

2026

CABLE & WIRE HARNESS COMPETITION

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 Global Electronics Association™

Competition criteria & Judges Guidelines Rules

- If a Contestant is affected by non-functional soldering station, not proper working tips, a missing component or other problems, which inhibits the possibility to fulfill the IPC HSC, the competitor is allowed to stop the timer and call a judge.
- Fluxing the whole or large part of the PCB prior to soldering, (except for drag soldering method) is not permitted and will incur penalty points. The number of penalty points is decided by the HSC judge.
- Partial or bad Cleaning will be assessed and may incur penalty points according to judge protocol.
- The PCBA and the judge protocol have to be saved until the Awards Ceremony has been done.
- The score result and protocol for the winner, second and third have to be handed over to the Master of the Prize Ceremony.
- After the Prize Ceremony, the Contestant can have the PCBA.
- Every competitor will receive a nomination

“Participation Certificate”.

- No Contestant and/or Contestant company’ representative have the right to dispute the Judge’s decisions or scoring of their own PCBA or other Contestant’s PCBA.
- Refereeing error can happen and are a part of the contest.
- Except judges, it is not permitted to communicate with Contestants after the timer is started.

Results & Wire Harness Inspection

Judges (IPC MITs) will inspect Competition Wire Harnesses according to the following routines & rules:

- **Rule 1:** The Wire Harness is disqualified if it is not fully assembled, and no further inspection will be performed. No final

score will be presented.

- **Rule 2:** If the Wire Harness is fully assembled, the judge will inspect the Wire Harness according to IPC/WHMA-A-620 Class 3. A final score result will be presented.

Wire Harness Evaluation: The judge inspects the Wire Harness in accordance with IPC/WHMA-A-620, Class 3. Deductions from the total possible points will be made in accordance with the opportunities as noted on the Harness Assembly Evaluation Sheet.

Competition Rules

- **Contestants Arrival:** Competitors should arrive at the IPC booth area at the tradeshow or venue at least 15 minutes before his/her scheduled competition time (allocated time slot).
- **Entrance to the Competition Area:** The judge will call the contestant (as per the registration schedule), and he/she will enter the area and sit at the specified workstation. Upon sitting at the workstation, the contestant will receive a competition kit and documentation from the judge.
- **Competition Equipment:** The IPC WHC organizer will supply all necessary equipment and tooling; Competitors are not allowed to bring any other personal tools. It is allowed to make adjustments to the workstation equipment and tooling before the timer is started. Contestants shall only use the tools provided in their workstations. Only exceptions are: Protection glasses, working clothes (smock or jacket with or without company logo)
- **Materials and Tooling Check:** Upon reaching the workstation, Contestants

should test the functionality of the provided systems, verify that the competition kit components are present in the box, and raise questions with the judges if any discrepancies are found. The contestant may organize the tools’ positions to improve comfort. The judge will ensure that the BOM, Drawing, and Competition Kit are present on the workstation table. After confirming the integrity of equipment and tools, the contestant will notify the judge that he is ready to start.

- **Start:** The WHC Judge gives the starting order after all competitors are ready. The judge presses the timer and starts timing. It is now allowed to open the competition kit.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Competitors who start working on the harness assembly, remove components from the kit, or otherwise begin before the start order is given may be disqualified.

- **Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:** During the competition, the judges will monitor contestants’ actions and note any discrepancies using the Operation Eva-

luation Sheet in the Judge Protocol. The evaluation will include the procedures and techniques used, operations, and safety aspects.

- **Communication with Contestant during Competition Time:** Except for judges, communication with the contestant is not permitted once the timer has started.
- **Time Limit:** The competition is strictly limited to 60 minutes of working time. Processes like workstation cleaning are not included in the 60 minutes and should be completed by the Contestant after the completed harness assembly has been presented to the judge for final inspection. The judge should remind the Contestant when there are ten minutes left. When time ends, whether finished or not, the Contestant shall stop immediately, and the competition harness shall be collected by the judge. When the maximum time is reached, the timer’s alarm sounds. The IPC WHC judge records the precise completion time, especially if it is less than the stipulated time (typically 60 minutes).

