a Q&A session with the jury.

Based on the pitches, the criteria and an in-depth exchange of arguments, each member of the Panel of Judges scores the nominated Deals. This determines the total number of points and the ranking of the nominated M&A Deal. The shortlist for the category Best Small Cap Deal consists of the top 10 in the ranking. The results of the jury count for 75% of the final score.

Online voting category M&A Deals

The Deals that are selected for the shortlists will go to the round of online voting. Mid-November, the pitches for the shortlisted M&A Deals for the three Awards in this category are published online. Members of the M&A Community can cast their votes to help determine the ultimate winners in this category. The survey closes on Monday 30 November at 23:59 hours. The results of the online voting count for 25% of the final score.

Timeline Awards category M&A Deals

Nominations	
Start nomination process	Monday 17 August
Closing nomination process	Monday 12 October 23:59
Judging and voting	
Judging process M&A Deals and determine shortlists	Wednesday 28 October – Friday 6 November
Start online voting for shortlist M&A Deals	Tuesday 10 November
Closing online voting	Monday 30 November 23:59

Sijthoff Company BV Weesperplein 4A 1018 XA Amsterdam The Netherlands +31(0)20 573 36 70

2. Category M&A Firms

The second category is for M&A Firms. In this category we present thirteen Awards:

1. Best Acquisition Finance Provider
2. Best Venture & Growth Capital Provider
3. Best M&A Law Boutique
4. Best M&A Law Firm
5. Best M&A House Mid-Market
6. Best M&A House
7. Best Transaction Services Firm Mid-Market
8. Best Transaction Services Firm
9. Best Hands-On Investment Firm
10. Best Family Office
11. Best Private Equity House Lower Mid-Market
12. Best Private Equity House Mid-Market
13. Best Private Equity House

M&A Awards Survey category M&A Firms

The M&A Firms on the longlists are added in alphabetical order to the online M&A Awards Survey. This M&A Awards Survey is sent to a selected group of M&A professionals and experts on 30 September so they can cast their votes for the longlist of M&A Firms. The voting closes on Friday 30 October at 23:59 hours.

Professionals and experts eligible to vote

Based on the M&A League Tables, the organization draws up a list of leading companies in M&A, corporate finance and private equity. Added to this list are corporates involved in deals in the period from 1 November 2025 - 1 November 2026 larger than 50 million euros. Experts working in these companies are invited to take part in the M&A Awards survey.

Shortlist and winner category M&A Firm

Between Monday 9 and Tuesday 17 November, the organization counts all the votes using the regulations for voting and logging all decisions regarding the assessment of the votes. When counting the votes, special rules and regulations apply that are outlined in the published regulations for the M&A Awards 2026.

Sijthoff Company BV Weesperplein 4A 1018 XA Amsterdam The Netherlands +31(0)20 573 36 70

The survey outcome and thus the ultimate shortlists and winners are calculated by combining the number of votes a M&A Firm receives via the survey and the relevant position of the M&A Firm in the M&A League Tables, each weighing 50%. The organization publishes the shortlist of 6 contenders for each of the thirteen M&A Firm categories on Wednesday 18 November.

Timeline Awards category M&A Firms

Survey and voting	
Start online voting	Wednesday 30 September
Closing online voting	Friday 30 October 23:59 h
Determine shortlist and winners	
Publish shortlist for each of the thirteen M&A Firm categories and inform the contenders	Wednesday 18 November

3. Category M&A Professionals

The third category is for M&A professionals. In the category we present six Awards:

1. Best M&A Advisor
2. Best M&A Advisor Mid-Market
3. Best Debt Advisor
4. Best M&A Tax Advisor
5. Best M&A Lawyer Mid-Market
6. Best M&A Lawyer

Nominations and longlist category M&A professionals

Based on the M&A League Tables, the organization draws up a list of leading companies in M&A, corporate finance and private equity. On Monday 3 August this group of M&A Firms is called upon to nominate M&A Professionals that should be considered for a M&A Award. Each selected M&A Firm can nominate a maximum of two individuals per award category, with at least one of them being a female nominee, with the exemption of the categories Best M&A Tax Advisor and Best M&A Debt Advisor, were both nominees can be male. Nominations can be submitted until Monday 14 September 23:59 hours.

Each submitted nomination in the category M&A professionals is checked against the criteria and supplemented with data from the deal database if necessary. The M&A Awards organization compiles a final longlist of all nominated M&A Professionals for each of the six categories to be added to the M&A Awards survey. Before the longlist is published, it is reviewed by an independent board of highly experienced M&A professionals to verify the eligibility of all nominees and determine whether they qualify for an award.

Sijthoff Company BV Weesperplein 4A 1018 XA Amsterdam The Netherlands +31(0)20 573 36 70

M&A Awards survey category M&A professionals

The M&A professionals on the longlists are added in alphabetical order to the online M&A Awards survey. This M&A Awards survey is sent to a selected group of M&A professionals and experts on 30 September so they can cast their votes for the longlist of M&A professionals.

Professionals and experts eligible to vote

Based on the M&A League Tables, the organization draws up a list of leading companies in M&A, corporate finance and private equity. Added to this list are corporates involved in deals in the period from 1 November 2025 - 1 November 2026 larger than 50 million euros. Experts working in these companies are invited to take part in the M&A Awards survey.

