2027 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
INFORMATION PACKET

The Engineering Excellence Awards are an annual design competition provided by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC Georgia) to recognize engineering achievements demonstrating the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. Awards are presented during the Georgia Engineering Awards.

Entries are rated on the basis of:

(1) Uniqueness and originality
(2) Future value to the engineering profession
(3) Social, economic and sustainable development considerations
(4) Complexity
(5) Successful fulfillment of client/owner's needs

The 2026 EEA Awards will follow a Nomination/Finalists system. Judges will review all nominations and select 3-6 finalists per category. The awards offer all competition entrants a valuable opportunity to be recognized by showcasing their talent, their expertise and their profession.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

AUGUST 3, 2026 | Awards Open for Entries **(ENTRY FEE WAIVED)**

AUGUST 28, 2026 | Entries Due by 5 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 | Finalists Notified, additional information is requested
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 | Additional information due
BY OCTOBER 21, 2026 | Winner Notification
JANUARY 6, 2027 | Entries Due for National Submissions (Only State Award Winners)
TBA | Georgia Engineering Awards Event

ACEC Georgia
THE BUSINESS OF ENGINEERING

OFFICIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Each entry should have the following required submission elements uploaded to the 2027 ACEC Georgia Engineering Excellence Awards online portal by 5 p.m. on August 28, 2026.

ALL ENTRY MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA THE ONLINE PORTAL

OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

Visit https://www.acecga.org/engineering-excellence-awards/ to submit the official nomination form. EEA Nominations will be judged by the panel of Judges who will select 3-6 finalists per category. Finalists will need to submit additional information.

ITEMS REQUIRED FOR ALL NOMINATIONS

PROJECT & FIRM INFORMATION

List firm contact information, project dates, etc.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT AND REASON FOR NOMINATION

Briefly tell the story of the project, try to use layman's terms. Emphasize the entrant's contribution to the project, addressing each of the following:

- Overview of project, including the problem and solution
- Role of entrant's firm in the project
- Brief description of entrant's contribution to the project

KEY PARTICIPANTS

List the key participants on the project including firm name, address, phone number, website and email address of each participant. Include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects and designers significantly involved in the project.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS OR GRAPHICS

Six different photos or graphics with captions describing the subject matter. Three of the photographs must be of 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. Each photo should be high-resolution, 300 dpi. *Because the images will be used in various marketing materials to promote the Award winners, it is critical to submit, sharp, high quality, high resolution images.*

ENTRY FEE

Entry fee for the 2027 Georgia Engineering Excellence Awards has been waived.

ITEMS REQUIRED FOR FINALISTS

LETTER FROM CLIENT/OWNER - *NEEDED FOR NATIONAL SUBMISSION, OPTIONAL FOR STATE*

One-page letter, addressed to ACEC Georgia and signed by the client/owner, describing the relationship with the entrant in the development of the project and how the firm met or exceeded expectations.

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tell the story of the project (five-pages maximum; double-spaced). Emphasize the entrant's contribution to the project, addressing each of the following:

- Overview of project, including the problem and solution
- Role of entrant's firm in the project
- Role of other consultants participating in the project
- Brief description of entrant's contribution to the project, including:
    a. Unique or innovative application of new or existing techniques
    b. Future value to the engineering profession and enhanced public awareness/enthusiasm of the role of engineering
    c. Social, economic and sustainable design considerations
    d. Complexity
    e. How the project met or exceeded owner/client's needs
- Summary in layman's terms describing why this project is worthy of special recognition, including factors that comprise the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced and overall social impact.

This project description portion should 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 dates of completion.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project description in 100 words or less to be used to promote project winners on ACEC Georgia social media platforms.
Please note: Description may be edited at ACEC Georgia's discretion.

AWARD INFORMATION

Project name (limited to 45 characters), firm name(s) and project location (City, State) each on a separate line. This information will be used for the engraving of the award. Only one award will be provided; additional awards may be purchased. Ordering instructions will be sent to winners.

FIRM'S LOGO

Logo for the nominiating firm. EPS file type is preferred; JPG file is acceptable if at least 8" wide and 300 dpi.

