

INDIE GAME PROJECT

For Indie Game Area exhibitors

SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT

SENSE
OF
WONDER
NIGHT
2026

SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT (SOWN)

" SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT (SOWN)" is an event that aims to discover game ideas that will trigger a "Sense of Wonder" (a feeling of something changing in one's world the moment one sees or hears the concept).

Eight outstanding entries (planned) will be selected by the judging panel. The exhibiting companies will be named SOWN Finalists and will present their works at SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT.

SOWN is open to companies selected for the SELECTED INDIE 80, as well as companies that have secured paid exhibition space in the Indie Game Corner (excluding online exhibitors).

Objectives of "SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT"

- To introduce game with a game design and ideas that are experimental and creative, and that cannot be called conventional or traditional
- To raise awareness of the great value of "Sense of Wonder" in games, which may transform the common sense of game, and lead to invigorate the game industry
- To provide future opportunities for those who are developing experimental and creative games.
- To create new domains in the game industry

SOWN targets games that meet the following five criteria.

① A game that realizes a totally new, never-seen-before gaming experience

A game that employs technologies that have not previously been used successfully, such as natural language processing, physics engines, image recognition or gesture control, to present a new kind of experience.

② A game that challenges the common sense of games

A game that pursues new ways of gaming expressions and changes the player's vision of the world after playing and experiencing it.

③ A game with emergent features

A game that brings user's activities into the game world by embedding features such as AI interactions and social elements.

④ A game that makes people want to play it immediately

A game that makes everyone think that they want to enjoy the new experience for themselves and feel that they want to treasure it.

⑤ An amazing game

Any kind of new, eye-grabbing and impressive game!!

SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT 2026 Implementation Outline

Date : September 17 (Thu.), 2026 Japan Standard Time (time to be determined)

Venue : TGS2026 Scheduled in Makuhari Messe venue

Prize Money

Grand prix (Audience Award Grand Prix) : USD 3,000

Other awards : USD 500

- Audience Award Semi-Grand Prix
- Best Technological Game Award
- Best Arts Award
- Best Experimental Game Award
- Best Game Design Award
- Best Presentation Award



Footage of the presentation will be archived and released as part of the TGS official program on Friday, September 18, the second day of the event.

*Last year's "SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT 2025" can be viewed on TGS Official YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Dn6WoTJweCs>

SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT 2026 Application conditions and qualifications

SOWN Eligibility: Selected Indie 80 exhibitors, Indie Game Area exhibitors (excluding online exhibitors)

*Exhibitors selected for the SELECTED INDIE 80 will automatically be entered as candidates for the presentation event "SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT".

SOWN Application Period and Method : Late June 2026 [planned] to Tuesday, July 14

How to Apply : TGS Management Office will send an entry guide to Indie Game Area exhibitors (from mid-June (planned)).

What can be exhibited

- A completely original game (Derivative content cannot be exhibited regardless of whether or not it is licensed.)
- Created for a platform for which an applicant has the right to develop.
- Works that comply with the CESA Code of Ethics and the CERO Code of Ethics
 - *CESA "Global Event Compliance Policy" <https://www.cesa.or.jp/compliance/index-en.html>
 - *About CERO <https://www.cero.gr.jp/en/publics/index/3/>
- And **do not fall under any of the following items:**
 - ① An expression that conflicts with or that may conflict with Attached Appendix 3 "Banned Expressions" of the CERO Code of Ethics (<http://www.cero.gr.jp/en/publics/index/18/>) is included.
 - ② Works for which an "Z" rating category was assigned by CERO or an expression equivalent to the "Z" rating category may be included.
 - ③ Works that have already been released overseas and for which a "17+" (MATURE) rating category was assigned by an overseas examination body (e.g. ESRB).
 - ④ Works planned to be released overseas for which a "17+" (MATURE) rating category is expected to be assigned by an overseas examination body (e.g. ESRB) excessively bloody works that cannot be regarded as being equivalent to a "13+" (TEEN) rating category.

Regarding the selection of the 8 SOWN FINALISTS

TGS Management Office will contact the relevant companies from August onwards (date to be confirmed). The selection and decision will be made by the SOWN judges. Exhibitors selected as SOWN finalists will be finalized upon agreeing to the following conditions.

- Participation in the SENSE OF WONDER NIGHT (SOWN) (with a preliminary rehearsal)
- Submission of a video introducing the exhibitor
- Presentation by the game developer (with a question-and-answer session by the SOWN judges)
 - *Simultaneous interpretation between Japanese and English will be provided

*The content is subject to change.

*We are unable to provide feedback regarding the review process or other details.