



2024 Engineering Excellence Awards Call for Entries

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

INTRODUCTION – ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ACEC Tennessee’s 2024 Engineering Excellence Awards showcases the year’s best engineering achievements to a statewide audience of clients, industry leaders and decision-makers. All Award Winners are recognized, and the top winning projects will be highlighted at the ACEC Tennessee Celebration and EEA Gala on November 6, 2024 at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

EEA entries are accepted into one of 11 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
- Energy
- Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities

A diverse panel of judges possessing a vast array of built environment and technical expertise convene to evaluate and rank submissions based on the criteria provided below. The panel then selects top award winners in each category, including two Grand Awards (one large project, one small project) and Honor Awards. One Grand Conceptor Award will be selected from the Grand Award winners. The Grand Conceptor will be announced at the ACEC Tennessee EEA Gala as the top state winner selected by the judges. Awards will be presented to the clients/owners and entering firms.

All entries are eligible for the People’s Choice Award, which will be awarded based on voting by Gala attendees. Project panels will be displayed during the Gala Reception, and the winner announced during the Gala.

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 and enhancing public awareness/enthusiasm for the engineering profession; social, economic, and sustainable development considerations; complexity; and successful fulfillment of client/owner’s needs, including schedule and budget.

GENERAL CRITERIA

1. Engineering or surveying projects that have won awards in other state or national organizations’ programs are welcome in the ACEC Tennessee EEA Competition.

2. Any engineering or surveying firm in Tennessee is eligible. The firm does not have to be a member of ACEC Tennessee.
 3. Projects entered in the competition may have been executed anywhere in the world and managed by a Tennessee office. Projects submitted in the categories of (A) Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services or (D) Surveying and Mapping must have been publicly disclosed by the client between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2024. Construction of projects (all other categories plus applicable projects in (D) Surveying and Mapping) must have been ready for use between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2024. (See award categories section for the full listing of all eligible categories.)
 4. Entries in the state competition may be placed in any one of the 11 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 (A) Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services has been constructed, it may be entered in a different category in the year when eligible.
 5. Each entry must consist of two parts:
 - Part 1
 - Completed project details PDF
 - Signed consent form
 - Entry fees (payable by check or through ACEC Tennessee website)
 - Part 2
 - USB flash drive containing submission materials
 - Photographic display panel delivered to ACEC Tennessee Office
- Non-compliance with the rules may disqualify an entry. Please read the requirements thoroughly.
- Note: See Preparing Your Entry for the Engineering Excellence Awards.**
6. ACEC Tennessee will not be responsible for any damages to or loss of an entrant's official electronic entry, USB flash drive or photographic display panel.
 7. The ACEC Tennessee EEA Committee reserves the right to determine, and change if necessary, the eligibility and category classification of any entry.

PUBLICITY

The public relations and marketing value of participation in the state EEA program is substantial. All state winners will be highlighted in ACEC Tennessee's public relations program, which benefits all Tennessee engineering firms. Working with participating firms, ACEC Tennessee representatives will contact local media to announce winners and their awards. Through state efforts, display panels may 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 state award winners and all entering firms. Further benefits can be gained through feature stories presented in firm brochures, newsletters and other publications.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on the basis of:

- Overall engineering excellence
- The work performed by the entering firm only
- The rating guidelines listed below

JUDGING CRITERIA

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
2. Future value to the engineering profession and enhanced public awareness/enthusiasm of the role of engineering
3. Social, economic and sustainable development considerations
4. Complexity
5. Successful fulfillment of client/owner needs

JUDGING GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS

1. Uniqueness and/or Innovative Applications of New or Existing Techniques:
 - a. Does the entrant's contribution to the project demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
 - b. Does the entrant's contribution to the project represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials or equipment?
2. Future Value to the Engineering Profession and enhanced public awareness/enthusiasm of the role of engineering:
 - a. Will the entrant's contribution to the project redefine current engineering thinking?
 - b. Does the entrant's project increase public awareness/enthusiasm about the role of engineering in their everyday lives?
3. Social, Economic and Sustainable Development Considerations:
 - a. Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community environment?
 - b. Does the entrant's approach provide society with social, economic or sustainable development benefits?
 - c. Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?
4. Complexity:
 - a. Did the entrant's efforts successfully address highly complex criteria or unique problems?
 - b. Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements or similar elements present?
 - c. Did the entrant's solutions 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:
 - a. Did the entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
 - b. Was it an economical and cost-effective solution?
 - c. How did the final cost compare to the original budget estimate?
 - d. How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?
 - e. Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

This section describes all required submission materials for entering the 2024 ACEC Tennessee EEA competition. All materials must be submitted exactly as designated in the Submission Requirements below (pages 5-9). 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, PowerPoint, 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.

CATEGORIES

Each category shown below has two subcategories: Large Project and Small Project. Small projects are defined as having a total project construction budget that does not exceed \$2.5 million. NOTE: Having a small and large category is different from the national competition guidelines but is aligned with the National small category total budget cap for projects that may be moved forward for ACEC National's EEA competition. Awards will be given in both the large and small project subcategory.

