



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ALABAMA

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Renée Anne Casillas, Executive Director

DATE: July 1, 2026

RE: Call for Entries – **2027 Engineering Excellence Awards**

Enclosed with this memorandum are the **Intent to Enter Form** and the **Information Package** for the annual ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) Competition. We encourage your firm to submit outstanding engineering projects for consideration in this prestigious state-level and national competition. Participation provides an excellent opportunity to showcase your firm's achievements and promote the engineering profession.

Award winners will be honored at the **ACEC/Alabama Annual Transportation & Engineering Excellence Awards Breakfast**, February 17, 2027, at the Trilogy Hotel in Huntsville, Alabama. All state-level award recipients that participated in the 2026 and 2027 state competition, will be endorsed by ACEC Alabama to advance to the **ACEC National EEA Competition (Phase Two)**. The national awards gala is scheduled for **April 20, 2027**, at the Washington Grand Hyatt, in Washington, DC.

To participate, all entries must follow the guidelines outlined in the **ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Call for Entries Brochure**. Please include payment with your **State-Level Intent to Enter Form** to confirm participation in Phase One.

Online Submission

ACEC Alabama will again utilize the ACEC Engineering Excellence **Web Portal** for project submissions. Upload your EEA project materials at: <https://eea.acec.org/alabama>

STATE-LEVEL & NATIONAL EEA COMPETITION SCHEDULE (2026–2027)

- **September 4, 2026** – *Phase One (State Competition)* Intent to Enter Form and payment due
- **November 6, 2026** – *Phase One (State Competition)* Project Entry Submission Deadline
- **December 7–11, 2026** – *Phase One (State Competition)* EEA State Judging
- **December 11, 2026** – *Phase One (State Competition)* EEA Awards Announced
- **January 6, 2027** – *Phase Two (National Competition)* Project Entry Submission Deadline
- **February 17, 2027** – *ACEC/Alabama Transportation & EEA Breakfast, Trilogy Hotel, Huntsville, AL*
- **April 20, 2027** – *ACEC National EEA Gala, Washington Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC*



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ALABAMA

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
STATE LEVEL COMPETITION - INTENT TO ENTER FORM

Please note that this Intent to Enter Form is NOT the ACEC Official EEA Entry Form, which is also required to enter the competition. To compete in the state-level competition, please submit your non-refundable entry fee (payable to ACEC/Alabama, 531 Herron Street Montgomery AL 36104.) with Intent to Enter Form by, September 4, 2026. For questions, email rcasillas@aceca.org.

Entry Fee: ☐ \$450 (Member) ☐ \$900 (Non- Member)

All entries competing in the first phase, state-level competition, must follow the guidelines found in the ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Call for Entries Brochure. Please include all required project documentation for your project entry. The panel is required for award recipients to display at the ACEC/AL EEA Awards Breakfast on February 17, 2027.

Firm Contact: _____

Firm: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Project & Category _____

Project Location: _____

Payment by Check or Credit Card – Return to: rcasillas@aceca.org

PAYMENT BY CC: Cardholder: _____

Card #: _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV/CVV2#: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

PAYMENT BY CHECK Check#: _____ Rec'd By: _____

Thank you for your support and commitment to promote engineering in Alabama.

AMERICAN
COUNCIL OF
ENGINEERING
COMPANIES

2027
CALL FOR ENTRIES



ACEC ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE AWARDS



EEA NATIONAL DEADLINE:
Wednesday, January 6, 2027



2027 CALL FOR ENTRIES

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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

Candidates for the national-level ACEC EEA competition must first be submitted to the state-level member organization (MO). Only projects qualified by the state MO are eligible to participate in the national ACEC EEA.

Deadline for the national competition is Wednesday, January 6th, 2027.

EEA entries are accepted into one of 12 project categories:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| ■ Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services | ■ Surveying and Mapping Technology | ■ Water Resources | ■ Small Projects |
| ■ Building/Technology Systems | ■ Environmental | ■ Transportation | ■ Energy |
| ■ Structural Systems | ■ Waste and Storm Water | ■ Special Projects | ■ Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities |

A distinguished panel of 30+ judges possessing a vast array of built environment and technical expertise will be convened over three days to evaluate and rank submissions for engineering excellence. The panel then selects top award winners—8 Grand Awards and 16 Honor Awards. One Grand Conceptor Award will be selected from the Grand Award winners as the overall best engineering project.

