2020 Call For Entries

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of South Carolina

2020 Engineering
Excellence Award

PALMETTO AWARD

Rewarding Excellence in Engineering

Eligibility & General Criteria

Eligibility

Any engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the 2019 ACEC-SC Engineering Excellence Awards competition, regardless of whether the firm is a member of ACEC-SC. Any firm may submit multiple entries.

General Criteria

Projects entered in the competition must have been prepared in South Carolina. Local, regional, national and international firms are encouraged to enter projects, executed anywhere in the world, from designs prepared locally.

Research and Studies (Category A) or Surveying and Mapping projects (Category D) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between **Nov. 1, 2017** and **Oct. 31, 2019**. Construction of projects (Categories B through L, with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between **Nov. 1, 2017** and **Oct. 31, 2019**. See "award categories" section for full listing of all eligible categories.

Entries may be placed in any one of twelve categories listed on page 3. 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.

An entry fee of $450 for ACEC-SC members and $900 for non ACEC-SC members must accompany the Notice of Intent to be submitted by Friday, October 4, 2019. **The entry fee is nonrefundable and required for each project submitted.**

Each entry must consist of two components: (**Non-compliance with the rules may disqualify an entry. Please read the requirements thoroughly.**)

I. USB flash drive containing submission materials
II. Photographic display panel
****NOTE: No QR Codes or embedded links are permitted in any portion of an award submission****

ACEC-SC will not be responsible for any damages to or loss of an entrant's official materials.

The ACEC-SC Engineering Excellence Awards Committee reserves the right to determine eligibility and category classification of any entry.

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 and the rating guidelines listed. Winners will be notified shortly after judging is completed. Judging will take place in December.

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 in this brochure.

1. Uniqueness and/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 development considerations 20%
4. Complexity 20%
5. Successful fulfillment of client/owner needs 20%

Total 100%

Rating Guidelines 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?
- 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?

Awards

The Palmetto Award, recognizing the overall highest rated project, may come from any of the categories. An additional award will be presented for the highest rated project submitted by a small firm, defined as less than 30 South Carolina employees. The highest rated projects will qualify for national competition through ACEC. The ACEC-SC Engineering Excellence Awards Gala will be held February 4, 2020 in Columbia, SC.

Publicity

Participating firms must wait until after the Engineering Excellence Gala on February 4, 2020 to publicize winning project(s). ACEC-SC will publish a press release covering all winning projects to local and state media. It is up to individual entrants to publicize its project(s).

Awards 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
Water and Storm Water

- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal
- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- CSO's
- 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

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

Entry Requirements

This section describes all required submission materials for entering the 2020 ACEC-SC 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.

Dates To Remember

October 4, 2019	Notice of Intent Due to ACEC-SC Headquarters – Payment must accompany entry.
November 15, 2019	Submitted materials MUST BE RECEIVED at ACEC-SC. Materials received after that date will NOT be accepted. All materials submitted for judging in the competition become the property of ACEC-SC and may be used in ACEC-SC publications. Panels may be used for displays or other promotional or educational purposes.
December 2019	Judging takes place at ACEC-SC headquarters.
January 3, 2020	National projects due to ACEC.
February 4, 2020	Engineering Excellence Awards Gala in Columbia, SC.
April 28, 2020	National EEA Dinner and Gala Awards Program in Washington, D.C.

Submission Requirements

The following two **components must be submitted** with the EEA competition entry:
I. USB flash drive containing submission materials.
II. Photographic display panel.

I. USB Flash Drive

USB Contents & Specifications: One USB flash drive (to be sent to ACEC-SC 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:

1. **OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**
2. **SIGNED CLIENT/OWNER LETTER**
3. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
4. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**
5. **KEY PARTICIPANTS**
6. **PHOTOS OR GRAPHICS**
7. **PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL**
8. **ASSEMBLED PDF FOR JUDGES**
9. **SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT - NOTE: This report is only required for Category A submittals.**
10. **A 100-150 word summary of entry for the ACEC-SC EEA Program (Word document) (See 4d)**

1 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Original completed entry form must be signed by the entrant and the client/owner (senior executives/officials), stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between **Nov. 1, 2017** and **Oct. 31, 2019**.

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. If you are a subcontractor, the ultimate owner must approve the entry form.

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; single spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font. **File must be formatted as a word document, no PDFs please.**

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. Specifications: 8.5" x 11"; 1" side margins; single-spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font. Entrants may use text, photos, graphics, or charts as needed. **File must be formatted as a word document, no PDFs please.** 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"** on page 2 for detailed rating, judging, and weighting information):

- **Uniqueness and/or innovative application of new or existing techniques.**
- **Future value to the engineering profession and enhanced public awareness/enthusiasm of the role of engineering.**
- **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 **Official Entry Form**).

Entry Requirements

d. **SUMMARY:** Describe the project in layman's terms (word count between 100 - 150 words). Explain all factors that compose the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced and overall social impact. **NOTE:** This summary will be used in the ACEC-SC Engineering Excellence program that will be provided at the EEA gala (Submit as a Word document).

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 involved in the project. *Specifications: 8.5"x11"*

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.