AWARD SUBMITTAL FAQS

HOW WILL THE PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD BE DONE IN 2027?

The second most prestigious award, the People's Choice Award, will be a digital contest award. This will be an opportunity to enhance your firm's digital marketing. Once Engineering Excellence award winners have been chosen, they will be asked to provide digital content to be used by ACEC Georgia and their firm to promote on social media for votes. The winner of the People's Choice Award will be announced at the 2026 Georgia Engineering Awards.

CAN I SUBMIT IF I AM A SUB-CONSULTANT ON THE PROJECT?

Yes, however you can only represent the work done by your firm on the project. Consider instead submitting a joint entry with your prime consultant to develop a more comprehensive story.

CAN I SUBMIT A LONG-TERM PROJECT THAT EXCEEDS THE TWO-YEAR ELIGIBILITY PERIOD?

A long-term project is welcome, but only the portion of the project "substantially completed and ready for use" during the two-year eligibility period will be considered by the judges.

ARE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES ACCEPTABLE?

Yes, the form was created for electronic signatures by the firm and owner.

WHAT DOES THE "SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE AND READY FOR USE" REQUIREMENT MEAN?

As a generally defined term in a contract, substantially complete and ready for use means that the owner can use the project as intended and only minor punch-list-type work remains to be completed. However, you must decide the best time to submit your project within the two-year eligibility period provided. Consider your client's level of support, quality of project photography, time available to complete the entry and any other issues that may affect your submittal's overall success. You want to tell the best story you can in text and visuals.

HOW DO PROJECT PHOTOS I SUBMIT GET USED?

The photos may be used for any of the following purposes: on the ACEC Georgia website, on ACEC Georgia social media platforms, distributed with a press release to local and national media and/or included in an issue of *Engineering Georgia* magazine. All submitted photographs must be high-resolution (300 dpi sized to 8.5" x 11"). At minimum, six color photographs or graphics must be submitted with each entry. Three of the photographs must be of 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.

WHO JUDGES THE PROJECTS?

Georgia project entries are judged on the basis of overall engineering excellence by a panel of independent judges, including engineers, clients, government officials and community leaders, all of whom vary from year to year.

CAN I GO ON TO COMPETE IN THE ACEC NATIONAL COMPETITION?

Only projects receiving an ACEC Georgia State Award are eligible to enter the national competition. Deadline for entry into the national competition is Friday, January 6, 2027. ACEC Georgia Honor and Merit Award winners are not eligible to enter at the national level.

WHAT IS THE ENTRY FEE?

The entry fee for the 2027 Georgia Engineering Excellence Awards had been waived.

HOW MANY AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN?

A State Award winner will be chosen in each category. These State Award winners will then be eligible to win the Grand Prize Award (announced during the 2027 Engineering Excellence Awards) and compete in the national competition. The runner-up in each cateorgy will be named an Honor Award winner. The number of Merit Award winners given will be at the judging panel's discretion.

HOW ARE WINNERS NOTIFIED? WHEN CAN PRESS RELEASES BE ISSUED?

After judging is concluded, firms will be notified via email (to the firm representative and marketing contact listed on the official entry form) of their award level by October 21, 2026. There are three award levels: State, Honor and Merit. A Grand Award Winner will be kept confidential and announced during an exclusive cocktail reception. Firms can issue press releases immediately upon notification of winning in October 2026 – please refer to the program as the *ACEC Georgia Engineering Awards*, as ACEC National has its own awards program.

HOW MANY ENGRAVED AWARDS WILL I RECEIVE?

All award winners will receive one engraved award. Additional awards can be ordered - information will be sent to winners.

WHEN WILL THE AWARD WINNERS BE RECOGNIZED?

All Award winners will be recognized at the 2025 Georgia Engineering Awards. Award winners will be able to pick up their engraved crystal Award at this event, State Award winners will be recognized during the event, and the Grand Prize Award and People's Choice Awards will be announced. See additional publicity information for Award winners on page 5.

CATEGORY DELINEATIONS

Engineering projects may be entered in one of the following categories. It is up to the entrant to determine which category the entry best fits. An entry may be entered only once in any category.

