



CENTRE for
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CIR OPEN SOURCE FILM AWARDS

2025

2025 CIR OPEN SOURCE FILM AWARDS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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1 SUMMARY

CIR is proud to announce the second edition of the CIR Open Source Film Awards, showcasing the power and impact of open source investigations in journalism. This year the awards prize is supported by satellite image provider Planet, whose services have proven crucial to the success of many open source investigations.

The winning teams will be offered a one-year starter subscription access to Planet satellite imagery, along with the highly coveted CIR G.O.A.T. (“Greatest Of All Time”) trophy!

The awards ceremony, along with a networking event, will be held at the International Journalism Festival in Perugia on 9-13 April 2025.

The Awards are **open** for submissions from 29 November 2024 and will **close on Wednesday 22 January 2025**.

Open Source Investigative (OSINV) techniques have rapidly become a key part of modern-day investigative journalism with many media organisations making significant investments in OSINV capabilities and dedicated teams.

The CIR Open Source Film Awards set out to celebrate the use of OSINV techniques in investigative journalism, to encourage innovation in visual OSINV storytelling and to support a creative community among OSINV-focused journalists.

2 CATEGORIES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The CIR Open Source Film Awards are centred around one key requirement: **Open Source Investigative Techniques need to have played an integral part in reaching the investigative findings made in each (non-fiction) film.**

CIR does not aim to provide an exhaustive list of what defines OSINV techniques and does not want to limit any expression of innovative storytelling. Upon taking part, participants are asked to provide a **supporting statement** reviewing the use of OSINV techniques in their film by clarifying the significance of which OSINV techniques were used in their investigation, the importance of OSINV to their team or by explaining how OSINV techniques allowed them to pursue the journalistic aim of their video. Please also detail any direct or indirect impact the film may have had post publication.

The Awards are open to any subject matter and any journalistic genre: news reports, feature pieces, current affairs programmes and documentary films are all welcomed. We do encourage the submission of films that have added to the deeper understanding of specific conflicts, expose human rights abuses, films that uncover key elements of accountability or that challenge an established narrative of events. Where breaking news or fast evolving events are concerned the jury will be attentive to balance speed of reporting with depth of investigative findings and/or production/design features. Finding creative ways to tell OSINV stories in an emotionally engaging way is a plus.

There are three categories, based on the length of the video:

1. **Open Source – Short-form**
Videos of maximum 6 minutes
2. **Open Source – Mid-form**
Videos of between 6 and 20 minutes of duration
3. **Open Source – Long-form**
Videos of more than 20 minutes of duration

There is no limit to the number of subject entries any participant/team can make in each category, but any one subject (which may have been published at different lengths) can only be entered in one category. For example, participants who have turned a long-form film into a short-form news report cannot submit the same investigation in both short-form and long-form categories, they will need to choose one category only for this particular investigation.

In order to be eligible, films need to have been first broadcast or published online between 22 January 2024 and 22 January 2025 (and should not have been entered in the previous CIR Film Awards edition).

CIR regularly collaborates with external media organisations to present some of our own investigative findings. Unfortunately, any films made in close collaboration with CIR and/or where CIR has contributed significantly to the investigative findings in a film cannot be considered for these awards. However, if CIR's involvement was minor or consists of only an interview or commentary, then it can be entered. If in doubt, please email to confirm eligibility.

Films do not need to be broadcast or published by traditional media organisations in order to be eligible, independent, freelance or online-only productions are also welcomed. However, there must be a clear way to identify the date of publication of the video online, this can be on a website, YouTube channel or other social media platform.

As part of the submission an accessible online viewing link must be provided. Videos that were part of linear broadcasting and do not have any online presence will need to be submitted by sending a private video link (like Vimeo or unlisted YouTube) or an individual download link (like WeTransfer or Dropbox) along with a reference to the original broadcast date.

Films in any language can be submitted, but any films not produced in English will require submission of the original publication link along with a separate online link or download link to the same video with full English subtitles.

Any non-English videos submitted without any reference to an English translated version will be disqualified.

CIR is a non-profit organisation; each submission carries a fee of 45 GBP + VAT (amounting to 54 GBP) to help cover the organisational costs of these awards. Participants will need to pay the fee using the dedicated CIR PayPal link (detailed in the next section) before submitting a video. PayPal will provide the participant with an invoice and reference number which needs to be provided as part of the submission.