Projects from around the world are eligible for submission and may compete at the national level, provided the submitting firm, whether a member or non-member of ACEC, is based in the United States. All projects will be evaluated solely on their merits, regardless of their location.

Projects are evaluated according to the following criteria: the uniqueness and innovative application of new or existing techniques; the project's future value to the engineering profession, the community it serves, and its contribution to increasing public awareness; consideration of social, economic, and sustainability factors; overall project complexity; and the successful fulfillment of the client's or owner's requirements, including adherence to the project's schedule and budget.

Top 24 Award Winners (8 Grand and 16 Honor Awards) **MUST HAVE** a firm and/or client representative in attendance to receive on-stage recognition at the Gala. The National Recognition Award Winners will also receive a special tribute during the Gala.

Every year, the ACEC EEA Gala provides firms with national recognition and a venue to showcase their talent and expertise. The annual black-tie EEA Gala — to be held **Tuesday, April 20 2027** — celebrates, with pride and elegance, the most outstanding project achievements of the engineering profession.



ACHIEVING NATIONAL RECOGNITION

ACEC's 2027 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 will be featured in the EEA Gala awards program. Special recognition will be given to the top 24 winning projects at the annual EEA Gala, the premier black-tie event in the engineering industry. This prestigious event will be held on **Tuesday, April 20, 2027**, at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C.



ELIGIBILITY

Any engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the awards program, regardless of whether the firm is a member or non-member of ACEC.

GENERAL CRITERIA

- 1** Member and non-member firm entries should be submitted to the state MO in accordance with local entry rules. Contact your state ACEC MO office for details. Entries only advance to the national competition through the recommendation of a state-level MO.
Entries submitted to the ACEC national competition must be electronically submitted in accordance with the rules and requirements outlined in this brochure.
- 2** Each state MO may submit up to 10 entries from its membership. If more than 10 projects were submitted at the state level, the state MO may submit one additional entry for each five submitted above the 10. Any non-member entry judged to be a legitimate candidate may be submitted by the state MO for the national competition; however, the non-member submittals will count in the total submittal limitations outlined.
- 3** Engineering or surveying projects that have won awards in other state or national organizations' programs are welcome in the ACEC EEA competition.
- 4** Projects entered in the competition may have been executed anywhere in the world.
Studies and Research (Category A) or Surveying and Mapping projects (Category D) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between Nov. 1, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2026. Construction of projects (Categories B through L with the exception of D) must have been ready for use between Nov. 1, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2026.
- 5** Entries in the national competition may be placed in any one of the 12 categories. See "Categories" section for the full listing of all eligible categories. The entering firm must select the one category that is most appropriate. Please note that projects are not judged by category at the National level. Instead, the top 24 winners are chosen from the best submissions across all eligible national entries. A project may be entered only once by the entering firm in any category. The same project may be entered in a different category by a different entering firm. However, after a project has been entered in Category A, and the project has been constructed, the project may be entered by the same firm in a different category – B through L – in the year when eligible.
- 6** Each entry must be submitted by:
 - Official electronic entryNon-compliance with the rules may disqualify an entry. Please read the requirements thoroughly. ACEC will produce the physical display panels for the Grand and Honor Awards, each measuring 30" x 30" square, for the ACEC Convention and Gala event in Washington, D.C.
NOTE: See "**PREPARING YOUR ENTRY**" for the Engineering Excellence Awards.
- 7** ACEC will not be responsible for any damages to or loss of an entrant's official electronic entry, photographic digital panel file, or anything else submitted by entrant.
- 8** The ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards committee reserves the right to determine, and change if necessary, the eligibility and category classification of any entry.



2027 CALL FOR ENTRIES

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on the basis of:

- Overall engineering excellence
 - Only the work performed by the submitting firm
 - The rating guidelines listed
 - Projects constructed outside the United States will be evaluated solely on their merits, without regard to location.
- Winners and affiliated state MOs will be notified shortly after judging is completed.

AWARDS

All National submissions are reviewed by the judges, who select eight Grand Awards and sixteen Honor Awards. One of the Grand Award winners is chosen as the Grand Conceptor, the highest national winner, which will be announced at the Gala.

All other National submissions receive National Recognition Awards. Judges' decisions are final, and awards are presented to the firms that submitted 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 state MOs, ACEC will reach out to local media to announce winning project and awards. ACEC also uses this project information to promote the industry at large and the work of our firms in our communities. All award winners are free to publicize their achievement. The Grand Conceptor Award winner will not be revealed until the Gala.