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

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)

C. STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS. Foundations; Tunnels; Buildings; Seismic design; Towers; Bridges; Stadiums

D. SURVEYING AND MAPPING TECHNOLOGY. Geometrics, ALTA, land title and rights surveys; Control, GPS, monitoring or construction surveying; Survey mapping, GIS/LIS, photogrammetry

E. ENVIRONMENTAL. Hazardous waste; Solid waste; Restoration/reclamation/remediation; Air quality; Noise; Recycling; Waste pond management; Carbon sequestration and trading; Mitigation

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

G. WATER RESOURCES. 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

H. TRANSPORTATION. Highways; Rail; Airports; Marine/ports; Public transit; Intermodal facilities

I. SPECIAL PROJECTS. Safety and security; Corrosion protection/cathodic protection; Program and construction management; Land development; Trenchless technologies/directional boring; Recreational facilities; Subsurface engineering

J. ENERGY. Transmission and distribution; Power generation; Renewable energy; Cogeneration; Energy storage technologies; Energy usage reduction programs; Demand side management

K. INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING PROCESSES AND FACILITIES. Petrochemical; Biotech; Manufacturing; Heavy industry; Industrial waste; Materials handling; Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy

Submission Requirements

The following main components must be submitted with the state EEA competition entry:

ITEM		DUE DATE	METHOD OF DELIVERY
PART 1 of project entry	Entry form, consent form and fees emailed or delivered	Monday, August 26, 2024	<p><u>Submitted via email or delivery</u></p> <p>Please email to kanderson@acectn.org and scook@acectn.org with subject “EEA Project Submission – [Project Category]”</p> <p>OR deliver to:</p> <p>ACEC Tennessee Attn: Kasey Anderson Tennessee Engineering Center 800 Fort Negley Boulevard Nashville, TN 37203</p>
PART 2 of project entry	USB flash drive containing submission materials	Monday, September 16, 2024	<p><u>Submitted via delivery</u></p> <p>Deliver USB to:</p> <p>ACEC Tennessee Attn: Kasey Anderson Tennessee Engineering Center 800 Fort Negley Boulevard Nashville, TN 37203</p>
	Photographic display panel	Monday, September 16, 2024	<p><u>Submitted via delivery</u></p> <p>Deliver to:</p> <p>ACEC Tennessee Attn: Kasey Anderson Tennessee Engineering Center 800 Fort Negley Boulevard Nashville, TN 37203</p>

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

While similar in most guidelines and submission requirements, ACEC Tennessee’s 2024 EEA Call for Entries is NOT fully consistent with ACEC National requirements. If your firm plans to enter the ACEC National EEA competition, carefully review the ACEC National Call for Entries.

PART 1: ENTRY FORM, CONSENT FORM AND FEES – due August 26, 2024

These documents are available to download on the ACEC Tennessee Website. They should be submitted via email (scook@acectn.org) with the subject “EEA Project Submission – [Project Category]” OR delivered to the ACEC Tennessee office as noted above.

Furnish all information requested below for each entry. Signatures by the submitting firm(s) and the client(s)/owner(s) are required. The firm, project, and client/owner’s name should be typed or printed as they are to appear on the award.

About the Project

- Project name (limit to 45 characters)
- Select category and appropriate subcategory
- Project location (address, city, state)
- What was the entrant’s role in the project?
- Scheduled and actual completion/use dates
- Project cost information
 - For entries in categories (A) Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services and (D) Survey and Mapping Technology, provide budgeted and actual costs
 - For entries in all other categories, provide construction costs for total project and entrant’s portion of the project:
 - Total project budget \$
 - Total project actual \$
 - Entrant’s portion of total project budget \$
 - Entrant’s portion of total project actual \$

Budgeted and/or actual costs may not apply to some studies/research/consulting engineering services entries and some projects in the survey and mapping technology category

NOTE: With the exception of projects in (A) Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services and (D) Surveying and Mapping Technology, costs reflected below are always construction costs and are NOT engineering fees. If your firm was responsible for the entire engineering design of the project, then the Entrant’s Portion of the Total Project Budget amount and the Entrant’s Portion of the Total Project Actual Cost amount will be the same as the Total Project Budget amount and Total Project Actual Cost amount.

If your firm was not responsible for the entire engineering design of the project, then the Entrant’s Portion of the Total Project Budget amount and the Entrant’s Portion of the Total Project Actual Cost amount should be the part of total project construction cost your firm was responsible for (i.e., a mechanical engineering firm was responsible for \$12M of a total project budget of \$40M. \$12M is the Entrant’s Portion of the Total Project Budget. \$40M is the Total Project Budget).

- Was this project awarded through the QBS process?

About the Firm(s) Submitting the Project

- Entering firm
- Firm CEO
- Firm representative
- Address (no PO Box; city, state, zip)
- Phone (office and cell)
- Email

Consent to Submit

Once the electronic entry form is completed, download the Project PDF for Signature from the ACEC Tennessee website for signature by both the entrant and the client/owner (senior executives/officials), stating that the submitted project was ready for use between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2024. Electronic signatures are accepted. Specifications: PDF format.