If a participant is submitting multiple videos you can make one payment of the total sum and add a reference to the payment notes section.

3 HOW TO SUBMIT

The following materials need to be entered via [this form](#) (click for hyperlink)

1. **Title** of film being submitted.
2. **Still image** to illustrate the film (min 1, max 5): This can be a thumbnail or other still taken from the film (jpeg image). If the video is part of an established branded programme, please submit one still image with and one without branding. Please ensure copyright requirements would allow CIR to republish this image in reference to the CIR Open Source film awards.
3. **Publication date** and any reference in relation to this (if not obvious from weblink).
4. **Category** the film is being submitted in.

5. **Credit List** of persons credited with making the film, this list will be part of any publication of the shortlist and/or winners.
6. **Weblink** to any online publication of the film, if there is no public online publication of the film available, please include or send via email a private viewing link (+password) or private download link along with some external reference to determine the publication date. For any non-English films please send original language publication link along with an English-subtitled link (as set out in previous section).
7. **Summary Statement** of max 100 words to summarise the subject of the video, this can be used by CIR to introduce and illustrate the film.
8. **Supporting Statement** of max 600 words, reviewing the use of OSINV techniques in the film by clarifying the significance of which OSINV techniques were used in the investigation, the importance of OSINV to the team or by explaining how OSINV techniques allowed them to pursue the journalistic aim of the video.
9. **Copyright Permission** must be explicitly granted by the applicant for any copyrighted materials provided in support of the submission to be used by CIR for promotional purposes within the context of the CIR Open Source Film Awards and for limited republication on CIR platforms.
10. **Fee:** the application fee of 54 GBP (45 GBP + VAT) will need to be paid via this payment [LINK](#), please take note of the payment invoice number and copy it into the payment reference section on the application form. Multiple entries from the same organisation can be paid for in one payment by increasing the quantity. The same reference number should then be quoted on each separate application form.

Any person/organisation can submit any number of films in each category, but separate forms for each submission will be required. Each submission should be made through a separate form, we do not accept multiple submissions in one form.

4 JURY

The jury will consist of specialist members at CIR along with external experts.

The full updated list of 2025 jury members will be published on the CIR website ahead of the award ceremony.

5 SHORTLISTING AND FESTIVAL OFFER

Three submissions will be selected for the shortlist for each category. Participants shortlisted will be notified in the week of 3 March 2025.

By Friday 14 March each finalist is asked to provide a 1 (minimum) to 3 (maximum) minute high resolution video trailer or excerpt of the selected film, to be used for promotional purposes online and during the Award ceremony.

For each finalist entry CIR will provide hotel accommodation for two participants per submission for 2 nights. All other expenses, including food and travel, are paid for by the finalists.

6 AWARDS CEREMONY AND PRIZE

This year the awards prize is supported by satellite image provider Planet. Each winning team will be offered a one-year starter subscription access to Planet satellite imagery. The winners will also be presented with an iconic CIR G.O.A.T. ("Greatest Of All Time") trophy.

The Award Ceremony will be hosted at the International Journalism Festival in Perugia 9-13 April 2025. All shortlisted entries will be asked to provide the audience with a short presentation discussing the challenges they faced while making the film, the significance of OSINV techniques used and/or the wider impact of the investigation. The presentations will be followed by an announcement of the winners in each category.

The ceremony will be followed by a networking event, open to anyone attending the festival, we hope connect to the wider OSINV journalism community.

7 NOTICE

By submitting a film to the CIR Open Source Film Awards, applicants give CIR explicit permission to use any materials provided as part of the submission, with the appropriate attribution, for promotion on its platforms. Applicants accept any and all legal responsibility for republication of any copyrighted materials (provided by the applicant) by CIR in the context of promotion (online or offline) of the CIR Open Source Film Awards or its subsequent announcement of finalists or winners. CIR cannot be held responsible for any third party liability in relation to the submission materials provided, all responsibility lies with the applicant.

All data provided as part of the submission will be processed confidentially and solely for the purposes of the CIR Open Source Film Awards and in accordance with GDPR regulations. Applicants may receive a personal invite to participate in future CIR Open Source Film Award editions.

8 CONTACT

For queries in relation to the CIR Open Source Film Awards 2025, please contact:

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