

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

100 Years of Excellence



## ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015 CALL FOR ENTRIES





# 2015 CALL FOR ENTRIES

## ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement and value.

American engineering firms have entered their most innovative and complex projects and studies in competitions conducted by state member organizations (MOs). Qualifying projects at the MO state level are then eligible to participate in the ACEC national competition. **Deadline for the national competition is Friday, January 9, 2015.**

EEA entries are accepted into one of 12 project categories: studies, research, and consulting engineering services; building/technology systems; structural systems; surveying and mapping technology; environmental; waste and storm water; water resources; transportation; special projects; small projects; energy; and industrial and manufacturing processes and facilities.

A distinguished panel of 25-30 judges possessing a vast array of built environment and technical expertise will be convened over three days to evaluate and rank submissions for engineering excellence. The panel then selects top award winners—16 Honor Awards and eight Grand Awards. One Grand Conceptor Award will be selected from the Grand Award winners as the overall best engineering project.

Projects from all across the world are rated on the basis of: uniqueness and/or innovative application of new or existing techniques; future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public; social, economic, and sustainable development considerations; complexity; and successful fulfillment of client/owner's needs, including schedule and budget.

Every year, ACEC's Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) Gala provides firms with national recognition and a venue to showcase their talent and expertise in a dramatic setting. The annual black-tie EEA gala—to be held on **Tuesday, April 21, 2015**—celebrates, with pride and elegance the most outstanding project achievements of the engineering profession.

All National Recognition Award Winners will be showcased during the EEA Gala awards program.





# ACHIEVING NATIONAL RECOGNITION

ACEC's 2015 Engineering Excellence Awards competition showcases the year's best engineering achievements to a national audience of clients, industry leaders and decision-makers. All National Recognition Award Winners are recognized, and the top 24 winning projects are highlighted at the annual EEA Gala, the black-tie event known as the "Academy Awards" of the engineering industry. This event will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. More than 600 members and guests attended the 2014 EEA gala, which was held during ACEC's Annual Convention and included members of Congress along with international, federal, state and regional officials.

## ELIGIBILITY

Any engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the awards program, regardless of whether the firm is a member of ACEC.

## GENERAL CRITERIA

- 1 Both member and non-member firm entries must be submitted to the ACEC national competition through an ACEC state Member Organization (MO).
- 2 Each entry should be submitted to the state MO in accordance with local rules for the entry. Contact your state ACEC MO office for details. However, entries submitted to the ACEC national competition must be electronically submitted in accordance with the rules and requirements outlined in this brochure.
- 3 Each MO may submit 10 entries from its own membership, plus one member entry for every five, above 10 that were submitted to the MO. A MO may submit any non-member entries judged by the MO to be legitimate candidates for entry in the national competition. Such non-member

submittals will not be counted against the member submittal limitations outlined here.

- 4 Engineering or surveying projects that have won awards in other state or national organizations' programs are welcome in the ACEC EEA competition.
- 5 Projects entered in the competition may have been executed anywhere in the world. Research and Studies (Category A) or Surveying and Mapping projects (Category D) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between Nov. 1, 2012 and Oct. 31, 2014. Construction of projects (Categories B through L – with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between Nov. 1, 2012 and Oct. 31, 2014.

See "award categories" section for full listing of all eligible categories.

- 6 Entries in the national competition may be placed in any one of the 12 categories. The entering firm must select the one category that is most appropriate. A project may be entered

only once in any category. However, after a project entered in Category A has been constructed, it may be entered in a different category – B through L – in the year when eligible.

- 7 Each entry must consist of three components:
  - Official electronic entry
  - USB flash drive containing submission materials
  - Photographic display panel

**Non-compliance with the rules may disqualify an entry. Please read the requirements thoroughly.**

Note: See "Preparing Your Entry" for the Engineering Excellence Awards.

- 8 ACEC will not be responsible for any damages to or loss of an entrant's official Project Submission Form, USB flash drive or photographic display panel.