Through national and state efforts, photographic digital panels can be exhibited in such public venues as city and state administrative buildings, universities, shopping centers and office buildings. These activities provide business development benefits for both local and national award winners. Further benefits are gained through feature stories presented on firms websites, social media and other publications.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ENTRANTS

In conjunction with an ACEC goal to promote the essentiality of engineering, we strongly encourage that all project entries, no matter the category, also highlight an emphasis on the project's direct benefits to the public.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- **Water Resources:** The number of gallons of clean water that will result from the project and the potential impact.
- **Resiliency:** Efforts to protect X number of people from the impact of rising sea levels and floods.
- **Climate Change:** Examples of the amount of reduction of carbon released into the atmosphere the project will result in, thus also reducing the project's footprint.
- **Transportation:** Examples of reduced congestion and improved safety; improved previously restricted community access; and reduced commuting time.

RATING GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

Each entrant's contribution will be evaluated based on five key categories outlined in the project description text required in the electronic submittal. Projects from around the world are eligible to compete at the National level, provided the submitting firm — whether an ACEC member or non-member — is based in the United States. Projects constructed outside the United States will be evaluated solely on their merits, without regard to location.

1 Uniqueness and/or Innovative Applications of New or Existing Techniques:

- Include as many measurable results as possible to tell the story of the project. For example, data points related to energy savings, number of people impacted by the project, etc.
- Does the entrant's contribution to the project demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
- 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:

- Will the entrant's contribution to the project redefine current engineering thinking?
- 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:

- 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 entrant's efforts successfully address highly complex criteria or unique problems?
- Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements present?
- 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:

- Did the entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
- Did the entrant introduce 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?



PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

This section describes all required submission materials for entering the 2027 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, high resolution JPGs, 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.**

Ensure your submitted materials exclude references to other awards and do not include videos.

For national projects, entries should be submitted in the state where the majority of the work was performed. Projects built outside the United States (International projects) should be judged solely on their quality and merits, regardless of location.

If a project is entered in more than one MO competition, or if the same project is submitted separately by two or more firms, the affected MO(s) must decide how to enter the project and its firms. We strongly encourage those firms to form a joint venture before submitting to the ACEC National EEA competition.

ACEC also highly recommends joint-award submissions whenever multiple firms collaborate on the same project.

The EEA national competition is judged by an independent panel of experts whose selections, as governed by the EEA national judging process are final.

2027 CALL FOR ENTRIES

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 6, 2027 — Submitted materials **MUST BE RECEIVED** by ACEC. Materials received after that date will **NOT** be accepted.

January 12, 2027 — The firm representative listed on the entry form must be available by phone in case any clarifications or revisions to the entry materials are needed.

February 19-21, 2027 — Judging event.

April 20, 2027 — EEA Dinner and Gala Awards Program in Washington, D.C.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

The official electronic entry, along with the payment, must be submitted through the online portal.

NOTE:

No QR Codes or embedded links are permitted in any portion of an award submission.

All materials submitted for judging in the national competition become the property of ACEC and may be used in ACEC publications, in addition to all other internal or external promotional or educational purposes.

Submitted materials will **NOT** be returned.

CALL FOR ENTRIES – 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:

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, and 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 \$5 million. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A, projects under \$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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OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC ENTRY

All project information shall be submitted electronically.

Each document must be uploaded separately through ACEC's Awards Submittal Portal.

The electronic entry must contain the following items:

1 ELECTRONIC PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM

Located on the ACEC website:

<https://eea.acec.org/projects>

Specifications: PDF format

NOTE:

For the National Competition, the Senior Executive/Principal submitting firm is required to sign the Copyright Addendum, granting ACEC a worldwide, irrevocable, sublicensable license to reproduce, publish, distribute, create derivatives of, and otherwise use the submitted materials at its discretion. This includes but is not limited to use in ACEC and third-party publications, websites, displays, or for promotional or educational purposes. You acknowledge that ACEC may use the materials with or without credit to you. Please refer to the Copyright Addendum on the Official Entry Form (marked "SAMPLE") on the last page of this brochure.

IMAGE GUIDELINES:

Please include the credit for photos or graphics to your photographers or creator, as necessary.

Original completed entry form must be signed by both the entrant and the client/owner (senior executive/officials), stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between Nov. 1, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2026.

Electronic signatures are accepted.

