Application: 5589

Harsh Maheshwari

Page: General Information

Provide information about the company to be considered for the award. If you will be nominating an individual, specify the nominee's employer.

Name of Organization/Company

Tesla

Mobile Phone Number

+1 530-750-9876

Additional Contacts

I would also like to have others receive emails about the disposition of our entries.

Page: Entry Information

Entry Title

Harsh Maheshwari

Category

K11. Employee of the Year - Energy Technology

Employee Nominee Submission Format

Written Answers

a. Briefly describe the nominated non-executive person's employer: the organization's history and past performance (up to 200 words). Required

Tesla, Inc. is a global leader in electric vehicles, renewable energy solutions, and battery technology. Tesla quickly emerged as a transformative force under Elon Musk's visionary leadership. Initially focused on creating compelling electric vehicles, Tesla launched groundbreaking models, including the Roadster, Model S, Model X, Model 3, Model Y, Cybertruck, and Semi, revolutionizing the automotive industry through innovation in performance, design, and autonomous driving capabilities.
Beyond vehicles, Tesla has significantly impacted energy storage and sustainability through products like Powerwall, Powerpack, Megapack, and Solar Roof. Tesla's Gigafactories, located in the U.S., China, and Europe, exemplify industrial innovation, dramatically scaling battery production capabilities and enabling mass-market electric vehicle adoption.
Central to Tesla's energy storage advancements is its development of the 4680 battery cell technology. Introduced during Battery Day in 2020, the 4680 cells feature increased energy density, improved power output, and significantly reduced manufacturing costs. By optimizing battery design through innovations such as tabless electrodes and dry electrode coating processes, Tesla has notably improved manufacturing efficiency and battery performance, essential for scaling up production for vehicles like the Cybertruck and future product lines.

b. Outline the nominated non-executive employee's achievements since the beginning of 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words). Required

I am a specialist in advanced battery manufacturing and analytics, with a strong track record of driving innovation and operational efficiency across high-impact roles. At Tesla, I have played a key role in developing and scaling the groundbreaking 4680 battery cell, a cornerstone of Tesla's energy storage and EV roadmap. My efforts led to a 400% increase in production throughput and an improvement in manufacturing yield from 50% to 99%, directly advancing Tesla's gigafactory goals.

At Apple, I led essential manufacturing and process engineering initiatives for major product lines, including the MacBook Pro and Mac Studio Display. Earlier in my career at QuantumScape, I co-invented two U.S. patents—translucent separators and lithium-stuffed garnet electrolytes—that have become pivotal to improving safety, performance, and manufacturability in solid-state batteries.

Outside of corporate roles, I founded and host the "Cell Siders" podcast, which has reached over 10,000 global downloads and explores breakthroughs in battery technology, electric vehicles, and sustainable energy. My work has been recognized by top-tier media such as The New York Times, CNBC, and Bloomberg.

With over nine years of experience and a deep commitment to clean energy, I aim to continue shaping the future of energy storage and sustainable transportation through innovation and thought leadership.

c. Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other employees or to other workers in your industry and/or to the nominee's past performance (up to 250 words). Required

My achievements stand out due to the scale, complexity, and impact of the work I've delivered across three of the most influential companies in the tech and energy sectors—Tesla, Apple, and QuantumScape.

At Tesla, I led the transformation of the dry electrode manufacturing line for the 4680 battery—a process regarded as one of the most technically challenging in next-generation battery production. Increasing throughput by 400% and yield from 50% to 99% in such a short time is significantly above industry norms, where even incremental yield improvements (5–10%) are celebrated. My contributions directly enabled Tesla's goal of producing up to 500,000 battery cells per day, an industry-leading figure.

Compared to peers, my role integrated cross-functional leadership, analytics, and hands-on process development—skills often siloed among multiple specialists. Most engineers in my field do not operate across the entire lifecycle of design, modeling, prototyping, and ramp-up at this level of ownership and impact.

At QuantumScape, I co-invented two foundational solid-state battery patents now being used in commercial licensing agreements with Volkswagen's PowerCo. These patents have influenced industry roadmaps for safety and energy density in ways few technical contributors can claim.

I've also built a global thought leadership platform through my podcast "Cell Siders," which uniquely positions me in the battery space as both a technical innovator and a communicator—something rarely seen among peers. This combination of technical excellence, commercial impact, and public engagement defines the uniqueness and significance of my contributions.

d. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words). Optional

The attachments provided offer comprehensive evidence of my achievements and impact across industry-leading companies and innovations in battery technology.

Résumé (ResumeHarshMaheshwari.pdf): This document outlines my progressive career at Tesla, Apple, and QuantumScape, detailing my leadership in scaling the 4680 battery at Tesla and managing high-stakes product launches at Apple. It also highlights my track record in process development, failure analysis, and my leadership of multidisciplinary teams—directly supporting the claims of technical and managerial excellence.

Patent and Media Summary (Summary of Patents and Media Coverage.docx): This file offers detailed descriptions of the two U.S. patents I co-invented at QuantumScape—US Patent 11,158,880 and US Patent 11,916,200. These patents are directly linked to breakthroughs in solid-state battery safety, reliability, and commercial scalability. The summary also includes documented media coverage from top-tier outlets such as The New York Times, CNBC, Bloomberg, and Volkswagen Newsroom, affirming the real-world impact and recognition of the technologies I helped develop.

Commercial Use Evidence: The document connects my patented technologies to actual business developments, such as QuantumScape's licensing agreement with Volkswagen's PowerCo and low-volume production of QSE-5 cells. These milestones offer strong validation of my innovations moving beyond the lab into commercialization.

Together, these attachments substantiate the claims made in this nomination with clear documentation of my contributions, industry recognition, and real-world outcomes. They collectively demonstrate that my work is not only technically innovative but also critically important to the commercial success and advancement of clean energy technologies.

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Would you like to add an additional supporting document?

No

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