- 9 The ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards committee reserves the right to determine, and change if necessary, the eligibility and category classification of any entry.



# 2015 CALL FOR ENTRIES

## JUDGING

Entries will be judged on the basis of:

- Overall engineering excellence in each of the 12 categories
- The work performed by the entering firm only
- The rating guidelines listed.

Winners and affiliated MOs will be notified shortly after judging is completed.

## AWARDS

All submissions are considered National Recognition Award Winners. The panel of judges will select 24 awards at their discretion – eight Grand and 16 Honor Awards. A Grand Conceptor Award will be selected from the eight Grand Award winners. The Grand Conceptor will be announced at the gala as the top national winner selected by the judges, whose decisions on all awards are final. Awards will be presented to the clients/owners and entering firms submitting the winning entries.

## PUBLICITY

The public relations and marketing value of participation in the national EEA program is substantial. All national winners will be highlighted in ACEC's public relations program, which benefits all U.S. engineering firms. Working with participating firms and MOs, ACEC staff will contact local media to announce winners and their awards. Through national and MO efforts, display panels can be exhibited in such public venues as city and state administrative buildings, universities, shopping centers and office buildings. These activities enhance direct business development benefits for both local and national award winners. Further benefits are gained through feature stories presented in firm brochures, newsletters and other publications.

## RATING GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

Each entry will be evaluated based on the following five categories, which are key elements of the project description text required in the electronic submittal described below.

1. Uniqueness and/or innovative applications of new or existing techniques..... 20%
2. Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public..... 20%
3. Social, economic and sustainable development considerations..... 20%
4. Complexity ..... 20%
5. Successful fulfillment of client/owner needs..... 20%
- Total..... 100%

## RATING GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS

### 1. Uniqueness and/or Innovative Applications of New or Existing Techniques:

- Does the entry demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
- Does the entry represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials or equipment?

### 2. Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public:

- Will the entry redefine current engineering thinking?
- Does the entry advance a positive public image of engineering excellence?

### 3. Social, Economic and Sustainable Development Considerations:

- Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community environment?
- Does the entrant's approach provide society with social, economic, or sustainable development benefits?

## CALL FOR ENTRIES - CATEGORIES

### CATEGORY A: Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services

Non-design services, projects not involving the preparation of construction documents consisting of but not limited to the following types of projects:

- New products, materials and technologies
- Expert testimony
- Basic research and studies
- Computer/software technology
- Technical papers
- Public outreach/involvement
- Water conservation
- Security plans

- Project feasibility studies/economic/risk
- Value engineering

### CATEGORY B: Building/Technology Systems

- Mechanical/electrical/plumbing
- Computer/technology
- Communications
- Acoustics
- Software systems
- Sustainability or carbon neutrality
- Efficiency certification standards, e.g. LEED®
- Energy efficiency - new and retrofit
- Secure facilities (military/research/correctional)

### CATEGORY C: Structural Systems

- Foundations
- Tunnels
- Buildings
- Seismic design
- Towers
- Bridges
- Stadiums

### CATEGORY D: Surveying and Mapping Technology

- Geometrics, ALTA, land title and rights surveys
- Control, GPS, monitoring or construction surveying
- Survey mapping, GIS/LIS, photogrammetry

### CATEGORY E: Environmental

- Hazardous waste
- Solid waste
- Restoration/reclamation/remediation
- Air quality
- Noise
- Recycling
- Waste pond management
- Carbon sequestration and trading
- Mitigation

### CATEGORY F: Waste and Storm Water

- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal
- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- CSOs
- Mine tailings
- Agricultural
- Storm water management
- Erosion control

### CATEGORY G: Water Resources

- Hydraulics, hydrology
- Surface and groundwater supply development
- Treatment
- Transmission, distribution & storage
- Watershed management
- Water use reduction
- Flood risk management
- Climate adaptation
- Coastal and eco-system restoration
- Locks/dams/water control structures
- Irrigation



- Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?

#### 4. Complexity:

- Did the entry successfully address highly complex criteria or unique problems?
- Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements present?
- Did the entry require the use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?

