**NACFB Commercial Lender Awards 2023**

Please use this form as a template to collate your submission information. To enter this category please submit all information [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/submit).

**The deadline for all entries is 17.00 on Friday 8th September 2023**

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| Submission category | **Challenger Bank of the Year** | | |
| NACFB Patron name |  | | |
| Primary contact first name |  | Surname |  |
| Primary contact email |  | | |
| Job title |  | | |
| Company website |  | | |
| Company LinkedIn |  | | |
| Company Twitter handle |  | | |
| Contact telephone |  | | |

**Award submission (max 300-words)**

Please draft your award submission below. Further guidance and overview of judging criteria can be found overleaf.

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| All entrants have a **maximum of 300-words** in which to convince the judges that they are worthy of winning this award  The NACFB have compiled ten top tips for an award-winning entry [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/submission-tips)  Information regarding this year’s judging process can be found [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/process) |
| Secure a table for this year’s event on **Thursday 30th November 2023** online [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/book) |

**Submission guidance**

In the vibrant landscape of commercial lending, challenger banks - aptly named for their proactive stance in challenging the traditional high street lenders - have emerged as formidable champions of Britain's SMEs. Although smaller in scale, these banks have garnered a reputation for their unwavering support to the backbone of the economy - small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Challenger Bank of the Year award celebrates and recognises those exceptional banking institutions that have boldly embraced innovation, deepened intermediary relationships, and kept pace with the ever-evolving needs of small businesses seeking access to finance.

This esteemed award category welcomes applications from a diverse array of challengers, each leaving a distinct mark on the SME lending space. The judges seek banks that have demonstrated a clear commitment to empowering businesses of all sizes, forging strong partnerships with intermediaries, and offering innovative financial solutions that cater to the unique demands of SMEs.

Outstanding contenders will have showcased the seamless convergence of human expertise and technology, creating a harmonious balance that enhances interactions with brokers and borrowers alike. These banks will have not only embraced cutting-edge technology but also retained the human touch, ensuring that the needs of SMEs are met with personalised care and attention.

The judges will be keenly interested in banks that have gone beyond the traditional lending approach, offering bespoke products and services tailored to suit the specific needs and challenges faced by different businesses. Evidence of successful collaborations with intermediaries, client success stories, and case studies that highlight the transformative impact of the bank's financing solutions will bolster their application. Furthermore, the winning bank should demonstrate a deep understanding of the SME landscape, adapting their offerings to address the evolving financial requirements and market dynamics.

Responsible lending practices, transparency in communication, and a commitment to promoting sustainable growth will resonate positively with the discerning panel of judges. In their award submission, banks should emphasise their role as catalysts in driving SME growth and prosperity. Testimonials from brokers and businesses, along with data showcasing the bank's positive contribution to the SME sector will further strengthen their application.

**Entry criteria**

* Entry to the Commercial Lender Awards is only open to NACFB lender Patrons, supplier Partners, and any personnel therein.
* Winners are selected based on the combined insight and votes from the judging panel and NACFB Members. The judging panel is made up of representatives from recognised industry stakeholders and includes an NACFB representative. NACFB Members will be invited to vote on the shortlist to select final winners. Winners for each category will be awarded based on a combined view of both the submission and Member voting.
* Entries can be for any event, campaign or initiative which has taken place between September 2022 and present.
* The deadline for all entries is **17.00** on **Friday 8th September 2023.**
* Shortlisted entrants will be notified by email no later than **Monday 9th October 2023.**
* The winners will be announced at the NACFB’s Commercial Lender Awards ceremony on **Thursday 30th November 2023** at the **Westminster Park Plaza, London**.
* An activity may be entered in more than one category, but each entry must be accompanied by an entry form. There is no limit to the number of entries one organisation can make.
* Judges reserve the right, without prior consent of the entrant, to move entries to different categories if they feel it is more appropriate.
* The judges’ and Members’ decision are final, no correspondence will be entered into, and no reasons given for decisions.
* All information provided to judges will be used solely for the purposes of assessing the entries. Any potentially sensitive information will not be made public.
* Winners may state in advertising and promotional material that they have won, but they must state the year the award was won.