7 PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL
Small-size prints of the photographic display panel. *Specifications: JPEG, 300 dpi*

8 ASSEMBLED PDF FOR JUDGES
Electronic Submittal: The judges will use the PDF files for their initial review of the entries. To facilitate this electronic review, please assemble the entry as a single PDF including the items listed below in the order given. Consider a single column format as it will be easier for the judges to read electronically. The initial view of the PDF should be set to display the bookmarks upon opening. A supplemental report, if provided, can be in a separate PDF. Additionally, the source files need to be provided for ACEC-SC use (e.g., Word files, JPEGS, a high-resolution PDF of the display panel).

1. **OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**
2. **SIGNED CLIENT/OWNER LETTER**
3. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
4. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**
5. **KEY PARTICIPANTS**
6. **PHOTOS OR GRAPHICS:** High resolution JPEG files; RGB; 300dpi; 8 5" x 11"
7. **PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL:** Adobe PDF file or JPEG; 600dpi; 8 5" x 11".
9. **SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT - NOTE:** This report is only required for Category A submittals

9 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. Photographic Display Panel

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

1. **SOUTH CAROLINA REQUIREMENTS:**
   One photographic panel, 30"x30" square display material with 5 mil matte laminate over the front and mounted on 3/16 Gator Board. ****NOTE: Panel requirements differ from national due to the panels being displayed at various ACEC-SC events throughout the year.**

   NOTE: If production/printing services for your photographic display panel are not available in your community, contact Adam Jones at ACEC-SC for sources.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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).

5. **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.

6. **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 Adam Jones at ACEC-SC for sources.

ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of South Carolina

Notice of Intent

DEADLINE: October 4, 2019

To submit an entry for the ACEC-SC 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards competition, please complete this form and return it to the ACEC-SC headquarters with your entry fee* no later than Friday, October 4, 2019. Project entries will be due at ACEC-SC headquarters by 5 p.m. Friday, November 15, 2019.

Form available at acecsc.org

Firm _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____ FAX _____

E-mail address _____

Project title (limited to 40 characters) _____

_____

Project client/ owner _____

_____

Project location _____

_____

Brief Description (include services involved) _____

_____

_____

_____

ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of South Carolina

Send to:
ACEC-SC
P.O. Box 11937
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 771-4271 FAX (803) 771-4272

**Entry fees are $450 for ACEC-SC members and $900 for non-ACEC-SC member firms and are nonrefundable. Please make checks payable to ACEC-SC. Entry fees are required for each project submitted. To submit more than one entry, please make copies of the Notice of Intent and Official Registration forms and use separate forms for each project.*

2020 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of South Carolina

Official Entry Form

DEADLINE: November 15, 2019

Please furnish all information requested below for each entry. Firm, project and owner's name should be typed or printed as they are to appear on the award. Project name is limited to 40 characters. **Entries are due by 5 p.m.** *at ACEC-SC Headquarters, 826 Assembly St., Columbia, SC 29201. The phone number is (803) 771-4271.* ***Form available at acecsc.org***

About the project

Project Name_____

Judge this entry in the following category: (Check one)

- ☐ A. Studies, Research, and Consulting
- ☐ B. Building/Technology Systems
- ☐ C. Structural Systems
- ☐ D. Surveying/Mapping Technology
- ☐ E. Environmental
- ☐ F. Water and Storm Water
- ☐ G. Water Resources
- ☐ H. Transportation
- ☐ I. Special Projects
- ☐ J. Small Projects
- ☐ K. Energy
- ☐ L. Industrial & Manufacturing Processes and Facilities

Project Location: City_____ State_____

Complete relative to Entrant's portion of the project:
(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: Budgeted $_____ Actual $_____

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 for which your firm was responsible. This information is about project costs, not firm fees.

About firm(s) submitting project

Entering Firm(s)_____
Firm Representative_____
Title_____
Signature_____
Address *(no P.O. Box)*_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone ( )_____ FAX ( )_____
E-mail_____
Marketing Director's Name_____
Phone ( )_____ FAX ( )_____
E-mail address_____
Names and locations of construction contractors

Names, locations of other consultants, Architects, etc.

Senior Executive Principal_____
Title_____

I herby authorize submission of this project in the American Council of Engineering Companies of South Carolina's 2020 Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Signature_____ Date_____
Address *(no P.O. Box)*_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone ( )_____ FAX ( )_____
E-mail_____

About the client/ owner(s) of project

Client/ Owner(s)_____
Contact_____
Title_____

I currently believe the work of the engineers meet the intended uses and expectations for the project, and hereby grant permission to enter this project in the ACEC-SC Engineering Excellence Awards competition and authorize publications of its outstanding features, unique aspects or innovations. I agree that the project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2017 and October 31, 2019.

Signature_____ Date_____
Address (no P.O. Box)_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone ( )_____ FAX ( )_____
E-mail_____

If the project is a joint venture between two or more engineering firms, please list them all for award and recognition purposes. Give complete address information in project notebook.

Send this form along with all materials to:
ACEC-SC ♦ 826 Assembly St. ♦ Columbia, SC 29201
Form available at acecsc.org

ACEC
American Council of Engineering Companies
of South Carolina

P.O. Box 11937
Columbia, SC 29211
www.acecsc.org

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Important information inside on:

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- Schedule and deadlines
- Requirements
- Entry Forms