

# American Council of Engineering Companies of New York 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) invites you to participate in its 45th annual Engineering Excellence Awards Competition. The annual EEA program celebrates, with pride and elegance, the outstanding achievements of private design professional companies.

### ***THE PROGRAM***

The goal of the program is to convey to the engineering and construction industry, government officials and the general public, the contributions that member firms make to society and to their local communities through exceptional engineering design. In addition, member firms have an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of enlightened clients, and to recognize individuals who have provided the innovative thinking and leadership that make a project successful. An ancillary, but important benefit to the award winners is the considerable publicity they garner within the engineering community and the general media.

### ***ELIGIBILITY***

Any private sector engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the awards program, whether or not the firm is a member of ACEC New York.

### ***TWO-STEP ENTRY PROCESS***

#### **1: Preliminary Application**

Projects entered into 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-L with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011. Firms may submit up to two (2) projects per category. The preliminary entry form and entry fee of \$275 (\$1,200 non members) per project is due by July 15, 2011. An additional \$75 fee will be assessed for entries submitted after July 15; no entries will be accepted after July 22. Upon review by ACEC New York staff, firms with projects being advanced to the finals will be mailed a final entry form and an official notebook. In the event that ACEC New York receives a large number of preliminary entries, firms who submit multiple entries may be asked to reduce their number of entries.

#### **2. Final Submission – Notebook and Entry Panel File\***

The final submission is due September 16, 2011. 1) The notebook will include slip sheets requesting the following information: a) Final Entry Form/checklist b) Client Endorsement/Release Letter c) Project Description, 1500 words d) Executive Summary, 500 words e) Computer disk with entry panel and 5 other project images f) Three color laser reproductions of the entry panel g) Three Color Laser Reproductions of the five additional project images (15 Total) h) Final entry fee of \$350 (\$500 non members) and i) Category A projects only: a copy of the study must accompany Entries. (Can be electronic)

**NEW** 2) A **file** on separate CD Rom of the 30x30 Panel, illustrating the project.

New this year, ACEC New York will not require you to print the entry panel. You will supply a file on a separate CD Rom and ACEC New York will have the panels printed. Panel Requirements in final entry notebooks will have the specifications for submitting the file.

\* **Final Entries may be submitted after September 16 and thru September 23, but are subject to a \$100 late processing fee.**

## **\*CATEGORIES OF ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE:**

**\*CATEGORIES CANNOT BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTIFYING ACEC NEW YORK PRIOR TO THE NOTEBOOK SUBMISSION.**

### **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
- CSO's

### **Category F: Waste and Storm Water (cont'd)**

- Mine tailings
- Agricultural
- Storm water management
- Erosion control

### **Category G: Water Resources**

- Hydraulics and 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
- Recreational facilities
- Subsurface engineering

### **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

## **JUDGING PROCESS**

A distinguished panel of judges –including military and/or government officials, presidents of related organizations, members of the engineering press and educators – is selected from the professional engineering community and construction industry. These judges will assess each project based on the criteria specified in the application. The judges' names are kept confidential until after the judging.

Moderators – Professional engineers and architects experienced in the particular area of engineering (excluding entrants), present the projects to the Judges. In advance of the judging, the Moderator receives copies of the entrant's written and visual materials. Entrants are advised that the strongest entries are the ones in which the text and the panel work together to describe and illustrate the project. The Moderators use the description, panel and photographs during their presentation, and can answer questions posed by the judges.

In this competition, each project is judged against itself and not against all entries within a given category. After the entry has been presented, each judge is asked to vote on a scale of 1-10 using the rating guidelines below. Judges base their vote on the criteria listed below.

## **DEFINITIONS OF RATING GUIDELINES**

## **WEIGHT**

### **Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques:**

**20%**

- 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 Perception by the Public:**

**20%**

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

### **Social, Economic and Sustainable Design Considerations:**

**20%**

- 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 of the public or affected environment?

### **Complexity:**

**20%**

- 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 goal?

### **Exceeding Client/Owner Needs:**

**20%**

- 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 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?

## ***AWARD NOTIFICATION and NATIONAL COMPETITION***

After the judging, ACEC New York will issue formal award letters to each entrant. ACEC New York has four levels of awards and they are listed in descending order: 1) Diamond 2) Platinum 3) Gold and 4) Silver.

Top rated projects in each category will be advanced to the national competition. If you are a national finalist, it will be noted in the ACEC New York award letter and you will have the opportunity to submit your project to ACEC. The submission and entry fee is the sole responsibility of the Member Firm. The ACEC Awards Dinner will be held on April 17, 2012 in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the ACEC Spring Conference. If you decide not to enter the national competition, please inform the ACEC New York office.

## ***EMPIRE AWARD***

ACEC New York will be awarding the Empire Award to the “Best Project in New York State”. This award is for an engineering project that brings value to a community in New York State. The award will be evaluated based on contributions to the economic health of an area, sustainability, innovation and creativity.

## ***AWARD PLAQUES***

As part of the entry fee, ACEC New York will provide one (1) firm and one (1) client plaque for each project. If Member Firms are interested in purchasing additional firm and/or client plaques, this can be arranged through ACEC New York. A request for orders will be sent to each firm in November.

## ***AWARDS DINNER: March 24, 2012***

Awards will be presented at a formal black-tie dinner dance at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel in NYC on Saturday, March 24, 2012. The top awards will be presented live on stage with the member and the client. The remaining award winners will be recognized in a video presentation. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Waldorf=Astoria. For reservations, please call the hotel at (877) 476-8792 and reference the “2012 Engineering Excellence Dinner Dance.” The ACEC New York rate is \$299.00+taxes for a single/double room.

During the cocktail reception, all EEA 2012 entry panels will be on display.

## ***PUBLICITY***

The public relations and marketing value is considerable for both the local and national award winners. ACEC New York will issue a press release on or immediately before the gala event. Member firms are asked to take advantage of the recognition by issuing their own press releases and related marketing materials one month in advance of the gala event.

## ***DATES TO REMEMBER:***

Preliminary Application Forms due	July 15, 2011
Final Application Form and Notebooks issued to Members	August 3, 2011
Final Application Form, Notebook and Panel File due	September 16, 2011
Engineering Excellence Judging	October 26, 2011
ACEC New York Dinner Dance, NYC	March 24, 2012
ACEC Dinner Dance, Washington, D.C.	April 17, 2012

## ***RETURN OF NOTEBOOK AND PANELS***

Notebook materials will not be returned. Panels may be retained by ACEC New York for up to one year for exhibition purposes.