



2026

# Call for Entries

ACEC *ENGINEERING*  
*Florida* *Excellence*  
AWARDS

# ACEC *Excellence* ENGINEERING AWARDS

Florida



**G**ain the exposure your firm deserves for innovative engineering projects by entering the American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida's (ACEC Florida) Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition. For a modest investment in materials and time, you can produce a marketing tool that will augment your business development efforts. ACEC Florida enhances your efforts through its public relations campaigns on behalf of all participants.

Projects are rated on the basis of their uniqueness and/or innovative applications; future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public; social, economic, and sustainable design considerations; complexity; and successful fulfillment of client/owner's needs, including schedule and budget.

For more than 50 years, hundreds of consulting engineering firms have entered their most innovative projects and studies in state competitions. Finalists move on to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Firms who earn an award in the ACEC Florida EEA competition achieve a win/win result: winners receive exclusive acknowledgment at the annual ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet. While participation in the EEA competition generates excitement for consulting engineers and their staff, the honor contributes to client appreciation and business development efforts.

Presented by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC Florida)

## ELIGIBILITY

Any Florida firm engaged primarily in the practice of consulting engineering and registered with the Florida Board of Professional Engineers is eligible to enter.

## GENERAL CRITERIA

*Please read all requirements carefully.*

**1** Each entry must address four components: (1) Official Entry Form; (2) Client/Owner Letter; (3) Executive Summary; and (4) PowerPoint Presentation. Non-compliance with these requirements will automatically disqualify an entry.

**2** Submit your entry in any one of the 13 categories (listed on page 3). The entering firm must select one category that is most appropriate. A project may be entered only once in a category. However, after a project entered in Category A has been constructed, it may be entered in a different category (B through M) in the year when eligible.

**3** You may enter award-winning engineering achievements from other design award competitions.

**4** You may enter any project executed from a Florida firm office. The client must have publicly disclosed Studies and Research (Category A) between November 1, 2023, and October 31, 2025. Eligible construction projects (Categories B through M with exception of D) include those substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2023, and October 31, 2025.

**5** Firms wishing to participate in the national ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards competition *must* compete for and win a Grand Award in the ACEC Florida state competition.

**6** ACEC Florida streamlined its submission rules (1) to attract all projects worthy of consideration for an Engineering Excellence Award and (2) to ensure that jury members have adequate time to evaluate each entry. Firms whose projects are selected as ACEC Florida Grand Award winners must then complete a more thorough ACEC submission for consideration in the ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards program. Neither ACEC Florida nor ACEC takes responsibility for any damage or loss to an entry once ACEC Florida has received it. Participation in the ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards program is optional for all Grand Award recipients. The entry process requires additional application fees.

## CATEGORIES

### 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 Stormwater

- ☐ Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal
- ☐ Residuals management and reuse
- ☐ Graywater systems
- ☐ Combined Sewer Overflows
- ☐ Mine tailings
- ☐ Agricultural
- ☐ Stormwater 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 ecosystem 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 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

### CATEGORY M:

#### Geotechnical Engineering

- ☐ Shallow and deep foundations (buildings and roadways)
- ☐ Dams, levees and earthen structures
- ☐ Retaining walls, MSE walls and other retaining structures
- ☐ Municipal and industrial landfills
- ☐ Ground improvement and remediation
- ☐ Geo-environmental studies
- ☐ Pavement design and analysis
- ☐ Construction materials testing and inspection

## JUDGING

Judges will use the rating guidelines listed to evaluate entries for overall engineering excellence in each of 13 categories. ACEC Florida will notify winners.

## AWARDS

At their discretion, the judges may award an ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Grand Award in each category depending upon the number of entries received. The judges may also award a Florida Grand Conceptor Award to one Grand Award project they deem best overall engineering achievement. ACEC Florida Grand Award winners and their clients will receive framed certificates. Winning projects and their firms will receive recognition at a special awards ceremony during the Annual ACEC Florida Banquet. This event honors the partnerships between engineers

and clients. ACEC Florida will announce the Grand Conceptor Award at the awards ceremony. Award winners can order duplicate certificates or awards from ACEC Florida at an additional cost.

## PUBLICITY

ACEC Florida values your participation in the Engineering Excellence Awards program. Besides gaining recognition and prestige among peers, winning firms can derive considerable public relations and marketing benefits from these activities.

ACEC Florida will send a press release to local media and to local, state, and national business and engineering publications. Winning projects will also receive featured space in *Engineering Florida*, the *ACEC Florida Update*, and website.

## Questions?

**Contact:**  
Meridith Glass

**Phone:**  
850-224-7121

**Email:**  
[mglass@fleng.org](mailto:mglass@fleng.org)



## SCORING CRITERIA

### 1 ORIGINAL OR INNOVATIVE APPLICATION OF NEW OR EXISTING TECHNIQUES ..... 20%

- Does the entry demonstrate use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
- Does the entry represent a unique application of different technology techniques, materials, or equipment?

### 2 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?

### 3 SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, & 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 welfare of the public or affected environment?

### 4 COMPLEXITY ..... 20%

- Did the entry successfully address very complex criteria or unique problems?
- Did the entry overcome extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements?
- Did the entry require use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity to achieve the project's goals?

### 5 EXCEEDING CLIENT/OWNER NEEDS..... 20%

- Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
- Did the entry provide an economical and cost-effective solution?
- How did the final cost relate to the original budget estimate?
- How closely did the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?
- Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?

