

# Building a Smarter Scholarship System

*FIA's Cost-Savings and Improved Efficiency with OpenWater*

## OVERVIEW

The Forging Industry Association (FIA) represents companies across the forging sector, supporting its members with resources, educational programs, and initiatives designed to strengthen the industry. FIA's mission also includes providing scholarship opportunities to foster talent and growth within the industry.

## PROBLEM

FIA's previous scholarship application system relied on spreadsheets and manual data entry, resulting in inefficient workflows that placed a burden on both staff and applicants.

Processing applications was tedious, and the organization faced high costs using an outdated third-party platform that didn't meet their growing needs.

The lack of an automated, centralized system made it difficult to manage applications, and reviewers often found it challenging to access relevant information in a timely manner.

## AT A GLANCE



### INDUSTRY

Association for Forging Professionals

### SOLUTIONS

OpenWater, iMIS, TopClass

### MEMBER SIZE

220+

### WEBSITE

[www.forging.org](http://www.forging.org)

### PARTNER



“ *Before OpenWater, we were manually filling out information in spreadsheets for scholarship applications, and it was incredibly time-consuming. Now, the process is all online, and everyone on our team appreciates how much smoother it is.* ”

- Marketing and Website Coordinator at FIA

## THE IMPACT



**Reduced Manual Workload**



**Improved Applicant & Reviewer Experience**



**Reduced Scholarship Management Costs**

## SOLUTION

FIA implemented OpenWater to overhaul their scholarship management process, transforming it from a labor-intensive, manual workflow to a seamless, online system. With OpenWater, FIA gained a centralized, user-friendly platform that not only streamlined data management but also simplified the entire application and review process.

### Key features of OpenWater for FIA include:

- ✓ **Automated Application Process:** OpenWater's online forms replaced manual spreadsheets, reducing errors and minimizing the FIA staff workload.
- ✓ **Real-Time Access for Reviewers:** Reviewers can access and assess applications directly within the system, eliminating the need for spreadsheets and ensuring consistency.
- ✓ **Centralized Data Management:** OpenWater provides a single source of truth for all scholarship-related data, streamlining tracking and improving accuracy.
- ✓ **Cost Efficiency:** By moving away from a costly legacy platform, FIA achieved significant savings while gaining improved functionality.

**“ We used to rely on another platform that was costly and didn't meet our needs. Moving to OpenWater allowed us to save on costs while gaining a much more efficient system for reviewing applications. ”**

- Membership Manager at FIA