Authorization and signatures are required from two parties:

- Entering Firm
 - Name, title, and signature of Senior Executive/Principal authorizing submission
 - Include address (city, state, zip; no PO Box), phone, and email
- Client/Owner(s) of the Project
 - Client/owner company name
 - Name, title, and signature of client/owner representative authorizing submission
 - Include address (city, state, zip; no PO Box), phone, and email

Client/Owner and Key Participant Contacts

List the client/owner and key participant contacts on the project, including firm name, address, phone number, website and e-mail address of each participant. Include client/owner, contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects and designers significantly involved in the project.

For Promotional Purposes

Provide social media sites for the submitting firm and client/owner(s) of the project.

Entry Fees

2024 EEA ENTRY RATES	Entry Fee
ACEC Tennessee Members	\$500
Non-ACEC Tennessee Members	\$850

NOTE: You must submit entry fee payment through the ACEC Tennessee website. Online payment methods include Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover. Checks will also be accepted. Be sure to include EEA Project Submission in the memo line. Please mail to:

ACEC Tennessee
Attn: Kasey Anderson
Tennessee Engineering Center
800 Fort Negley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203

PART 2: OFFICIAL SUBMISSION, PROJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS – due September 16, 2024

There are two components of Part 2 of the project entry process:

- I. USB flash drive containing submission materials
- II. Photographic display panel delivered to ACEC Tennessee Office

I. USB Requirements

The USB must contain all of the following items:

01 CLIENT/OWNER LETTER (one page max.)

Letter addressed to ACEC Tennessee describing the relationship of the client/owner and entrant in the development of the project and how it exceeded the client/owner's needs. Specifications: PDF format.

02 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Using as much space as you prefer, give an overview of the project. Tell the project's story in a way that answers the following using text, photos, graphics or charts as needed.

- 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 guidelines (refer to "Judging Guideline Definitions" for detailed rating and judging 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
- d. SUMMARY: Describe in layman's terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (between 100-500 words). Explain all factors that comprise the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faces and overall social impact. NOTE: This summary will provide the basis for publicity on the project.

03 PHOTOS OR GRAPHICS

Six different photos or graphics with captions describing the subject matter (refer to "Photograph Guidelines" below). Captions shall begin with: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc. Specifications: JPEG file; RGB format; High Resolution (300dpi).

Photo Size: Preferred size is 15mb

Photo Captions: Provide six captions in Word form on the USB drive

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

04 PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL

Small-size copy of the photographic display panel. See Display Panel Specifications in item III. Specifications: JPEG file; RGB format; High Resolution (300dpi).

05 100 WORD NARRATIVE

Narrative of no more than 100 words (no acronyms, abbreviations or bullets, please) for use during the audiovisual presentation at the Gala. Specifications: 8.5" x 11"; 1" side margins; double-spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font; PDF format.

06 POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

PowerPoint file containing eight slides, including a title slide with ACEC Tennessee logo, firm name, project name, project location: city and state, followed by 6 slides that include photos 1 through 6 (same photos as Item 6 above), plus the last slide that contains the photographic display panel. This presentation will be used by the judges as part of their evaluation. Do not include sound, transition effects, animation, preset timing, or slide show sequencing. A sample PowerPoint presentation is downloadable from the ACEC Tennessee website.

07 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

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

NOTE: This report is ONLY required for (A) Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services submittals. Specifications: PDF format.

II. USB FLASH DRIVE

USB Contents and Specifications: One USB flash drive (to be sent to ACEC Tennessee with Photographic Display Panel). Include label on USB with firm name and entry number. 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 Client/Owner Letter

02 Project Description

03 Six Photos or Graphics (photo captions typed separately in a Word document)

04 Photographic Display Panel (small-size copy)

05 100 Word Narrative

06 PowerPoint Presentation

07 Supplemental Report

NOTE: Please do not organize this information into individual file folders on USB

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 (to be sent to ACEC Tennessee with USB flash drive).

All entries are eligible for the People's Choice Award, which will be awarded based on voting by Gala attendees. Project panels will be displayed during the Gala Reception, and the winner announced during the Gala. The panel should convey key, succinct messages related to the project and graphics explaining the work conducted to quickly capture attendees' attention and impact their decision.

Photographic panel requirements:

1. **PANEL SIZE:** 30" x 30" square, with a matte finish, laminated front on 3/16" gator board (black or white) and laminated over the front. **NOTE:** Framed panels will NOT be accepted.
2. **PHOTOS/GRAPHICS:** Maximum of six 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; 25 pt. minimum font for captions and graphics.
4. **REQUIRED ELEMENTS:** The front of the panel shall also include the ACEC Tennessee logo (download from ACEC Tennessee 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. **BACK OF PANEL LABEL:** Add a label to the back of the panel with the name of the entrant's firm, the project name, and the project entry number assigned by ACEC Tennessee via email after Part 1 Submission.

NOTE: If production/printing services for your photographic display panel are not available in your community, contact Suzanne Cook (scook@acectn.org) at ACEC Tennessee for sources.