## 2025 GRAND CONCEPTOR AWARD

HNTB Corporation

Brightline East-West Connector

Client: Brightline Florida



Photos provided  
by HNTB



# ACEC *Excellence* ENGINEERING Florida AWARDS

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entrants must complete an Intent to Enter Form with the proper entry fee - \$800 for ACEC Florida members and \$1,600 for non ACEC Florida members - by the deadline: **September 19, 2025**. Submitted digital materials must adhere to the following criteria. ACEC Florida will not forward to judges extraneous materials or materials that do not meet the submission requirements.

### COMPETITION ENTRY

1. ☐ Official Entry Form
2. ☐ Owner/Client Letter
3. ☐ Executive Summary
4. ☐ PowerPoint presentation in PDF format
5. ☐ Submit 1-4 in PDF format online at:

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

**Deadline is October 10, 2025**

*Note: In addition to these four components, entries in Category A must also submit one copy of a Supplementary Report containing findings portrayed with graphs, drawings, etc.*

Specific instructions for the four main components:

1. Completed **Official Entry Form**. The engineer or surveyor and client/owner must *all* sign the Official Entry Form verifying the submitted project's substantial completion date occurs between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025.

*Note: This is the ONLY item that will list firm name(s) of the consultant or subconsultants.*

2. A one-page original **Client/Owner Letter**, addressed to ACEC Florida by the client. This letter must describe the relationship the client/owner had with the entrant in development of the project and how it exceeded the client/owner's needs. This will need to be uploaded as a PDF.

*Note: Do not have your client mention your firm's name or include any graphics in the client/owner letter.*

3. The original **Executive Summary** - one page; 8.5" x 11" - with 1" side margins; double-spaced (minimum 12 point type). The summary must describe the problem and solution in text format. Project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page. Document must be submitted in PDF format.

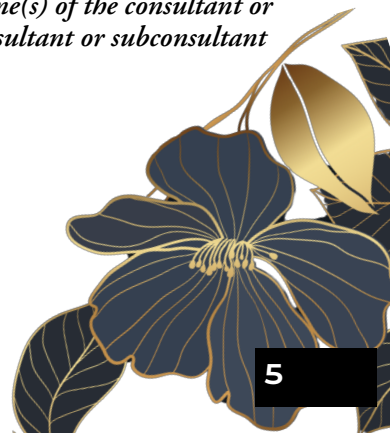
*Note: Do not mention your firm's name or include any graphics in the Executive Summary.*

4. A widescreen (16:9) formatted **PowerPoint presentation** in PDF format. The PowerPoint presentation is not to exceed 15 slides (ACEC Florida will discard additional slides), must address A, B, and C as listed below.

Project title and category must appear at the top of each slide. Entrant may use text (minimum 12 point), photos, graphs, etc. Include at least six different photographs or graphics to illustrate the project components. **Three of the photographs must highlight the completed project and provide the highest level of visual impact for publicity. Three of the photographs should display the planning, start-up, and/or construction phases of the project.**

- a. Role of entrant's firm in the project.
- b. Role of other consultants participating in project.
  - List types of subconsultants who performed a substantial portion of the work on this project or who performed innovative techniques that may have been integral in its success.
  - Subconsultant's names should be listed on the entry form only. Do *not* list on the executive summary, client/owner letter, or PowerPoint presentation.
- c. Brief description of the entrant's contribution to the project addressing each of the following:
  - Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques
  - Future Value to the Engineering Profession
  - Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design Considerations
  - Complexity
  - Exceeding Client/Owner Needs. Include budgeted cost, actual cost, scheduled and actual date of completion information from the Official Entry Form.

*Note: Do not list any firm name(s) of the consultant or subconsultants, or include consultant or subconsultant logos or recognizable people.*



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 19, 2025

Intent to Enter and Submission Payment due to ACEC Florida

October 10, 2025

Full submission due to ACEC Florida

November 2025

ACEC Florida EEA Grand and Honor Winners Announced

January 7, 2026

Submittal of Materials due to ACEC by Grand EEA Winners

February 2026

ACEC Florida EEA Award Banquet

May 5, 2026

ACEC Awards Presentation in Washington, D.C.

## INTENT TO ENTER

Complete pages 6 - 7 (where applicable) and email to [mglass@fleng.org](mailto:mglass@fleng.org) by **September 19, 2025**. After the Intent to Enter is received by ACEC Florida, you will be emailed an invoice for the appropriate entry fee. If entry fee payment is not received, your submission will be disqualified.

☐ \$800 per entry for ACEC Florida members

☐ \$1,600 per entry for non-ACEC Florida members

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm Name (to be printed on award)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Contact Entering Project

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client's Name (to be printed on award)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Project (to be printed on award - 45 characters or less)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Project

\_\_\_\_\_  
Category Entered (Letter)

Email form to: [mglass@fleng.org](mailto:mglass@fleng.org)

Subject Line: 2026 ACEC FL EEA Intent to Enter



Complete this form and upload all materials at [eea.acec.org/Florida](http://eea.acec.org/Florida) no later than **October 10, 2025**.

## OFFICIAL 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 \$800 per entry for ACEC FL members (\$1,600 for non-ACEC FL members). **All payments must be submitted online. Online Payment**

**Method: Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover.**

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Name (to be printed as this) \_\_\_\_\_ (limit to 45 characters)

Judge this entry in the following category (**check one**):

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Studies, Research, and Consulting Engineering Services | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Surveying and Mapping Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> G. Water Resources  | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Energy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Building/Technology Systems                            | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Environmental                    | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Transportation   | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Structural Systems                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Waste and Storm Water            | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Special Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> M. Geotechnical Engineering                              |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Small Projects   |   |

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.

## ABOUT THE FIRM(S) SUBMITTING THE PROJECT

Entering Firm(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Firm CEO \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize submission of this project into the American Council of Engineering Companies 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Senior Executive/Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards competition, and authorize publication of its outstanding features, unique aspects, or innovations. I confirm that the project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025.

Client/Owner Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_