Voting for category M&A professionals

Professionals and experts eligible to vote receive the online M&A Awards survey on Wednesday 30 September. The voting closes on Friday 30 October.

Shortlist and winner category M&A professionals

Between Monday 9 and Tuesday 17 November, the organization counts all the votes using the regulations for voting and logging all decisions regarding the assessment of the votes. The survey outcome and thus the shortlists and ultimate winners are calculated by the total number of valid votes. The organization publishes the shortlist of contenders mid-November.

Timeline Awards category M&A professionals

Nominations	
Start nomination process	Monday 3 August
Closing nomination process	Monday 14 September 23:59
Survey and voting	
Start online voting	Wednesday 30 September
Closing online voting	Friday 30 October 23:59
Determine shortlist and winners	
Publish shortlist for each of the thirteen M&A Firm categories and inform the contenders	Wednesday 18 November

Sijthoff Company BV Weesperplein 4A 1018 XA Amsterdam The Netherlands +31(0)20 573 36 70

4. Category M&A Young Professionals

The fourth category is for Young M&A Professionals. In this category we present three Awards:

1. Best Young M&A Advisor
2. Best Young M&A Lawyer
3. Best Young PE Manager

Nominations and longlist category M&A young professionals

On Monday 17 August all experts and professionals active in M&A are called upon to nominate Young M&A Professionals that should be considered for a M&A Award. Nominations for each of the three categories can be submitted until Monday 12 October at 23:59 hours using the online form. Young M&A Professionals that are eligible for an award must match the criteria.

Each submitted nomination in the category M&A young professional is checked against the criteria and supplemented with data from Dealmaker.nl if necessary. The M&A Awards organization compiles a longlist of all nominated Young M&A Professionals.

Shortlist: Judge, evaluate, vote, and rank

In the category M&A young professionals the winners are determined for 75% by a Panel of Judges and for 25% by votes from the M&A Community members. There are three Panels of Judges. Longlists of nominees that match the criteria are available for the juries no later than Monday, October 19.

Judging process M&A young professionals

In the first week of November, the Panels of Judges come together to discuss, evaluate and rank the nominees. Each nominee is invited to present him- or herself to the jury members in a 3-minute pitch. This is followed by a Q&A session with the judges.

Based on the quality of the pitches, the criteria and an in-depth exchange of arguments, each member of the Panel of Judges scores the nominees. This determines the total number of points and the ranking of the nominated Young M&A Professionals.

Online voting category M&A young professionals

All nominees will go to the next round of online voting. Mid-November, the nominations for the Young M&A Professionals are published online. Members of the M&A Community can cast their votes to help determine the ultimate winners of these three awards. The survey closes on Monday 30 November at 23:59 hours.

Sijthoff Company BV Weesperplein 4A 1018 XA Amsterdam The Netherlands +31(0)20 573 36 70

Timeline Awards category M&A young professionals

Nominations	
Start nomination process	Monday 17 August
Closing nomination process	Monday 12 October 23:59
Judging and voting	
Presenting completed longlists of nominated Young Professionals to the Jury	Monday 19 October
Live pitches by nominees and judging process	Monday 2 – Friday 6 November
Start online voting for nominated Young M&A Professionals	Tuesday 10 November
Closing online voting	Monday 30 November 23:59

5. Category M&A Best Diversity Firm

The fifth and final category presents one Award:

1. Best Diversity Firm

Nominations and longlist category Best Diversity Firm

On Monday 17 August all experts and professionals active in M&A are called upon to nominate a firm that - based on its successful Diversity policies - should be considered for a M&A Award. Nominations can be submitted until Monday 12 October at 23:59 hours. using an online form. On the form the nominations can be substantiated and supported with facts.

Each submitted nomination in this category is checked for completeness and against the criteria by the M&A Awards organization. After the nomination period is closed, the M&A Awards organization compiles a longlist of all valid nominations.

In the category M&A Best Diversity Firm, the winner is determined by the votes of a Panel of Judges. The longlists of nominated firms that match the criteria are made available for the jury no later than Monday, October 19.

Judging process and shortlist M&A Best Diversity Firm

In the first week of November, the Panel of Judges for the category Best Diversity Firm comes together to discuss, evaluate and rank the submitted nominations. Each nominated firm is invited to present their successful Diversity policies to the jury members in a 3-minute pitch. This is followed by a Q&A session with the judges.
Based on the quality of the pitches, the criteria and an in-depth exchange of arguments, each member of the Panel of Judges scores the nominated firms. The three most important criteria are impact, reproducibility and innovativeness.

Sijthoff Company BV Weesperplein 4A 1018 XA Amsterdam The Netherlands +31(0)20 573 36 70

The individual scores of the judges determine the total number of points and the ranking. The shortlist for this category consists of the top 6 ranked firms.

Timeline Awards category M&A Best Diversity Firm

Nominations	
Start nomination process	Monday 17 August
Closing nomination process	Monday 12 October 23:59
Judging and determine winner	
Presenting completed longlists of nominated Firms to the Jury	Monday 19 October
Judging process Best Diversity Firm and determine ranking of shortlist and winner	Monday 2 – Friday 6 November

Sijthoff Company BV Weesperplein 4A 1018 XA Amsterdam The Netherlands +31(0)20 573 36 70

M&A Awards

Showcasing excellence in M&A, corporate finance and private equity.

MAAwards.nl - MenA.nl

Powered by M&A

An event by Sijthoff