

ROBBAN ASSAFINA SHIPPING FORUM & AWARDS



ملتقى وجوائز ريان السفينة للنقل البحري 2026

25-26
NOV. 2026

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ROBBAN ASSAFINA

SHIPPING FORUM & AWARDS 2026

Held under the Strategic Partnership of the Lebanese Directorate General of Land and Maritime Transport, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Robban Assafina Shipping Forum & Awards 2026 will bring together maritime leaders and decision-makers from Lebanon, Syria, the East Mediterranean, and the wider Middle East to foster dialogue, collaboration, and regional cooperation.

Opening the event on November 25, 2026, the Robban Assafina Maritime Awards Night will celebrate the industry's excellence and achievements, honoring individuals, organizations, and innovations that have made a lasting impact on the maritime sector. Building on the success of the inaugural edition in 2023, the 2026 Awards will feature a distinguished panel of judges, ensuring integrity and excellence in recognizing true pioneers and visionaries.

On the second day, November 26, 2026, the Robban Assafina Shipping Forum will spotlight growth prospects, ongoing projects, and sectoral achievements, while addressing emerging trends such as digitalization, green shipping, and operational excellence. It will serve as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and forward-looking solutions to strengthen the resilience of the regional maritime ecosystem.

Together, the Robban Assafina Shipping Forum & Awards will offer a unique platform that combines industry recognition with strategic dialogue, celebrating achievements while shaping the future of maritime excellence. Through meaningful engagement, knowledge exchange, and recognition of outstanding accomplishments, the event will highlight the innovation, resilience, and leadership that continue to drive global trade and maritime connectivity.

OBJECTIVES

- Present the current status of shipping transport, ports, logistics, and offshore sectors in Lebanon, Mediterranean and the Middle East.
- Showcase private sector initiatives and regional projects to participants, investors, and the international maritime community.
- Highlight the vital role of shipping, ports, logistics, and offshore operations in supporting national and regional economies.
- Discuss strategies to strengthen Lebanese and regional ports as hubs to attract international shipping lines and enhance supply chain operations.
- Identify the shipping sector's key challenges and propose practical solutions and recommendations.
- Explore cooperation opportunities, foster business development, and encourage the exchange of ideas and expertise.
- Introduce the latest technologies in shipping, maritime, offshore operations, and port/container terminal management.
- Present recent maritime achievements in Lebanon and worldwide.
- Discuss the future of offshore projects in the region and potential collaboration opportunities.
- Highlight investment opportunities in maritime transport, offshore, and logistics sectors to attract investors, businesses, and regional financial institutions, showcasing development plans, proposed projects, and investment frameworks.
- Explore concepts of smart ports, intelligent shipping, and the future of regional supply chains.
- Promote the digitization of ports and logistics services to facilitate trade and operational efficiency.



SIGNIFICANCE OF ATTENDANCE

- Meet leaders and key decision-makers from Lebanon, Mediterranean and the Middle East, and international maritime, shipping, ports, logistics, and offshore sectors.
- Explore investment opportunities to expand business and strengthen regional maritime operations.
- Network with industry experts while identifying new business partnerships and collaborations.
- Share your experience in addressing sector challenges and contribute to actionable recommendations.
- Discover the latest and emerging technologies shaping the maritime industries.
- Expand your local, regional, and international maritime network and foster long-term professional connections.

WHO WILL ATTEND

- Governmental agencies & maritime administrations
- Ship owners, operators and managers
- Ship agents & brokers
- Shipping companies
- Ports companies and operators
- Freight forwarders & logistic companies
- Inspection firms and classification societies
- Maritime, shipping, logistics & offshore (oil & gas) educational and training institutes
- Marine insurance companies
- Crewing agencies
- Ship building and repair yards
- Companies specializing in lifting equipment, cranes and machineries for ships, ports & offshore
- Law firms and legal consultancies
- Spare parts companies and suppliers
- Bunkering and marine lubricants providers
- Local and international banks
- Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Economy

ROBBAN ASSAFINA

SHIPPING FORUM & AWARDS 2026

○ A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE, RECOGNITION & NETWORKING

The Robban Assafina Shipping Forum & Awards 2026 will bring together maritime leaders, policymakers, port authorities, shipowners, operators, and solution providers for two days of dialogue, networking, and industry recognition. Taking place in Beirut on 25-26 November 2026, the event aims to foster collaboration, address emerging challenges, and explore opportunities shaping the future of the maritime sector across the East Mediterranean and Middle East regions.