You must submit entry fee payment (\$1,400 for ACEC members; \$3,850 for non-ACEC members) with the electronic Project Submission Form.

Payments are ONLY accepted via the National Online portal. Refer to your MO for state competition fees.

The firm and project name should not exceed 80 characters.

The following project information must be uploaded individually and included with your Engineering Excellence Awards submittal:

2 **CLIENT/OWNER LETTER** (one page max.) **Letter addressed to ACEC National** describing the relationship of the client/owner and entrant in the development of the project, the project is ready to use, and how the entrant's contribution exceeded the client/owner's needs. The letter must be signed by the project's client. **Specifications:** PDF format.

NOTE: If you are unable to provide a client/owner letter, please submit other documentation confirming that the client/owner has approved the project to advance to the National competition (e.g., an email from the client/owner indicating their approval for the project to move forward to the National level).

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; PDF format.

NOTE: If you are unable to provide a client/owner letter, please submit other documentation confirming that the client/owner has approved the project to advance to the National competition (e.g., an email from the client/owner indicating their approval for the project to move forward to the National level).

4

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (six 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. Entrants may use text, photos, graphics, or charts as needed. Do not reference other awards the project has won.

Specifications: 8.5" x 11"; 1" side margins; single-spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font; PDF format.

Text must include all the following information, including budget information and summary:

1. **ROLE OF ENTRANT'S FIRM** in the project.
2. **ROLE OF OTHER CONSULTANTS** participating in the project.
3. **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 pages 4 and 5 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

4. BUDGET INFORMATION:

- Include total budgeted project construction cost and total actual project construction cost
- Include the entrants portion of the total budgeted project construction cost and of the total actual project construction cost
- Scheduled and actual project completion dates (as indicated on the electronic project submission form)

REMINDER: These costs are not engineering fees—they are the total of the construction costs both budgeted and actual for the work the firm provided.

EXAMPLE: If the total project budgeted construction cost is \$400,000,000.00 and the firm did 100% of the work, then the entrants portion of the total budgeted project construction cost is \$400,000,000.00. The same logic applies for actual costs.

(Budgeted and/or actual cost may not apply to some studies in Category A and some projects in Category D)

Completion/Use Dates:	Scheduled: 5/29/24	Actual: 5/29/24
Construction Costs:	Total Construction Budgeted: 27 million	Total Construction Actual: 27 million
	Entrant's Portion of Total Construction Budgeted: 27 million	Entrant's Portion of Total Construction Actual: 27 million

Was Qualification-based Selection (QBS) design procurement used? No

5. **SUMMARY:** Describe in layman's terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (word count between 100—500 words). Explain all factors that exhibit the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced, and overall social impact.

NOTE: This summary may provide the basis for all ACEC publicity on the project.

2027 CALL FOR ENTRIES

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 significantly involved in the project.** *Specifications:* 8.5" x 11"; Excel file.

6 PHOTOS OR GRAPHICS Six different photos or graphics (one per page) with captions describing the subject matter (refer to "IMAGE GUIDELINES" below). Captions shall begin with: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc. Six photos or graphics are required: three showing the completed project and three depicting the project development in progress. *Specifications:* JPG file; RGB format; High Resolution (300 dpi).

Photo Captions: *Once photos are uploaded, type in the captions in the small box under each photo on the online submittal site. No text is permitted on the photos other than the cover slide.*

IMAGE GUIDELINES:

Please include the credit for photos or graphics to your photographers or creator, if necessary.

As images will be projected on a large screen during the EEA Gala, submission of sharp, high-quality, high-resolution images as required.

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.

7 PHOTOGRAPHIC DIGITAL PANEL FILE A digital copy of the photographic digital panel. *Specifications:* JPG and PDF file; RGB format; High Resolution (300 dpi). Must include Firm name, Client, Project Name, Project Location, and Project Category. Include the Firm, Client, EEA logos.

IMPORTANT: The Digital Panel File should be a key part of the project submittal and the text and digital photos should demonstrate the challenges, solutions, innovation, complexity and unique aspects of key project elements. The digital panel should be prepared with high-quality photos and graphics and with text as described below.

ACEC will be producing the physical display panels for the Grand and Honor Awards, each measuring 30" x 30" square, for the ACEC Convention and Gala event in Washington, D.C.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DIGITAL PANEL FILE REQUIREMENTS:

1. PHOTOS/GRAPHICS: Maximum of 6 photos and/or graphics shall be used on the photographic digital panel file. Each image shall be a minimum of 7" x 5" or 35 square inches in area. A background photo is not considered a photograph.

