

acecfl.org
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2027

CALL FOR ENTRIES

ACEC *Excellence* ENGINEERING
Florida AWARDS





American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC Florida) empowers engineering firms with the knowledge, engagement, influence and recognition to deliver high-impact infrastructure that protects public health and safety, strengthens the economy and enhances the quality of life for all Floridians.

ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Awards

The ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Awards recognize engineering firms for projects that demonstrate exceptional originality, innovation and creativity in designing effective solutions that deliver significant value to clients and communities across the Sunshine State.

Projects that demonstrate remarkable innovation, creative problem-solving, significant contributions to the engineering profession, meaningful value to society, and strong client fulfillment can earn one of three levels of distinction:

- The Honor Award recognizes a project for superior achievement.
 - The Grand Award recognizes a project for outstanding achievement.
 - The Grand Conceptor Award recognizes the single most exceptional engineering achievement of the year.
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Spotlight Your Firm's Best Work

Your firm has invested time, talent and ingenuity in projects that make a difference in the lives, livelihoods and quality of life of Floridians. That work deserves recognition – and the marketing value that comes with it.

An ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Award provides a prestigious third-party endorsement of your firm's expertise and accomplishments. It creates a compelling story that can be used to elevate your brand, celebrate your team, strengthen client relationships, and support future business development.



Showcase Your Team, Your Firm and Your Clients

An ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Award is a win for everyone involved. Your project team earns well-deserved recognition. Your client gets another opportunity to celebrate the project's success. And your firm gains a powerful credential that can support marketing, reputation and business development.

Celebrate Engineering Excellence

The design industry will celebrate excellence in engineering and recognize award winners during a black-tie gala in February. ACEC Florida will also promote winners through various communications channels, including press, online publications and social media.

Critical Deadlines

Pay your entry fee by close of business on **Wednesday, September 30, 2026**, at fes-acecfl.users.membersuite.com/shop/store/

- ACEC Florida Member: **\$800**
- Non-Member: **\$1,600**

Submit your full entry in the online portal by close of business on Friday, October 16, 2026: eea.acec.org/florida

Your firm's best work deserves to be recognized by industry leaders, policymakers and the public. Enter the ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Awards to turn engineering excellence into a competitive advantage.



Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

Any firm primarily engaged in the practice of consulting engineering with an office in Florida and registered with the Florida Board of Professional Engineers is eligible to submit a project.

Project Eligibility

Projects must qualify in one of 13 categories (A-M) and be completed within the eligibility timeframe of November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2026.

Category A

Includes studies, research and non-design services that don't require engineering documents and must have been publicly disclosed within the eligibility timeframe.

Categories B-M

Construction projects that require engineering documents and must have been substantially completed and ready to use within the eligibility timeframe.

Projects may only be entered in **one** category. However, a project submitted in Category A may be eligible for consideration in another category after it's constructed.

ACEC Florida reserves the right to determine and change the category of an entry.

Categories	
A: Studies, Research and Consulting	H: Transportation
B: Building/Technology Systems	I: Special Projects
C: Structural Systems	J: Small Projects
D: Surveying and Mapping Technology	K: Energy
E: Environmental	L: Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities
F: Wastewater and Stormwater	M: Geotechnical Engineering
G: Water Resources	Award-winning engineering achievements from other design competitions are eligible.

Eligibility for the National ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards

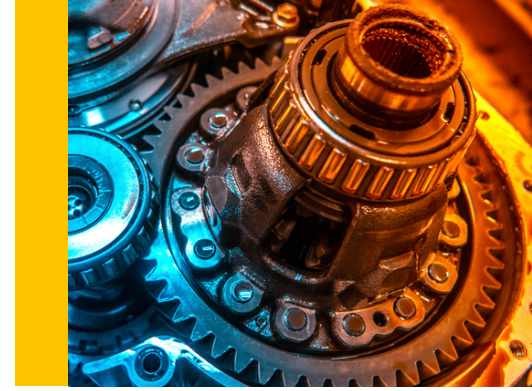
- Only projects that win an ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Grand Award are eligible for a national ACEC Engineering Excellence Award.
- Florida winners will be required to complete a more extensive application to be considered for a national award.
- Participation in the nation awards program is optional for Grand Award recipients. Entry requires additional application fees.
- Please refer to the [ACEC Call for Entries](#) for details on eligibility and process.



Evaluation

Judges

A distinguished panel of judges representing a cross section of engineering fields are convened to evaluate the entries.