○ MARITIME AWARDS NIGHT

Opening the event on 25 November 2026, the Robban Assafina Maritime Awards Night will celebrate excellence, leadership, and innovation across the maritime industry. Building on the success of the inaugural edition in 2023, the Awards will recognize individuals, organizations, and initiatives that have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the maritime sector.

○ JUDICIOUS RECOGNITION

A distinguished panel of judges, composed of luminaries and experts from diverse aspects of the maritime domain, will see through a sea of nominations to identify the true stars of the maritime industry. Each award presented will be a testament to the accuracy and integrity of the evaluation process, ensuring that the awards are bestowed upon those who have truly set sail on a course of excellence.

○ SHIPPING FORUM - DAY TWO

On 26 November 2026, the Robban Assafina Shipping Forum will provide a platform for high-level discussions on shipping, ports, logistics, sustainability, digitalization, and maritime investment. Through expert-led sessions and interactive dialogue, participants will exchange insights and explore practical solutions to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of the regional maritime industry.

FORUM SESSIONS

Local, regional, and international experts in maritime transport, ports, shipping, logistics, and offshore sectors will gather in Beirut to discuss challenges, opportunities, and future prospects, focusing on port competitiveness, sustainable solutions, and investment in the maritime sector.

SESSION 1

The Global and Regional Shipping Landscape: Challenges, Transitions, and Future Outlook

SESSION 2

Port Transformation and Competitiveness: Driving Smart and Sustainable Operations

SESSION 3

Human Capital and Shipping Education: Building Skills for a New Era



Session 1

The Global and Regional Shipping Landscape: Challenges, Transitions, and Future Outlook

- **Maritime Market Outlook:**
Assessing global and regional shipping trends, trade routes, and Lebanon's strategic role in regional connectivity and growth.
- **Governance and Regulation:**
Strengthening maritime policies, legal frameworks, and oversight to foster transparency, competitiveness, and international alignment.
- **Digitalization and Smart Shipping:**
Highlighting the impact of automation, data systems, and digital tools in enhancing efficiency, safety, and operational performance.
- **Sustainability and Alternative Fuels:**
Exploring decarbonization pathways, energy transition, and the adoption of cleaner fuels in compliance with IMO environmental goals.

Session 2

Port Transformation and Competitiveness: Driving Smart and Sustainable Operations

- **Infrastructure and Capacity:**
Assessing the development and readiness of Lebanese and regional ports to handle growing trade volumes, modern vessels, and efficient cargo operations.
- **Regional Competitiveness:**
Analyzing performance and positioning against key regional ports, and identifying pathways to strengthen operational excellence and cost efficiency.
- **Smart and Sustainable Port Development:**
Exploring current and planned initiatives for digitalization, automation, and environmental sustainability to enhance efficiency and global integration.
- **Strategic Connectivity and Future Projects:**
Highlighting investment and expansion plans that improve multimodal logistics and integrate Lebanese ports into global maritime corridors.

Session 3

Human Capital and Shipping Education: Building Skills for a New Era

- **Capacity Building Across the Shipping and Port Sectors:**
Focusing on developing the skills of seafarers, port workers, shipping professionals, and decision-makers to enhance efficiency, safety, and compliance across the industry.
- **Aligning Education with Industry Needs:**
Strengthening collaboration between training academies, maritime administrations, and the private sector to ensure education and certification reflect real operational challenges and global standards.
- **Digital Competence and Technological Adaptation:**
Examining the impact of automation, AI, and digital transformation on shipping and port operations, and the need for continuous reskilling and technological readiness.
- **Inclusion, Leadership, and Professional Growth:**
Encouraging diversity, youth participation, and leadership development while fostering a culture of continuous learning to sustain a competitive maritime workforce.