2. 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.

3. REQUIRED ELEMENTS: The front of the photographic digital panel file shall also include the EEA 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).

8 MEDIA LIST E-mail addresses of local newspapers, TV, radio stations, and other media outlets where your project can be highlighted. If the state MO or entrant prefers to handle all local and national publicity for the project, include a statement to that effect. *Specifications:* Excel file; 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17".

9 PRESS RELEASE (two pages max.) Press release that clearly and concisely describes the project and the entrant's participation, based on information presented in the Project Description. Also describe the value of the project to the community including information such as the number of people served, cost savings, etc. Do not reference other awards the project has won. *Specifications:* double-spaced; 8.5" x 11"; PDF format.

10 POWERPOINT PRESENTATION PowerPoint file, containing 8 slides including one (1) title slide that must include Firm name, Client, Project Name, Project Location, and Project Category. Include the Firm, Client, EEA logos., followed by: Six (6) slides which include photos 1 through 6 (same photos as Item #6 above), and captions for each photo. Do not include caption/text on the photo. One (1) additional slide that contains the photographic display panel. Accepted file format is PowerPoint (PPT or PPTX) only. This presentation will be used by the judges as part of their evaluation. Do not include sound, transition effects, animations, present timing, or slide show sequencing. A sample PowerPoint presentation is downloadable from the ACEC website.

11 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.

DEADLINE

All electronic submissions must be received by January 6, 2027.

2027 CALL FOR ENTRIES

SAMPLE 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 **\$1,400** per entry for ACEC members (**\$3,850** for non-ACEC members). All payments must be submitted online. **Online Payment Method: Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover.**

NOTE:

* The project entry should occur in the state where the majority of the work was performed on the project.

* All materials submitted for judging in the national competition become the property of ACEC and may be used in ACEC publications, in addition to all other internal or external promotional or educational materials. Submitted materials will NOT be returned.

* ACEC will use the information you entered into the system or official entry form as a reference to prepare materials for the Gala, publicity, and other communications.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Name: _____ (limit to 45 characters)

Project Category: ☐ **A:** Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services ☐ **C:** Structural Systems ☐ **E:** Environmental ☐ **G:** Water Resources ☐ **I:** Special Projects ☐ **K:** Energy
☐ **B:** Building/Technology Systems ☐ **D:** Surveying and Mapping Technology ☐ **F:** Waste and Storm Water ☐ **H:** Transportation ☐ **J:** Small Projects ☐ **L:** Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities

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/MO (member organization) is sponsoring this submission?: _____

What was the entrant's role in the project?: _____

ABOUT THE PROJECT'S SCHEDULE AND BUDGET

Budgeted and/or actual costs may not apply to some studies in Category A and some projects in Category D.

With the exception of Category A and some Category D projects, **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 Construction Budget** amount and the **Entrant's Portion of the Total Construction Actual Cost** amount will be the same as the Total Construction Budget amount and Total Construction 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 Construction Budget** amount and the **Entrant's Portion of the Total Construction 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 Construction budget of \$40M. \$12M is the **Entrant's Portion of the Total Construction Budget**. \$40M is the **Total Construction Budget**.)

Completion/Use Dates: Scheduled: _____ Actual: _____

Category A & D Costs: Budgeted \$: _____ Actual \$: _____

Construction Costs: Total Construction Budget \$: _____ Total Construction Actual \$: _____

Entrant's Portion of Total Construction: Budget \$: _____ Entrant's Portion of Total Construction Actual \$: _____

☐ Check box if project was awarded through QBS process. (Note: This is not engineering fees) (Note: This is not engineering fees)

ABOUT THE FIRM(S) SUBMITTING THE PROJECT

Entering Firm(s): _____

Firm CEO: _____

Firm Representative: _____

Must be available by phone on Tuesday, January 12, 2027 (phone calls will only be made if there are clarifications or additional information required for your submittal).

☐ Please check this box only if this person is to receive ALL EEA correspondence.

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

Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ Email: _____

Thank you for submitting your project for consideration for the 2027 ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards. The materials, including photos and images, you submitted during the online process ("submitted materials") may be used by ACEC in awards promotion, but not limited to social media messages, marketing, and inclusion in digital and printed ACEC publications.