#### 5. Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs:

- Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
- Was it an economical and cost-effective solution?
- How did the final cost relate to the original budget estimate?
- How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?
- Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?

## PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

This section describes all required submission materials for entering the 2015 ACEC EEA competition. All materials must be submitted exactly as designated below. Digital files must be PC compatible and appropriate to the information being submitted (i.e., Microsoft Word for text, high resolution JPEGs, photos or other images, Adobe PDFs, etc.).

**If the submission does not meet the requirements listed, it may be disqualified.**

If any part of an entry does not meet requirements listed, that portion of the entry may not be presented for judging. **Please follow the guidelines.**

**No reference to other awards is permitted in your submitted materials.**

In any given year, an entry may be submitted through only one MO. If a project was entered in more than one MO competition, **it is the responsibility of the affected MOs** to decide which one will enter the project in the national competition.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**January 9, 2015** — Submitted materials **MUST BE RECEIVED** by ACEC. Materials received after that date will NOT be accepted. All materials submitted for judging in the national competition become the property of ACEC and may be used in ACEC publications. Panels may be used for displays or other promotional or educational purposes. **Submitted materials will NOT be returned.**

**January 21, 2015** — The entrant's company representative, as listed on the entry form, must be available by phone.

**February 20-22, 2015** — Judging takes place in Washington, D.C.

**April 21, 2015** — EEA Dinner and Gala Awards Program in Washington, D.C.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following three **main components must be submitted** with the national EEA competition entry:

- Official electronic entry
- USB flash drive containing submission materials
- Photographic display panel

**\*\*NOTE: No QR Codes or embedded links are permitted in any portion of an award submission\*\***

### CATEGORY H:

#### Transportation

- Highways
- Rail
- Airports
- Marine/ports
- Public transit
- Intermodal facilities

### CATEGORY I:

#### Special Projects

- Safety and security
- Corrosion protection/cathodic protection
- Program and construction management
- Land development
- Trenchless technologies/directional boring
- Recreational facilities
- Subsurface engineering

### CATEGORY J:

#### Small Projects

- Total project construction budget does not exceed \$2.5 million. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A, projects under \$2.5 million are not limited to this category

### CATEGORY K:

#### Energy

- Transmission and distribution
- Power generation
- Renewable energy
- Cogeneration
- Energy storage technologies
- Energy usage reduction programs
- Demand side management

### CATEGORY L:

#### Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities

- Petrochemical
- Biotech
- Manufacturing
- Heavy industry
- Industrial waste
- Materials handling
- Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy





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## I. OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC ENTRY

All project information shall be submitted electronically. Each document must be uploaded separately through ACEC's Awards Submittal Portal. The electronic entry must contain all of the following items:

1 Electronic Project Submission Form located on the ACEC website — <http://www.acec.org/awardprograms/engineering-excellence-awards>. Once the entrant has completed the project submission form, the form can be printed out so it can be signed by all required parties. This form can then be uploaded as part of the electronic project submission.

**NOTE:** You must submit entry fee payment with the electronic Project Submission Form. (\$1,100 for ACEC members; \$3,500 for non-ACEC members.) Refer to your MO for state competition fees.

Original completed entry form must be signed by both the entrant and the client/owner (senior executives/officials), stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between Nov. 1, 2012 and Oct. 31, 2014.

The following project information must be uploaded individually and included with your Engineering Excellence Awards submittal.

2 **CLIENT/OWNER LETTER** (one page max.) Letter addressed to ACEC describing the relationship of the client/owner and entrant in the development of the project and how it exceeded the client/owner's needs.

3 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** (one page max.) Overview of project. Describe the problem and solution; project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page. *Specifications:* 8.5" x 11"; 1" side margins; double-spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font.

4 **PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (five pages max.) Tell the story of the project. Address items a, b, c, and d as listed below; project title, entry category, and page number must appear at the top of each page. Entrants may use text, photos, graphics, or charts as needed. *Specifications:* 8.5" x 11"; 1" side margins; single-spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font.