ROBBAN ASSAFINA

MARITIME AWARDS NIGHT 2023

THROWBACK



Robban Assafina Shipping Forum & Awards 2026

will feature thirty-two awards, as follows:

- Best Freight Forwarder & Logistics Award
- Best Marine Services Award
- Best Maritime Administration Award
- Best Project Innovation Award
- Best Ship Agency Award
- Best Ship Broker Award
- Best Ship Repair Award
- Best Yacht Services Award
- CEO of the Year Award
- Crew Welfare & Wellbeing Award
- Excellence in Maritime Education Award
- Leading Classification Society of the Year Award
- Leading Woman in Shipping Award
- Marine Technology Provider of the Year Award
- Maritime Communication Award
- Maritime Deal of the Year Award

- Maritime Digital Transformation Award
- Maritime Law Firm of the Year Award
- Maritime Personality of the Year Award
- Maritime Start-up Company Award
- Maritime Youth Award
- Port of the Year Award
- Port & Terminal Innovation Award
- Ship Manager of The Year Award
- Shipping Company Award
- Social Responsibility Award
- Sustainable Environment Award
- The Green Shipping Award
- The Marine Insurer Award
- The Maritime Safety Award
- Top Service Provider in Offshore Award
- Terminal Operator of the Year Award



Best Freight Forwarder & Logistics Award:

Looking into the future strategies of logistics and supply chain companies, this award is granted to a port service provider of a new technology, system or a new infrastructure development introduced in the last 12 months.

Best Marine Services Award:

Celebrating the leading marine service provider, this award recognises outstanding performance and excellence across the maritime and shipping industries.

Best Maritime Administration Award:

This award recognizes exceptional performance by a maritime administration in the past year, highlighting achievements in flag state and port state control effectiveness, safety measures adherence, and enforcement of maritime conventions, codes, and practices.

Best Project Innovation Award:

New and innovative projects and products which have contributed positively to an individual organization and/or the industry generally, amid the challenges facing the maritime industry, mainly sustainability & zero emissions.

Best Ship Agency Award:

The main criteria of this award assessed by the judges will be the significant contributions that a ship agency has provided to the maritime industry in the MENA Region.

Best Ship Broker Award:

This award distinguishes a shipbroker active in the region's marketplace, delivering superior value to its clients, through successfully originating, structuring and executing sale & purchase, newbuilding, chartering and financial leasing transactions.



Key Dates	
Nomination Open	02 February 2026
Nomination Closes	25 October 2026
Finalist Announced	02 November 2026
Awards Evening	25 November 2026
Judging Opens	03 August 2026

Best Ship Repair Yard Award:

This award will honor the ship repair facility which has excelled in meeting the needs of its clients and advancing the technical capability, cost efficiency, environmental reputation and safety of the sector.

Best Yacht Services Award:

This award recognizes the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the most remarkable luxury yacht designs, and yachting operational services.

CEO of the Year:

This award will be presented to a CEO who represents a leader empowering other, with major contribution/achievement to the shipping industry in any field, that lightens and eases the road towards the future.

Crew Welfare & Wellbeing Award:

Rewards shipowners/managers/crewing entities with strong, verifiable welfare programs (mental health support, fatigue management, grievance channels, retention initiatives) and measurable crew outcomes.

Excellence in Maritime Education Award:

This award recognizes an educational institution, commercial organization or an individual that has made a major contribution to maritime education and training in the MENA region.

Leading Classification Society of the Year Award:

Commitment to safety, quality, social and environmental responsibility and the classification society's diligent effort and involvement in the training and development of personnel are the basis of this award. Judges will also look through the commitment to customer service and efficiency; network outreach and spread of offices across the region.

