



2012 CALL FOR ENTRIES
**ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**



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ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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

For more than 44 years, American engineering firms have entered their most innovative 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.

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 industry expertise is convened to critique and rank the projects. For three days the judging panel evaluates submissions for engineering excellence, then selects 24 top award winners—16 Honor Awards and 8 Grand Awards. One Grand Conceptor Award will be selected from the 8 Grand Award winners as the overall best engineering project.

Projects from all over the world are rated on the basis of: uniqueness and innovative applications; 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.

ACEC's 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala provides firms with national recognition and a platform to showcase their talent and expertise in a dramatic setting. The annual EEA Gala—to be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012—celebrates, with pride and elegance the most outstanding achievements of the engineering profession.

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





ACHIEVING NATIONAL RECOGNITION

ACEC's 2012 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 17, 2012, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C.

More than 500 members and guests attended the 2011 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 the nearest ACEC MO office for details. However, entries submitted to the ACEC national competition must be submitted in accordance with the rules and requirements outlined in this brochure.
- 3 An MO may submit 5 entries from its own membership, plus one member entry for every 5, above 10 entered on the MO level. 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 above.

- 4 Engineering or surveying projects that have won awards in other state or national organizations' programs are encouraged to be entered.
- 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 November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011. Construction of projects (Categories B through L – with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011.

See "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 entry notebook
 - Envelope containing submission materials
 - Photographic display panel (see "Preparing Your Entry for the 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards").

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

- 8 ACEC will not be responsible for any damages to or loss of an entrant's official entry notebook, envelope, electronic media, supplementary report or photographic display panel.

- 9 The ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards committee reserves the right to determine the eligibility and category classification for all entries.

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JUDGING

Entries will be judged on the basis of overall engineering excellence in each of the 12 categories; on the basis of the work performed by the entering firm only; and according to the rating guidelines listed. Winners and affiliated MOs will be notified.

AWARDS

All submissions are considered National Recognition Award Winners. The panel of judges will select 24 awards at their discretion – 8 Grand and 16 Honor Awards. A Grand Conceptor Award will be selected from the 8 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 city 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

1. Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques..... 20%
2. Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public..... 20%
3. Social, economic and sustainable design considerations..... 20%
4. Complexity 20%
5. Exceeding client/owner needs..... 20%
6. Total..... 100%

RATING GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS

1. Original or Innovative Application 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 Design 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?
- Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?

CALL FOR ENTRIES - CATEGORIES

CATEGORY A:

Studies, Research and Consulting

Non-design services, projects not involving the preparation of construction documents

- 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



4. Complexity:

- Did the entry successfully address very 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. Exceeding Client/Owner Needs:

- Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
- Is 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 2012 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, JPEGs for 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.

Extraneous material will be discarded prior to the judging. Please follow the guidelines; no tabbed dividers, no extra

pictures on the front and back covers; and no extra handouts or materials are permitted.

No reference to other awards should be included in 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

Submitted materials **MUST BE RECEIVED** at ACEC by January 6, 2012. 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.**

A company representative must be available by phone on January 18, 2012.

Judging: February 10-12, 2012, in Washington, D.C.

EEA Presentations and Gala Evening: Tuesday, April 17, 2012, in Washington, D.C.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

- I. Official entry notebook
- II. Envelope containing submission materials
- III. Photographic display panel

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
- 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 ENTRY NOTEBOOK

(black, 3-ring, 1/2" binder)

Notebook must include ONE COPY of the following:

(These copies are in addition to those that must be included in the envelope):

- Official entry form (with entry fee attached)
- Signed letter from the client/owner
- Executive summary
- Project description
- Six different photos or graphics (w/ captions and labeled: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc.)
- Photographic display panel (small 8.5" x 11" version)
- CD-ROM
- Supplemental report – requirement applies only to Category A submissions. (Insert inside back cover or separately if too large.)
- Entry fee: A check for \$975 for ACEC members and \$3,000 for non-ACEC members **must be attached to the official entry form** in notebook submitted to the ACEC competition. Refer to your MO for local competition fees.

II. ENVELOPE

CONTAINING SUBMISSION MATERIALS

The envelope must have a label affixed to the outside, which indicates the firm name, the project name, and the category in which it shall be judged. The envelope must be large enough to contain originals and copies as indicated below:

- 1 Original and 10 copies (**three-hole punched**) of a completed official entry form. The engineer or surveyor and client/owner all must sign the original official entry form stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011.
- 2 Original and 10 copies (**three-hole punched**) of a one-page signed client/owner letter, addressed to ACEC, describing the relationship the client/owner had with the entrant in the development of the project and how it exceeded the client/owner needs.
- 3 Original and 10 copies (**three-hole punched**) of an executive summary – 1 page; 8.5" x 11" with 1" side margins; double-spaced (minimum 12 pt. type) – describing the problem and solution. Project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page.
- 4 Original and 10 compiled copies (**three-hole punched**) of a project description, not to exceed 5 pages – 8.5" x 11", 1" side margins – addressing items a, b, c, and d as listed below. Project title, category and page number must appear at the top of each page. Entrants may use text (minimum 12 pt.), photos, graphs, etc.