Text must include the following:

- a. **ROLE OF ENTRANT'S FIRM** in the project.
- b. **ROLE OF OTHER CONSULTANTS** participating in the project.
- c. **ENTRANT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT:** A brief description of the entrant's contribution addressing each of the following Rating Guidelines (refer to "Rating Guideline Definitions" above for detailed rating, judging, and weighting information):

- Uniqueness and/or innovative application of new or existing techniques.
- Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public.
- Social, economic, and sustainable development considerations.
- Complexity.
- Successful fulfillment of client/owner needs.

Include total project budgeted cost, total project actual cost, entrant's portion of the budgeted cost, entrant's portion of the actual cost, scheduled and actual date of completion (as indicated on the Electronic Project Submission Form).

d. **SUMMARY:** Describe in layman's terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (word count between 100 - 500 words). Explain all factors that comprise the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced and overall social impact. **NOTE:** This summary will provide the basis for all ACEC publicity on the project.

## 5 KEY PARTICIPANTS

List the key participants on the project including firm name, address, phone number, website, and e-mail address of each participant. Include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects and designers significantly involved in the project. *Specifications:* 8.5" x 11"; 3-hole punched.

## 6 PHOTOS OR GRAPHICS

Six different photos or graphics (one per page) with captions describing the subject matter (refer to "Photograph Guidelines" below). Captions shall begin with: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc. High resolution JPEG files; 300dpi.

### Photograph Guidelines:

Because the photographs will be projected on a large screen during the EEA gala, it is very important to submit sharp, high-quality, high-resolution images.

Three of the photographs should show the completed project and provide the highest level of visual impact for publicity. Three of the photographs should display the planning, startup, and/or construction phases of the project.

One enlarged, unmounted, glossy photograph will be requested from each of the 24 national winners at a later time for ACEC's EEA display wall in Washington, D.C. The judging committee will select this photo from those submitted with the entry.

## 7 PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL

Small-size copy of the photographic display panel. *Specifications:* JPEG; 300dpi.



## 8 MEDIA LIST

E-mail addresses of local newspapers, TV, and radio stations in Excel format. If the MO or entrant prefers to handle all local and national publicity for the project, include a statement to that effect. *Specifications:* Excel file; 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17".

## 9 PRESS RELEASE (two pages max.)

Press release that clearly and concisely describes the project and the entrant's participation, based on information presented in the Project Description. Also describe the value of the project to the community including information such as the number of people served, cost savings, etc. Do not reference other awards the project has won. *Specifications:* double-spaced; 8.5" x 11".

## 10 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Include a supplementary report containing the findings portrayed with text, graphs, or photos, as needed.

**NOTE:** This report is **ONLY** required for Category A submittals.

## II. USB FLASH DRIVE

*USB Contents & Specifications:* One USB flash drive (to be sent to ACEC with Photographic Display Panel). Include labels on USB and Photographic Display Panel with firm name, project name and category. Test the USB flash drive on different computers to ensure that it is not machine-dependent.

Include each of the following items in the file type indicated, in the order given, and with the titles shown:

- 01 Electronic Project Submission Form
- 02 Client/Owner Letter
- 03 Executive Summary
- 04 Project Description
- 05 Key Participants
- 06 Six Photos or Graphics
- 07 Photographic Display Panel
- 08 Media List; Excel File
- 09 Press Release
- 10 Supplemental Report

## III. PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL

Panel text and photos should demonstrate the challenges, solutions, innovation, complexity and unique aspects of key project elements. The panel should be prepared with high-quality photos and graphics with minimal text.