Leading Woman in Shipping Award:

The award recognizes women who have significantly contributed to the maritime industry, reflecting IMO's efforts to promote gender diversity within the sector.

Marine Technology Provider of the Year Award:

Honor's a technology vendor whose product/service has delivered demonstrable value in real maritime operations, validated by deployments, client references, and measurable results.

Maritime Communication Award:

This award recognises leading maritime communication service providers that deliver reliable, innovative, and high-quality connectivity and digital solutions to the shipping industry.

Maritime Deal of the Year Award:

Celebrates a standout financing transaction or deal (newbuild, refinancing, leasing, capital markets, sustainability-linked facility) for its innovation, structure, market impact, and execution.

Maritime Digital Transformation Award:

Recognizes organizations delivering measurable operational improvements through digitalization (e.g., fleet/port platforms, analytics, automation, paperless workflows), evidenced by performance KPIs and adoption rates.

Maritime Law Firm of the Year Award:

This award recognizes the best shipping law firm in the MENA region, providing expertise to clients throughout the entire maritime industry.

Maritime Personality of the Year Award:

This award is presented to an individual who has made major contributions in the maritime industry over the past year.

Maritime Start-up Company Award:

Highlights an early-stage company bringing a scalable solution to maritime/ports/logistics, with evidence of traction (pilots, revenue, partnerships, deployments) and clear industry impact.



Maritime Youth Award:

This award is credited to an individual under 40 who has made an outstanding contribution to the maritime industry, during the past years.

Port of the Year Award:

This award looks into the biggest contribution that a port has made to the development of its infrastructure in the region, recognizing the most innovative strategies which guarantee maximum cargo moving at a dependable and efficient rate.

Port & Terminal Innovation Award:

Rewards a specific innovation implemented at a port/terminal (smart gate, berth optimization, PCS enhancement, automation, energy management) with proven ROI or performance improvement.

Ship Manager of the Year Award:

The ship manager award will honor a ship management company that has shown high levels of effectiveness in managing commercial vessels, a remarkable performance, quality and safety, in growing its business over recent years.

Shipping Company Award:

This Award identifies a shipping company which has responded most effectively to the challenging market conditions during the past 12 months, through operating flexibility or adjustment of its offering to new normal trading conditions.

Social Responsibility Award:

This award recognizes the initiatives implemented dealing with health, safety and environmental protection, changes or improvements to the management culture or working practices which promote better understanding of key social issues.

A large cargo ship is docked at a pier at night. The ship's lights are on, and its reflection is visible in the water. The ship has a white hull with yellow accents and a black funnel. The IMO number 5383158 is visible on the side of the ship. The background shows a city skyline with lights and a bridge.

Sustainable Environment Award:

Innovative implementations that highlight higher standards, unique practices, products, or services with significant environmental sustainability benefits, green supply chain management, energy efficiency and emissions reduction.

The Green Shipping Award:

In this award, judges will examine major initiatives that will accelerate shipping's journey towards carbon neutrality. The winner of the green shipping award is a shipping company that led the way in environmentally responsible shipping.

The Marine Insurer Award:

Judges will look at the distinguished skills in representing clients and contributing to the development of maritime insurance within the region.

The Maritime Safety Award:

