

SPE Fellow of the Society

Detailed Guidance for Sponsoring Organizations, Nominators, and Nominees

A successful nomination demonstrates not only what the nominee accomplished, but why the accomplishment was outstanding, what the nominee personally contributed, and how the plastics profession or industry benefited.

1. Eligibility Requirements

- The nominee must be an SPE member in good standing and must have maintained good standing for six consecutive years.
- The nominee must have demonstrated outstanding achievements in plastics engineering, science, technology, or the management of those activities.
- The nomination must be sponsored in writing by the Board of an SPE Section, Division, Interest Group, or an authorized Society committee.
- The Fellows Election Committee reviews eligibility, credentials, professional achievements, references, and supporting evidence.
- The total number of Fellows may not exceed five percent of SPE voting members in good standing.

2. Who Initiates and Sponsors a Nomination

Nominations must originate through an eligible SPE organizational body. An individual member may encourage consideration of a candidate, but the formal nomination begins only when the Board of a Section, Division, Interest Group, or an authorized Society committee agrees to sponsor the nominee.

The sponsoring body designates one person as the nominator and principal contact. A separate Process Champion is not required.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Participant	Primary responsibility
Sponsoring organization	Approves sponsorship, designates the nominator, and certifies its Board or committee action.
Nominator	Coordinates the package, explains the basis for nomination, and ensures all required components are submitted.
Nominee	Provides the professional record, five achievement narratives, evidence citations, and certifications.
Two Referees	Provide independent, informed evaluations of the nominee's achievements and individual contribution.
SPE Staff	Verifies membership eligibility, checks completeness, manages communications, and supports the Election Committee.
Fellows Election Committee	Evaluates the complete record, resolves eligibility or evidentiary questions, votes on recommendations, and reports results.

SPE Executive Committee	Ratifies the Fellows Election Committee's recommendations and confirms that required procedures were followed.
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4. What Constitutes Fellow-Level Achievement

The standard is an achievement or body of achievements that materially advanced the plastics profession or industry. Examples may include:

- invention, development, or commercialization of an important material, process, product, equipment platform, application, or analytical method;
- a significant scientific discovery or body of research that changed understanding or practice;
- creation of an influential standard, design method, manufacturing practice, safety system, sustainability solution, or educational framework;
- leadership of a complex technical effort whose success depended materially on the nominee's professional judgment and direction;
- development or deployment of technology that produced substantial commercial, manufacturing, environmental, health, safety, or societal benefit;
- a sustained body of work that collectively produced field-shaping influence even when no single invention stands alone.

5. Technical-Management Achievements

A nominee may qualify through management of plastics engineering, science, or technology. The nomination must demonstrate that the person did more than administer people, budgets, or routine operations. Strong management-based nominations show that the nominee:

- made technical or strategic decisions essential to the achievement;
- created the conditions in which a major innovation or technical advance became possible;
- provided sustained technical direction to a complex multidisciplinary effort;
- accepted professional accountability for translating a concept into successful practice; and
- produced outcomes that would probably not have occurred, or would have been materially diminished, without the nominee's leadership.

Commercial success may support the case, but revenue, market share, title, budget size, or organizational rank alone do not establish Fellow-level achievement.

6. What Does Not Qualify by Itself

- years of employment or seniority;
- job titles, promotions, or responsibility for a large organization;
- routine performance of assigned professional duties;
- publication, patent, student, course, or project counts without evidence of significance and individual contribution;
- membership in a successful team without a clearly documented material role;
- SPE volunteer service that is not itself technical or professionally consequential;
- general professional reputation unsupported by specific, verifiable achievements.

7. Required Nomination Components

Component	Prepared by
Nomination and sponsoring-body certification	Nominator and authorized officer
Professional record	Nominee
Principal achievement narrative	Nominee with nominator input
Four additional achievement narratives	Nominee with nominator input
Selected evidence index	Nominee
Technical Reference Form 1	Qualified referee
Technical Reference Form 2	Qualified referee
Nominee and Nominator Certifications	Nominee and nominator

8. Preparing the Five Achievement Narratives

The nominee must identify five significant achievements and designate one as the Principal Achievement - the accomplishment that best represents the nominee's career-defining contribution. Each narrative should explain:

- what need, problem, or opportunity was addressed;
- what was novel, difficult, or unusually significant;
- the nominee's personal role and specific actions;
- how the work differed from routine job performance;
- what results occurred and who benefited;
- how the achievement was adopted, used, recognized, or sustained;
- what evidence supports the claims.

9. Supporting Evidence

Provide an indexed, selective record rather than an exhaustive archive. Useful evidence may include patent citations, publication references, standards, independent awards, adoption data, sales or production evidence stated at a non-confidential level, regulatory acceptance, technical reviews, documented performance improvements, or public recognition.

Do not submit proprietary or confidential material. SPE cannot ensure confidentiality. Redact or summarize sensitive information and provide only what may be shared with reviewers and retained in SPE records.

10. Selecting the Two Referees

- Referees should be professionally qualified to evaluate at least the principal achievement and preferably several cited achievements.
- Referees should have first-hand knowledge whenever practical.
- Referees may be colleagues, customers, collaborators, academic peers, industry experts, or other informed professionals.
- At least one referee should be reasonably independent of the nominee's current reporting structure.

- Referees must disclose material professional, financial, supervisory, family, or business relationships.
- Referees should not merely repeat the nominee's résumé or provide a character testimonial.

11. Submission and Review Process

1. Sponsoring body approves the nomination and designates a nominator.
2. Nominator contacts SPE staff for membership eligibility verification and current deadlines.
3. Nominee and nominator complete the nomination form and evidence index.
4. Two referees submit completed reference forms as directed by SPE.
5. SPE staff reviews the submission for completeness and may request clarification.
6. Fellows Election Committee members independently review and score the nomination.
7. The Committee discusses the evidence and votes on each nominee.
8. Recommendations are submitted to the SPE Executive Committee for ratification.
9. Nominee and nominator are notified. An unsuccessful nomination may be updated and reconsidered once in the following cycle.

12. Integrity of the Process

Nominations and judging must be evidence-based, consistent, and free from lobbying. Committee members must disclose conflicts, recuse when appropriate, and evaluate only the submitted record. Unsupported prestige, personal familiarity, or advocacy outside the formal record must not influence the decision.

13. Submission Checklist

- All required sections complete;
- Sponsoring-body certification included;
- Principal achievement clearly identified;
- Five achievement narratives included;
- Two reference forms received;
- Evidence index included and attachments limited to relevant, non-confidential material;
- Nominee and nominator certifications signed;
- Current deadline and submission instructions followed.