By signing this form, you represent and warrant that the submitted materials do not infringe any third-party rights and that you own all intellectual property in the submitted materials or have all necessary rights to provide ACEC with the following described license: you hereby grant ACEC a worldwide irrevocable sublicenseable license to reproduce, publish, distribute, create derivatives, and otherwise use the submitted materials at ACEC's discretion, including but not limited to use in ACEC and third-party publications and on ACEC and third-party websites.

You understand and acknowledge that all submitted materials may be used at ACEC's discretion, with or without credit to you, including but not limited to use for displays or in connection with promotional or educational purposes. Submitted materials will NOT be returned. If any third-party claim is made against ACEC as to its use of the submitted materials, including but not limited to claims for copyright, trademark, misrepresentation, or right of publicity, you agree to defend and indemnify ACEC against all such claim(s) at ACEC's direction and using counsel of ACEC's choosing.

I hereby authorize submission of this project into the American Council of Engineering Companies' 2027 Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Senior Executive/Principal: _____

☐ Please check this box only if this person is to receive ALL EEA correspondence.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Marketing Coordinator: _____

☐ Please check this box only if this person is to receive ALL EEA correspondence.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

ABOUT THE CLIENT/OWNER(S) OF THE PROJECT

Client/Owner(s): _____

I 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 National 2027 Engineering Excellence Awards competition, and authorize publication of images and details of the project. I confirm that the project was ready for use between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026.

Client/Owner Representative: _____

Title: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____



2027 EEA SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

ACEC ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

☐ Official Entry Form

- ☐ Does the project ready for use date or disclosure date fall within the range of November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026?
- ☐ Do I have the signature of the Firm's Principal?
- ☐ Do I have the signature of the Client/Owner?

☐ Are the costs shown on the entry form construction costs and **not** engineering fees?

☐ Have I uploaded a 1-page letter from the Owner/Client?

☐ Is the Executive Summary limited to 1 page and single-spaced?

☐ Is the Project Description limited to 6 pages and single-spaced, is budget information and summary included?

☐ Have I uploaded all documents in PDF format with the exception of the Key Participants and Media List which should be uploaded in an Excel file?

☐ Have I uploaded the 6 photographs? Do they have captions? (No text on photographs*)

- ☐ Did I upload three photographs of the completed project?
- ☐ Did I upload three photographs of the planning, start-up, and/or construction phase of the project?

**Please include the courtesy of your photos or graphics to your photographers or creator if necessary.*

Have I uploaded the Photographic Digital Panel Files?

SPECIFICATIONS: JPG and PDF file; RGB format; High Resolution (300 dpi). Must include Firm name, Client, Project Name, Project Location, and Project Category. Include the Firm, Client, EEA logos.

☐ Have I uploaded an eight (8) slide PowerPoint Presentation contains: One (1) title slide that must include Firm Name, Client, Project Name, Project Location, and Project Category. Include the Firm, Client, EEA logos, followed by: Six (6) slides which include photos 1 through 6 (same photos as Item #6; Refer to Call for Entries on PowerPoint Presentation section), and captions for each photo. Do not include caption/text on the photo. One (1) additional slide that contains the photographic display panel. Accepted file format is PowerPoint (PPT or PPTX) only. This presentation will be used by the judges as part of their evaluation. Do not include sound, transition effects, animations, present timing, or slide show sequencing. A sample PowerPoint presentation is downloadable from the ACEC website.

☐ Have I submitted the high-resolution photographic digital panel file? (Refer to digital panel file located in the EEA Award section of the ACEC website for an example of general digital panel file requirements but not panel layout. Layout digital panel file to be determined by entering firm.)