Results & Judges Decisions

All judges’ decisions are final and can’t be disputed. No contestant and/or contestant companies’ representative has the right to

dispute the judge’s decisions or scoring of their own Wire Harness or any contestant Wire Harness. Nevertheless, refereeing er-

rors may happen and could be a part of the contest.

WHC Prizes & Awards for Winners

Every Contestant will receive a nominative "Certificate of Participation"

Competition Podium Winners (first place, second place, and third place) will receive the 2026 Prizes:

- Competition Winner/1st Place will receive a cash prize of 300 EUR (remitted during

the Awards ceremony, a nominative, duly signed receipt will be requested)

- Competition 2nd Place will receive a cash prize of 200 EUR (remitted during the Awards ceremony, a nominative, duly signed receipt will be requested)

- Competition 3rd Place will receive a cash

prize of 100 EUR (remitted during the Awards ceremony, a nominative, duly signed receipt will be requested)

- Competition Podium Winners (first place, second place, and third place) may receive additional Sponsors' Prizes.

Comments & Judges Feedback

The completed wire harness assembly and judges' comments can be shared

with the contestant, if requested, after the awards ceremony.

Individual Competitor Non-recruiting/service offering Engagement

It is clearly stated here that the IPC Wire Harness Competition, whether a Regional Qualification Competition or the World Final, is not, and cannot be, a place or time for identifying potential employers, initiating potential recruitment contacts, or for-

malizing or planning any discussion on the above-mentioned topics.

It is therefore strictly forbidden to use the Wire Harness Competition set-up as an opportunity to :

- Offer services or claim a job to a potential new employer met at the Competition
- Initiate contacts with a view to further recruiting opportunities with a potential new employer met at the Competition

By actively taking part in the Competition, Contestants do explicitly agree with the following:

Voluntarily taking part in an IPC Wire Harness Competition, be it a Regional Qualification Competition or the World Final, implies clearly that you agree to comply with the "Non-Recruiting/Service Offering" Rule.

This clearly means that, as an individual competitor, being a very skilled employee and expert worker, you will absolutely refrain from using the Wire Harness Competition location and time to enter into contact or discussion with any individual or company to envisage any employment opportunity or job offering in any other company than the one that registered you in the above-mentioned competition.

Wire Harness Competition Judges will be solely responsible for assessing competitors and team behaviour and qualifying infringements. In this case, they will report it to GEA Staff or GEA Chief Judge, then GEA Staff will publish an appropriate decision and/or sanctions.

Data

Personal data collected for the purpose of the competition organisation will not be published on any support nor supplied to any third party outside of the Competition (Global Electronics Association and Wire Harness Competition Official Sponsors).

Contestants understand and agree that they will receive no royalty or other monetary compensation from GEA for this license of rights and the use of the "work" by GEA in connection with the Wire Harness Competition.

Photo/video/audio Disclaimer

GEA will record, film, or take pictures during the Wire Harness Competition. By taking part in the Competition, contestants unambiguously authorize GEA to make free use of documents portraying their image, with a view to their conservation and distribution for any publicity that GEA deems appropriate, without any limitation of space or time.

Penalties in Case of Infringement

Should any clear evidence prove any violation of this clear engagement, several consequences and penalties may be incurred by rule violators:

- An individual/employee convicted of a violation of this rule would be prevented to register to any further competition for 5 consecutive years
- An individual/employee convicted of a violation of this rule would be disqualified, banned from any further IPC competition for 5 consecutive years, and would have any previously granted title waived in case of violation

Content or Report

Information and reports about this event, including results, rankings, statements, pictures, or interviews, may be used to draft articles or marketing materials that will eventually be circulated to participants or posted on social media.

By actively taking part in the Competition, Contestants do confirm their acceptance of these terms and conditions and grant the Global Electronics Association a royalty-free, perpetual, worldwide license to copy, reproduce, translate, film, distribute my performance records, pictures, video and written materials (collectively the «work») in any media or format in connection with the Wire Harness Competition, or the promotion of future Competi-

Waiver

By actively taking part in the Competition, Contestants unambiguously give their consent to GEA and any of its agents to take or use their picture, portrait, or photograph, including audio and video footage of the performance/work at the Wire Harness Competition, for promotional efforts and educational purposes in furtherance of its mission to be used in any format or media, including printed and electronic publications and Internet web pages.