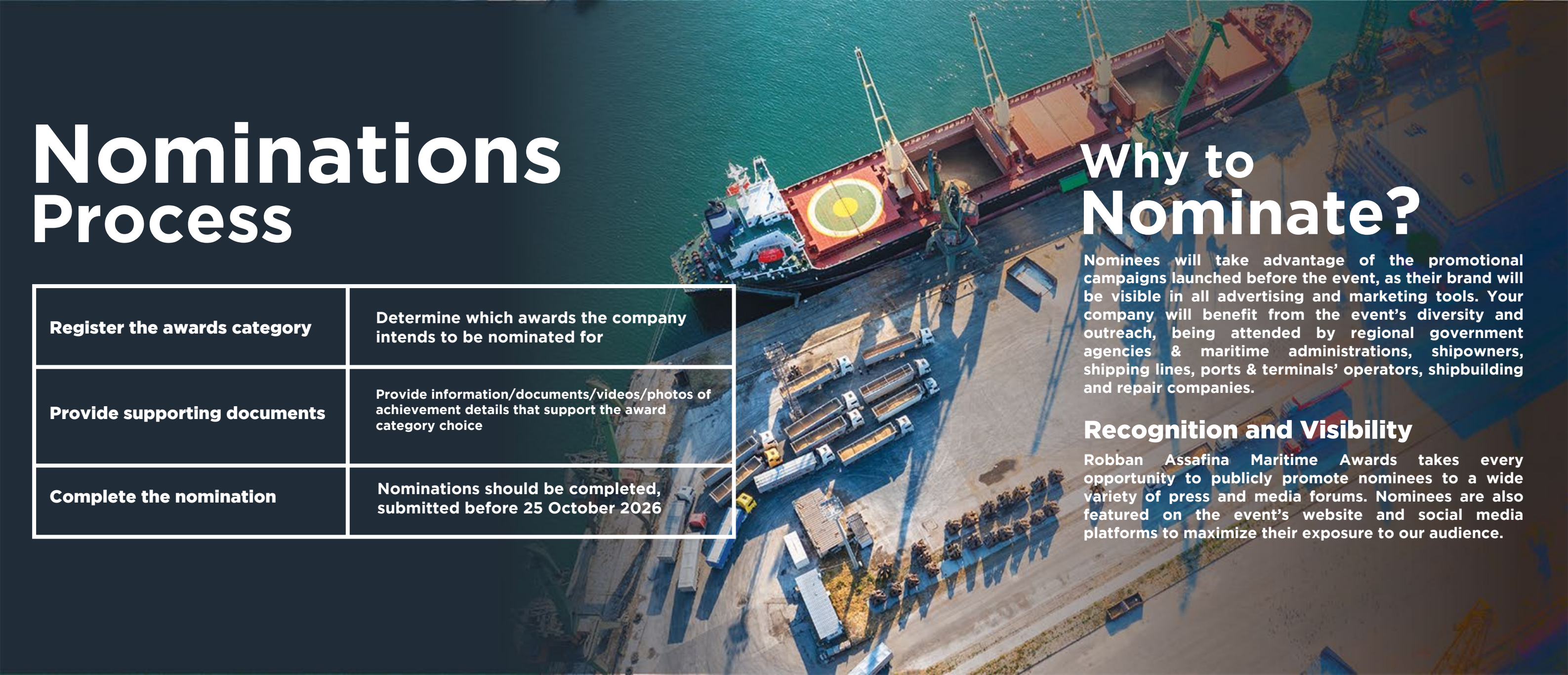
This award represents the company which has portrayed the best practices of safety and quality improvement initiatives. Judges will examine technical and procedural improvement initiatives that have led to reduction of risk to life at sea/land.

Top Service Provider in Offshore Award:

This award is presented to a Service Provider company with a diversified portfolio of solutions & services, and a great impact on the offshore industry.

Terminal Operator of the Year Award:

Recognizes excellence in terminal operations (container, bulk, Ro-Ro, offshore supply base) based on productivity, safety performance, service reliability, customer.



Nominations Process

Register the awards category

Determine which awards the company intends to be nominated for

Provide supporting documents

Provide information/documents/videos/photos of achievement details that support the award category choice

Complete the nomination

Nominations should be completed, submitted before 25 October 2026

Why to Nominate?

Nominees will take advantage of the promotional campaigns launched before the event, as their brand will be visible in all advertising and marketing tools. Your company will benefit from the event's diversity and outreach, being attended by regional government agencies & maritime administrations, shipowners, shipping lines, ports & terminals' operators, shipbuilding and repair companies.