**Photographic panel requirements:**

1. **PANEL SIZE:** 30" x 30" square, with a matte finish, laminated front and back as follows:
  - a. Front lamination thickness: 5 mil

- b. Back lamination thickness: 5 mil

- c. Panel stock thickness before lamination: no more than 5-6 mil

- d. Total panel (with lamination) thickness: 15-16 mil  
**NOTE: Framed or mounted panels will NOT be accepted.**

2. **VELCRO ATTACHMENTS:** Four, 9-inch long strips of Velcro (the hook side only) must be placed vertically on the back, near each corner of the panel.
3. **PHOTOS/GRAPHICS:** Maximum of 6 photos and/or graphics shall be used on the panel. Each image shall be a minimum of 7" x 5" or 35 square inches in area. A background photo is not considered a photograph.
4. **TEXT/FONTS:** Panel text may not exceed 250 words total, not including captions. Font sizes: 32 pt. minimum font for text or descriptions; 28 pt. minimum font for captions and graphics.
5. **REQUIRED ELEMENTS:** The front on the panel shall also include the ACEC logo (download from ACEC website), title and location of the project or study, client/owner's name and location, and entering firm's name and location (minimum 32 pt. font size).
6. **CORNER SPACE:** Leave a 2"x 2" space in the upper right-hand corner of the panel that is free of text or images. Do not leave the "blank" space as a white square; the background scheme should continue, but will be partially covered by the review committee's coding label.
7. **BACK OF PANEL LABEL:** Add a label to the back of the panel with the name of the entrant's firm, the firm address, the project name, and the entry category.

**NOTE:** If production/printing services for your photographic display panel are not available in your community, contact Daisy Nappier at ACEC for sources.

## SHIPPING

Photographic display panels must be rolled and shipped in mailing tubes.

All materials including the electronic submission must be received by January 9, 2015.

Ship USB flash drive and Photographic display panel to:

American Council of Engineering Companies  
Attn: Daisy Nappier  
1015 15th Street, NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005-2605



## SAMPLE OF OFFICIAL ONLINE ENTRY FORM

**NOTE:** If your firm was responsible for the entire project, then the *Entrant's Portion of the Total Project Construction Budget* should equal the *Total Project Construction Budget*. If your firm was not responsible for the entire project, then the *Entrant's Portion of the Total Project Construction Budget* should be only the amount of the project construction budget for which your firm was responsible.

Furnish all information requested below for each entry (signatures by the submitting firm(s) and the client(s)/owner(s) are required). Firm, project, and client/owner's name should be typed or printed as they are to appear on the award. Please limit the project name to 45 characters. A fee of \$1,100 per entry for ACEC members (\$3,500 for non-ACEC members).

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_ (limit to 45 characters)

Judge this entry in the following category (**check one**):

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Studies, Research, and Consulting Engineering Services | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Surveying and Mapping Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> G. Water Resources  | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Energy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Building/Technology Systems                            | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Environmental                    | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Transportation   | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Structural Systems                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Waste and Storm Water            | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Special Projects |   |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Small Projects   |   |

Project Location: City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Congressional Representative's name in district where entering firm is located \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Congressional Representative's name in district where project is located \_\_\_\_\_

What state/MO (member organization) is sponsoring this submission? \_\_\_\_\_

(Budgeted and/or actual costs may not apply to some studies in Category A)

Completion/Use Dates: Scheduled \_\_\_\_\_ Actual \_\_\_\_\_

Category A Costs: Budgeted \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Actual \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Construction Costs: Total Project Budget \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Project Actual \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Entrant's portion of Total Project Budget \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Entrant's portion of Total Project Actual \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check box if project was awarded through QBS process.

### ABOUT THE FIRM(S) SUBMITTING THE PROJECT

Entering Firm(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Firm CEO \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Representative \_\_\_\_\_

**Must be available by phone on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 (phone calls will only be made if there are clarifications or additional information required for your submittal)**

Address (no P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize submission of this project into the American Council of Engineering Companies' 2015 Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Senior Executive/Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### ABOUT THE CLIENT/OWNER(S) OF THE PROJECT

Client/Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

***I believe the work of the engineer meets the intended uses and expectations for the project and hereby grant permission to enter this project in the ACEC 2015 Engineering Excellence Awards competition, and authorize publication of its outstanding features, unique aspects, or innovations. I confirm that the project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2012 and October 31, 2014.***

Client/Owner Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_