CATEGORY 1
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 2
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 3
STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

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

CATEGORY 4
SURVEYING AND MAPPING TECHNOLOGY

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

CATEGORY 5
ENVIRONMENTAL

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

CATEGORY 6
WATER RESOURCES OR 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 6 CONT.

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

CATEGORY 7 TRANSPORTATION LARGE PROJECT

- Constuction costs over $10 million
- Highways
- Rail
- Airports
- Marine/ports
- Public transit
- Intermodal facilities

CATEGORY 8 ENERGY

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

CATEGORY 9
INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING PROCESSES AND FACILITIES

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

CATEGORY 10
SMALL PROJECTS

Total project construction budget does not exceed $5 million. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category 1, projects under $5 million are not limited to this category.

CATEGORY 11
SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Safety and security
- Corrosion protection/cathodic protection
- Program and construction management
- Land development
- Trenchless technologies/directional boring
- Recreational facilities
- Subsurface engineering
- Surveying and mapping technology
- Other project type not included in main categories

CATEGORY 12 TRANSPORTATION SMALL PROJECT

- Constuction costs under $10 million
- Same criteria as Category 7

CATEGORY 13
SPECIAL PROJECTS - Parks, Trails, or Recreational Facilities

- Park, Trail, or Recreational Facility
- Same criteria as Category 11

JUDGING CRITERIA & GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS

Entries will be judged on the basis of:

- Overall engineering excellence
- The work performed by the entering firm only
- The following rating guidelines:

UNIQUENESS AND/OR INNOVATIVE APPLICATIONS OF NEW OR EXISTING TECHNIQUES *(20 percent)*

- 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?

FUTURE VALUE TO THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION AND ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS/ENTHUSIASM OF THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING *(20 percent)*

- Will the entry redefine current engineering thinking?
- Does the entry increase public awareness/enthusiasm about the role of engineering in their everyday lives?

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS *(20 percent)*

- 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?

COMPLEXITY *(20 percent)*

- 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?

SUCCESSFUL FULFILLMENT OF CLIENT/OWNER NEEDS *(20 percent)*

- 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 compare 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?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY

Any firm maintaining a Georgia office and engaged in the private practice of consulting engineering is eligible to enter. Projects executed anywhere in the world are eligible; however, the firm's Georgia office must have had a leadership role in the project (designed in Georgia to be eligible. Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services projects (Category 1) or survey and mapping projects (included in Category 10) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between Nov. 1, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2026. Construction of projects (Categories 2-13) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between Nov. 1, 2024, and Oct. 31, 2026. The completed official entry form must be signed by both the entrant and the client/owner (senior executives/officials) confirming this fact. A company representative may be contacted by phone by judging panel. Engineering projects may be entered in one of the ten categories and entered only once. However, after a project entered in Category 1 has been constructed, it may be entered in a different category in the eligible year. The judges reserve the right to move a project to a different award category than it was submitted in.

2025 GEORGIA ENGINEERING AWARDS

This exclusive event will be for all Award winners and their clients/owners of the winning projects. All winners will be able to pick up their engraved crystal award at this event, Award winners will be recognized during the event, and the Grand Prize Award and People's Choice Awards will be announced.

PUBLICITY

- Project featured in *Engineering Georgia* magazine
- Engraved Crystal Award for all State, Honor and Merit Award Winners
- State Award Winners are eligible to compete for ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards
- State Award Winners will be recognized during the 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards
- All Award winners will receive two complimentary tickets to the 2027 Engineering Excellence Awards, taking place in the Spring of 2027. ACEC Georgia will invite the owner/client of the award-winning project to attend this reception as well
- Professional photoshoot of winning firms with their award during before or during the 2027 Georgia Engineering Awards. Photographs will be available for firm use
- Visibility to clients and engineering professionals at the 2027 Georgia Engineering Awards
- Project and firm recognition in ACEC Georgia communications, including social media and website
- Dedicated social media posts for all Engineering Excellence State and Honor Award recipients

Firm award recipients are encouraged to take advantage of their recognition by issuing their own press releases and related marketing materials. *Note: In PR outreach, please refer to this as the* ***ACEC Georgia Engineering Awards****.*