Recognition and Visibility

Robban Assafina Maritime Awards takes every opportunity to publicly promote nominees to a wide variety of press and media forums. Nominees are also featured on the event's website and social media platforms to maximize their exposure to our audience.

Why to Sponsor?

Sponsoring Robban Assafina Shipping Forum & Awards 2026 positions your organization at the center of one of the region's most consequential maritime gatherings, bringing together decision-makers from shipping companies, shipowners and operators, port authorities, shipyards, regulators, and solution providers in Beirut on 25-26 November 2026. As the industry accelerates toward digitalization, green shipping, and operational excellence, your sponsorship directly associates your brand with the conversations and partnerships shaping the next phase of maritime growth in Lebanon and the wider region.

Benefits

- Secure sustained exposure through both the high-profile Awards Night (25 Nov) and the strategic Shipping Forum (26 Nov), a rare combination that unites thought leadership with industry recognition.
- Engage face-to-face with executives, regulators, and project leaders in an environment built for collaboration, business development, and strategic alignment across the maritime value chain.
- Align your organization with the sector's priority themes, sustainability, digital transformation, resilience, and competitiveness, and demonstrate your commitment to practical, forward-looking solutions.
- The Awards are evaluated by a distinguished expert judging panel, reinforcing integrity and strengthening the value of association for sponsors seeking trusted, high-standard industry platforms.
- Benefit from the event's strong visibility as a landmark regional occasion, enhancing corporate reputation, increasing share of voice, and supporting stakeholder confidence across MENA.
- Stand out in a crowded marketplace by showcasing your capabilities, innovations, and achievements alongside the region's most influential maritime players, before, during, and after the event.
- Use sponsorship as a catalyst to initiate collaborations, pursue new accounts, and strengthen relationships with clients and partners through targeted networking and brand presence.

In short, sponsoring Robban Assafina Shipping Forum & Awards 2026 is a strategic investment in visibility, influence, and commercial opportunity, while affirming your organization's role in advancing a prosperous, sustainable, and competitive maritime future for the region.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

1. Acknowledgement during the Shipping Forum opening ceremony and by the event's moderator during the Maritime Awards Night.
2. Brand visibility in all pre-event promotional, advertising, and marketing materials for Robban Assafina Shipping Forum & Awards 2026, including the sponsor's logo and wording on event entrance branding, stage backdrops, and the event catalogue and related publications.
3. Sponsor logo featured on the event website with an active link directing viewers to the sponsor's official website.
4. Visual branding during the Maritime Awards Night, with the sponsor's logo displayed on AV loops at the beginning of the ceremony, during dinner time, and at the end of the Awards ceremony.
5. Opportunity for the sponsor's representative to take center stage during the Awards Night and present the sponsored award to the winner.
6. Sponsor table signage and prominent logo placement on the sponsor's table during the Awards Gala Dinner.
7. Inclusion of the sponsor's name in pre-event and post-event press releases and social media coverage related to the Shipping Forum & Awards, including photos, videos, and other media highlights.
8. A dedicated interview feature for the sponsor in Robban Assafina Magazine.
9. A 500-word sponsor profile (with logo) published on the event website.
10. Sponsor logo and wording on invitation cards for the opening ceremony and across key marketing tools supporting the Shipping Forum & Awards.
11. Ten delegates from the sponsor's company to attend Robban Assafina Shipping Forum & Awards 2026 and enjoy all event facilities across both days.



BECOME A **SPONSOR**

To sponsor the event, fill in the Sponsorship form or email us at events@assafinaonline.com

ATTENDANCE RATES	
One Seat	790\$
Two Seats	650\$ / Delegate 15% Discount
Three or More Seats	630\$ / Delegate 20% Discount
One Table (10 Seats)	7100\$ 10% Discount

Save the Date: 25-26 November 2026
VENUE: InterContinental Phoenicia Beirut

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SHIPPING FORUM & AWARDS 2026

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SAVE the DATE

25-26 November 2026

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