



The Mobile Robot Company

Knowledge Center — IFOY Award 2026 · 2026-08-04

<https://info.mobilerobot.com/newsroom/awards/ifoy-award-2026>

IFOY Award 2026

The J1600 self-driving pallet jack won the **IFOY AWARD 2026** in the **Industrial Truck of the Year** category. The result was announced on 26 June 2026, following the winner ceremony in Stuttgart on 25 June 2026. This page covers the competition, the evaluation process, and why the [J1600](https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/overview/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/overview/>) was recognized.

The competition

IFOY stands for International Intralogistics and Forklift Truck of the Year. The award is supported by the VDMA Materials Handling and Intralogistics Association and the VDMA Robotics + Automation Association.

- 49 products and solutions entered the 2026 competition.
- 17 finalists completed the multi-stage IFOY Audit at [TEST CAMP INTRALOGISTICS](https://info.mobilerobot.com/newsroom/events/test-camp/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/newsroom/events/test-camp/>) in Dortmund.
- Winners were selected by an independent international jury of trade journalists.
- The J1600 competed in its category alongside products from established industrial-truck manufacturers.
- The winners were revealed in Stuttgart before approximately 150 guests from industry, academia, politics, and media.

The J1600 entered in the applicant category "Warehouse Truck lowlifter".

Timeline

Date	Step
29 January 2026	The J1600 is announced as an IFOY finalist.
15–17 April 2026	IFOY Audit and Test at TEST CAMP INTRALOGISTICS, Dortmund.
16 April 2026	The J1600 receives the Best in Intralogistics Certificate (https://info.mobilerobot.com/newsroom/awards/best-in-intralogistics/).
25 June 2026	Winner ceremony in Stuttgart.
26 June 2026	The J1600 is announced as Industrial Truck of the Year 2026.

How the award is decided

Finalists undergo a three-part process at TEST CAMP INTRALOGISTICS:

1. the practical **IFOY Test**;
2. the scientific [IFOY Innovation Check](https://info.mobilerobot.com/newsroom/awards/ifoy-innovation-check/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/newsroom/awards/ifoy-innovation-check/>);
3. assessment by the international jury.

The process evaluates each finalist against comparable market solutions rather than merely ranking finalists against each other.

Test observations

The J1600 made its first public appearance during the IFOY Audit. The testers placed it in the space between a standard electric pallet truck and an autonomous mobile robot. A task is created or selected on the display, confirmed by a physical button press, and only enters autonomous mode when the operator judges the environment ready.

- **Navigation:** [3D LiDAR SLAM](https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/navigation-and-obstacle-avoidance/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/navigation-and-obstacle-avoidance/>) on an industrial NVIDIA Jetson AI computer; three-dimensional maps and obstacle avoidance; scanning of environmental features at heights up to 70 m above the vehicle; no building modifications; more reliable and precise than traditional 2D methods in complex or changing conditions.
- **Safety:** two safety LiDARs, front and rear; emergency-stop functions and certified components; a full 360-degree protective field; three blue light strips that display the current safety zone; [a field that expands as travel speed increases](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/safety-field-adjustment/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/safety-field-adjustment/>). See [how J1600 safety works](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/how-j1600-safety-works/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/how-j1600-safety-works/>).
- **Usability and scaling:** no large IT integration; usable on delivery; about 30 minutes of training; unlimited saved drop points; pickup always manual; [teach-and-repeat](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/teach-and-repeat/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/teach-and-repeat/>), [VDA 5050](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/vda-5050-explained/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/vda-5050-explained/>), and [API support](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/technical-integration/rest-api-documentation/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/technical-integration/rest-api-documentation/>); a continuously updated environment model; post-task return or travel to another point.

The test verdict: the vehicle meets demand for flexible automation without the cost or complexity of a large project. Repetitive movement can be automated while manual intervention remains immediately available, and the approach is unusually easy and comparatively affordable.

Why the J1600 won

Key reasons for the recognition:

- a new product tier between manual pallet jacks and classic [automated guided vehicles \(AGVs\)](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/mobile-robot-terminology/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/mobile-robot-terminology/>);
- [dual-mode](https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/dual-mode/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/dual-mode/>), manual and autonomous operation;
- a low implementation barrier and intuitive operation;
- 3D LiDAR SLAM navigation and a layered safety architecture;
- immediate human takeover at any time;
- up to 80% reduction in manual work on repetitive transport;
- applicability to small and medium businesses and single-shift sites;

- optional integration, with [VDA 5050 and API scale-up](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/technical-integration/integration-overview/) when needed.

The Innovation Check called the J1600 a "game changer" for low-threshold intralogistics automation. It rated functionality and implementation ++ and novelty, customer benefits, and market relevance +. See the [IFOY Innovation Check](https://info.mobilerobot.com/newsroom/awards/ifoy-innovation-check/) for the full assessment.

Significance

The win was a challenger victory: The Mobile Robot Company was [founded in November 2024](https://info.mobilerobot.com/company/history/founding-story/) and won a major international logistics award with its first product less than two years later, competing against established industrial-truck manufacturers. At the time of the win, the company had [distributor partners in eight countries](https://info.mobilerobot.com/company/history/growth-and-international-expansion/).

Event footage and the winner-period videos are collected in [event videos](https://info.mobilerobot.com/newsroom/videos/event-videos/).