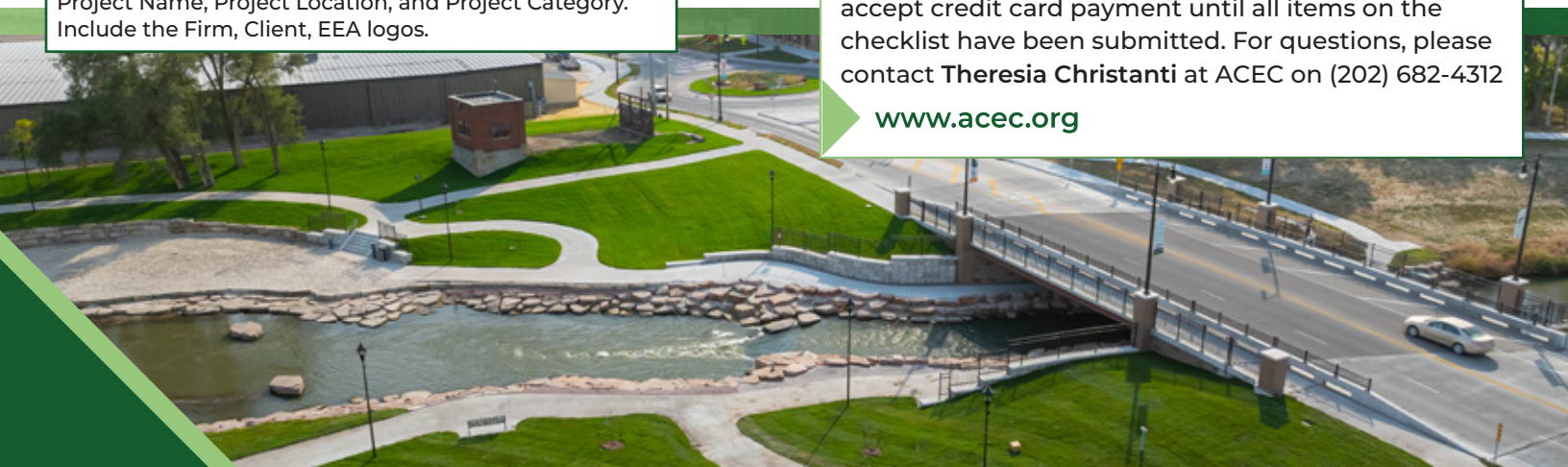
☐ Have I included as many quantifiable outcomes as feasible to accurately portray the narrative of this project? For example, data points related to energy savings, number of people impacted by the project, etc.

☐ Please be sure the contact listed on the Official Entry Form will be available on Tuesday, January 12, 2027. (Calls will only be made if there are clarifications or additional information required for your submittal)

☐ If this is a Category A submission, have I uploaded supplemental report documentation?

NOTE: The EEA Online submission system **will not** accept credit card payment until all items on the checklist have been submitted. For questions, please contact Theresia Christanti at ACEC on (202) 682-4312

www.acec.org





2027 EEA SUBMISSION CHANGES

ACEC ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**The following represents highlighted changes to the EEA submission process.
Please refer to the Official 2027 Call for Entries Brochure for specific submission guidelines.**

- ▶ For the National Competition, the Senior Executive/ Principal submitting firm is required to sign the Copyright Addendum, granting ACEC a worldwide, irrevocable, sublicensable license to reproduce, publish, distribute, create derivatives of, and otherwise use the submitted materials at its discretion. This includes but is not limited to use in ACEC and third-party publications, websites, displays, or for promotional or educational purposes. You acknowledge that ACEC may use the materials with or without credit to you. Please refer to the Copyright Addendum on the Official Entry Form (marked "SAMPLE") on the last page of the Call for Entries brochure.
- ▶ Photographic Digital Panel File: Must include Firm name, Client, Project Name, Project Location, and Project Category. Include the Firm, Client, EEA logos. Files must be submitted in high-resolution (300 dpi) PDF and JPG formats in RGB color. These panels are an essential part of the entry and must meet the requirements outlined in the 2027 Call for Entries.
- ▶ Projects from around the world are eligible for submission and may compete at the National level, provided the submitting firm whether a member or non-member of ACEC is based in the United States. Projects constructed outside of the United States should be evaluated solely on their merits, without regard to location. Studies and Research (Category A) or Surveying and Mapping projects (Category D) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between Nov. 1, 2024, and Oct. 31, 2026. Construction of projects (Categories B through L with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between Nov. 1, 2024, and Oct. 31, 2026.
- ▶ The firm and project name should not exceed 80 characters.
- ▶ Project description must include budget information and Summary. Do not reference other awards the project has won.
- ▶ Category J – Small Project: Construction budget not exceeding \$5 million.
- ▶ Have I included as many measurable results as possible to effectively convey the story of this project? For example, data points related to energy savings, number of people impacted by the project, etc.
- ▶ ACEC will be producing the physical display panels for the Grand and Honor Award winners, each measuring 30" x 30" square, for the ACEC Convention and Gala event in Washington, D.C.
- ▶ An eight (8) slide PowerPoint Presentation contains: One (1) title slide that must include Firm name, Client, Project Name, Project Location, and Project Category. Include the Firm, Client, EEA logos, followed by: Six (6) slides which include photos 1 through 6 (same photos as Item #6; Refer to Call for Entries on page 6), and captions for each photo. Do not include caption/text on the photo. One (1) additional slide that contains the photographic display panel. Accepted file format is PowerPoint (PPT or PPTX) only. This presentation will be used by the judges as part of their evaluation. Do not include sound, transition effects, animations, present timing, or slide show sequencing. A sample PowerPoint presentation is downloadable from the ACEC website.
- ▶ A project may be entered only once by the entering firm in any category. The same project may be entered in a different category by a different entering firm.
- ▶ **ACEC also highly recommends joint-award submissions whenever multiple firms collaborate on the same project.**
- ▶ For national projects, entries should be submitted in the state where the majority of the work was performed. Projects built outside the United States (International projects) should be judged solely on their quality and merits, regardless of location.
- ▶ If a project was entered in more than one MO competition, or if the same project is submitted separately by two or more firms, the affected MO(s) must decide how to enter the project and its firms. We strongly encouraged those firms to form a joint venture before submitting to the ACEC National EEA competition.
- ▶ The EEA National competition is judged by an independent panel of experts whose selections, as governed by the EEA National judging process, are irrefutable.
- ▶ In any given year, a project entry may be submitted to the ACEC National EEA competition through only one state MO.
- ▶ ACEC will use the information you provided in the system or on official entry form as the official source for preparing Gala, publicity content, and other communications.
- ▶ Key Participants and Media List must be submitted in an Excel File, not in a PDF format.
- ▶ Deadlines
 - ✔ Project eligibility: between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2026
 - ✔ Submission deadline: January 6, 2027
 - ✔ Judging: February 19-21, 2027
 - ✔ EEA Gala: April 20, 2027
- ▶ On **Tuesday, January 12, 2027** (calls to entrant will only be made if there are clarifications or additional information required for your submittal).