- a) Role of entrant's firm in the project,
- b) Role of other consultants participating in project,
- c) Brief description of the entrant's contribution to the project addressing each of the following rating guidelines:
 - Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques
 - Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public
 - Social, economic and sustainable design considerations
 - Complexity
 - Exceeding 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 information as indicated on the **official entry form**.
- d) 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 such as innovative engineering, challenges faced, and overall social impact. **Note: This description will provide the basis for all ACEC publicity on the project.**

5 Original and 10 compiled copies (**three-hole punched**) of a list of the key participants on the project. Provide firm name, address, phone number, website and e-mail address of each participant. Key participants should include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects and designers involved in the project.

6 Three copies each of 6 different photos or graphics (18 total) of high quality 8.5" x 11" printed from digital files. All photographs or graphics must have captions (describe what the photo or graph illustrates) on the back and labeled: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc. (include on CD-ROM: the required photos or graphics must be prepared as JPEGs, RGB, 300 dpi, sized to 8.5" x 11"; captions do not need to be included on the CD-ROM).

PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDELINES

- a) Photographs will be projected on a large screen during the EEA Gala. Therefore, it is extremely important to submit high-quality, high-resolution images.
- b) Three of the photographs must be of the completed project and provide the highest level of visual impact for publicity.
- c) Three of the photographs should display the planning, start-up, and/or construction phases of the project.
- d) One enlarged, unmounted glossy photograph will be requested from each of the 24 national winners at a later time for ACEC's Engineering Excellence Awards display wall in Washington, D.C. The photograph will be selected from those submitted with the entry.

7 Forty-five copies (**three-hole punched**) of the photographic display panel (guidelines below) – sized to 8.5" x 11"



color photographs or to 8.5 x 11" high-quality color laser prints (include on CD-ROM as Adobe PDF, 600 dpi, sized to 8.5" x 11").

8 E-mail addresses of local newspapers, TV stations and radio stations in Excel format. If the MO or the entrant intends to handle all local and national publicity for the project, include a statement to this effect.

9 Eleven compiled copies (**three-hole punched**) of a press release (up to 2 pages, double-spaced) clearly and concisely describing the project and the entrant's participation, reflecting on factors listed in point # 4. In addition, indicate the value of the project to the community, identify the number of people served, cost savings, etc. No reference to other awards should be included in the submitted materials.

10 One copy of the CD-ROM must also be included in the envelope. CD-ROMs must be properly labeled to indicate the firm name, the project name, and the category. Be sure to test your CDs on different computers to ensure they are not machine dependent. The CD-ROMs must be read-only (CD-R) and should include the following items in order and titled as shown:

01 Official entry form

02 Executive summary

03 Project description

04 Six photos or graphics

05 Photographic display panel (*small version*)

06 Media list in Excel format

07 PowerPoint file with a total of 8 slides including a title slide with the name of the project followed by Photos 1 - 6 and the small version of the photographic display panel. This PowerPoint file will support the presentation of your project to the judges. No sound or animation is permitted. No preset timing or slide show sequencing should be embedded. A sample PowerPoint presentation is downloadable from the EEA website.

11 One copy of the **supplementary report** containing the findings portrayed with graphs, drawings, etc. (*requirement applies only to Category A submissions*).

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL

Panel text and photos should demonstrate the challenges, solutions and innovative uniqueness of key project elements. The panel should be prepared with **high-quality photos and graphics with minimal text** (250 words maximum).

The photographic panel should meet the following requirements:

1 Panel shall be 30" x 30" square display material, which has a matte finish and laminated over the front and back as follows:

- a) front lamination is 5 mil;
- b) back lamination is 5 mil; and
- c) panel is no more than 5-6 mil for a total of 15-16 mil in thickness.

Framed or mounted panels will NOT be accepted.

2 Four, 9-inch long strips of Velcro (the hook side only) must be placed on the back of the panel, near each corner of the panel.

3 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 sq. in. A background photo is not considered a photograph.

4 Minimum 32 pt. type for text or descriptions and minimum 28 pt. type for captions and graphics.

5 ACEC logo (download from the ACEC website), title and location of the study or project, client/owner's name and location, and entering firm's name and location (*minimum 32 pt. type*) shall be indicated on the front of the panel.

6 Leave a 2"x 2" space in the upper right-hand corner of the panel that is free of text or images but carries the panel's background scheme through this space. This blank space should not be left as a white square. This space will be used by the ACEC EEA Committee to code the entry so any words or graphics in this area will be hidden once the panel is coded.

7 The firm name, the firm address, the project name, and the category shall be indicated on the back of the panel.

Note: If facilities for production of the photographic display panel are not available in your area, contact Daisy Nappier at ACEC for sources.

Official Entry Form Comments: 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 the amount of the project construction budget your firm was responsible for.

SHIPPING

Panels must be shipped in mailing tubes.

Ship all materials to:

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

All materials must be received no later than January 6, 2012.

CHECKLIST: Please review the checklist on the ACEC website to ensure you have included all of your materials before submitting your entry to ACEC.

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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

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 \$975 per entry for ACEC members (\$3,000 for non-ACEC members) must be attached to the copy of this form included in the Official Entry Notebook. An electronic version of this form can be found at: www.acec.org.

Make checks payable to: American Council of Engineering Companies

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 | <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 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 18, 2012

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' 2012 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 currently 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 2012 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, 2009 and October 31, 2011.

Client/Owner Representative _____

Title _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address (no P.O. Box) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail _____

SEND THIS FORM ALONG WITH ALL OTHER MATERIALS TO:

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Attn: Daisy Nappier ■ 1015 15th Street, N.W. ■ 8th Floor ■ Washington, D.C. 20005-2605
202-347-7474 ■ dnappier@acec.org