Criteria for Evaluating Projects

All projects are evaluated solely on their merits. Projects are evaluated according to the five criteria – complexity, originality and innovation, contributions to the engineering profession and public awareness, societal benefits and fulfillment of client / owner needs. Each category comprises 20% of the overall score.

Complexity

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

Originality and Innovation

- Did the project use a new science or breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
- Did the project employ a unique application of technology, techniques, materials, or equipment?

Contributions to the Engineering Profession and Public Awareness

- Does the project redefine current engineering thinking?
- Does the project advance a positive public image of engineering?
- Does the project increase public awareness and enthusiasm about the value of engineering in everyday life?

Societal Benefits

- Did the project produce secondary benefits for the environment or community?
- Did the project provide social, economic or sustainable development benefits?
- Did the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public?

Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs

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

The judges, at their discretion, may or may not select a Grand Award in each category. The judges may also award a Florida Grand Conceptor Award to one Grand Award deemed best overall engineering achievement.





Submission Requirements

Requirements are strictly enforced. Failure to follow requirements could result in disqualification. Additional materials will not be forwarded to judges.

Tips for Preparing a Winning Submission

Use measurable results and quantifiable data wherever possible to demonstrate the project's impact and tell its story. Examples may include energy savings, cost reductions, increased efficiency, project performance metrics, and the number of people or communities positively impacted by the project.

Format

- Entries must be submitted electronically in our online portal.
 - All documents must be provided as a PDF.
 - All documents, including the Letter from Client/Owner, Executive Summary and PowerPoint, must use a minimum 12-point font.
 - Letter from Client/Owner and Executive Summary must be one page on 8.5" x 11" size paper with one inch (1") side margins.
 - PowerPoint must be formatted as widescreen (16:9) and not exceed 15 slides. Additional slides will not be shared with judges.
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Required Components

Entry must include these components:

1. Official Entry Form
2. Letter from Client/Project Owner
3. Executive Summary
4. PowerPoint Presentation
5. Supplementary Report containing findings portrayed with graphs, drawings, etc. for entries in Category A

Specific Requirements

The Letter from Client/Owner, Executive Summary and PowerPoint Presentation must **not** include the firm name(s), logo(s) or photo(s) of people for consultants or subconsultants. **Only** the Official Entry Form should include firm names, consultants and subconsultants.

- 1 Official Entry Form must be signed by the engineer and client/owner affirming date of completion. The Official Entry Form is the **only** component of the application that can list the names of firms, consultants or subconsultants.

- 2 Letter from Client/Owner must:
 - Be signed by client/owner
 - Provide the project title and entry category
 - Describe the relationship between the entrant and client/owner in the development of the project and how it exceeded the needs of the client/owner
 - Be addressed to ACEC Florida, P.O. Box 750, Tallahassee, Florida 32302
 - **Not** include photographs or graphics

If you are unable to provide a client/owner letter, please submit other documentation confirming that the client/owner has approved the project to be considered for an award.

- 3 Executive Summary must:
 - Provide the project title and entry category at the top of the page
 - Describe the problem and solution
 - **Not** include photographs or graphics

- 4 PowerPoint Presentation must:
 - Provide the project title and entry category at the top of the slide
 - Include descriptions of:
 - The role of entrant in the project,
 - Types of subconsultants who performed substantial work or employed innovative techniques that contributed to the success of the project, and
 - How the project and the firm met the judging criteria.
 - Include at least six different photographs or graphics to illustrate the project, specifically:
 - Three photographs of the planning, start-up, and/or construction phases of the project.
 - Three photographs of the completed project that can be used for publicity.
 - Include budgeted and actual cost and scheduled and actual date of completion.

ACEC Florida is not responsible for any damage or loss of any component of an entry.



Program Calendar

2026

September 15 **Call for Entries Open**

September 30 **Deadline to Submit Preliminary Entry and Fee to ACEC Florida**

October 16 **Deadline to Submit Full Entry to ACEC Florida**

November **ACEC Florida Grand and Honor Awards Announced**

2027

January 6 **Deadline to Submit Full Entry to ACEC**

February **ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Awards Gala, Orlando**

February 19-21 **ACEC Judging Event**

April 20 **ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Gala, Washington D.C.**

Recognition and Exposure

- Project featured in Engineering Florida
- Recognition at the ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Awards Gala in Spring 2027
- Engraved Award for Honor and Grand Winners
- Professional photograph of winning firm receiving Award onstage
- Opportunity for Grand Winners to compete in the ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards
- Inclusion in statewide ACEC Florida press release
- Project and firm featured in ACEC Florida communications, including website and social media
- Dedicated social media posts for all Honor and Grand winners