2027 EEA SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

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EXCELLENCE AWARDS

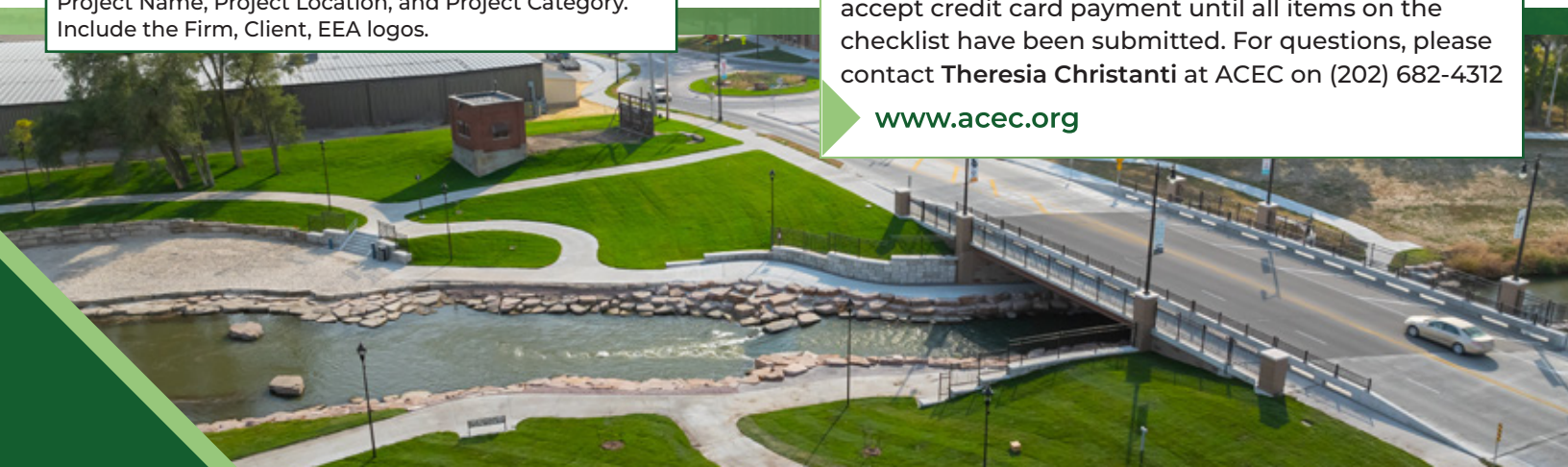
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