2027 Engineering Excellence Awards

CALL FOR ENTRIES

by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas

ACEC *Arkansas*

2027 Engineering Excellence Awards

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Achieving Recognition

ACEC/A's 2027 Engineering Excellence Awards competition offers the opportunity to showcase the year's best engineering achievements to an audience of clients, peers, and decision-makers at all levels. The EEA Banquet celebrates, with pride and elegance, the outstanding achievements of the engineering profession.

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas's annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition recognizes engineering firms for projects demonstrating high achievement, value, and ingenuity.

Again this year, engineering firms are entering their most innovative projects and studies for the state competition conducted by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas (ACEC/A).

EEA entries are accepted into one of 12 project categories: Studies, Research, and Consulting Engineering Services; Building/Technology Systems; Structural Systems; Surveying and Mapping Technology; Environmental; Water and Wastewater; Water Resources; Transportation; Special Projects; Small Projects, Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities; and Energy.

Awards are given for large projects with construction costs greater than or equal to $500,000 and one for small projects with construction costs less than $500,000 for each of the categories except Category A.

Project entries must be designed by engineers located in Arkansas.

A distinguished panel is convened to judge the projects. These professionals may have backgrounds in engineering, architecture, state and federal government, media, academia, and military. The panel evaluates projects for engineering excellence and then selects winners for each subcategory. One Grand Conceptor Award is chosen from among the other award winners.

All submitted projects are rated on the basis of uniqueness and originality; future value to the engineering profession; social, economic, and sustainable development considerations; complexity; and successful fulfillment of the client/owner's needs, including schedule and budget.

ACEC/A's Engineering Excellence Awards provide firms an opportunity to obtain statewide recognition and to showcase their talent and expertise at a prestigious awards ceremony.



Eligibility

Any Arkansas engineering or surveying firm, or any firm joint venturing with an Arkansas firm, is eligible to enter the awards program, whether or not the firm is a member of ACEC/A.

Judging

Entries are judged on the basis of overall engineering excellence in each of 12 categories. Entries are judged on the basis of the work performed by the entering firm according to the rating guidelines listed. Winners are notified prior to the EEA Banquet, except for the Grand Conceptor Award, which will be announced at the banquet.

Awards

The panel of judges may grant up to 23 awards, two in each category (except in Category A), and one Grand Conceptor Award, at its discretion. The Grand Conceptor may come from any of the 12 categories and will be presented as the top state winner selected by the judges, whose decisions on all awards are final. Awards will be presented to the clients/owners and the entering firm submitting the winning entries.

Publicity

Thepublicrelations and marketing value of participation in the state Engineering Excellence Awards program is considerable. All state winners are highlighted in Building Arkansas magazine. Each entry is recognized at the awards banquet. The ACEC/A staff contacts the local media to announce winners and their awards. Winners are also published on the ACEC/A website at www.ArkansasEngineers.org.

Categories

There is asmall and large project entry level for each category, except project Category A, which has no project size criteria. The small project subcategory is for projects with construction costs below $500,000.

Entrants will receive a $100 discount for submitting in the small projects subcategory.

**Please note that these requirements are for the state competition, which closely reflect national requirements. If you choose to submit your project for national competition, there is a separate brochure and entry form.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

ACEC Arkansas

Rating Guidelines for Judges

25%	Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques
20%	Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public
15%	Social, economic, and sustainable design considerations
20%	Complexity
20%	Exceeding client/owner needs
100%	**Total**

DEFINITIONS OF RATING GUIDELINES

1. Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques:

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 new or existing technology, techniques, materials, or equipment?

2. Future value to the engineering profession:

Does the entry advance the state of the engineer's art?

Does the entry advance a positive public image of engineering excellence?

3. Social, economic, and sustainable design 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 entry successfully address very complex criteria or unique problems?

Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements present?
Did the entry require the use of out-of-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?

5. Exceeding client/owner needs:

Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?

Does the entry comply with and justify its original concept?
Is it an economic and cost-effective solution?

How did final cost relate to original budget estimate?

How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?

Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?

CATEGORY A

Studies, Research, and Consulting

Non-design services including, but not limited to:

- New Products, Materials, and Technologies
- Expert Testimony
- Base Research
- and Shodwe
- Computer/Software Technology
- Technical Papers

None of the projects entered in Category A are involved with the preparation of construction documents.

CATEGORY B

Building/Technology Systems

- Mechanical/Electrical
- Computer/Technology
- Communications
- Acoustics
- Software Systems
- Energy Efficiency - New and Retro

CATEGORY C

Structural Systems

- Foundations
- Tunnels
- Buildings
- Seismic Design
- Towers
- Bridges
- Sports Facilities

CATEGORY D

Surveying and Mapping Technology

- Geometries, ALTA Land Title, and Rights Surveys
- Control, GPS, Monitoring, or Construction Surveying
- Survey Mapping, GIS, and Photogrammetry

CATEGORY E

Environmental

- Hazardous Waste
- Solid Waste
- Restoration/Reclamation
- Air Quality
- Noise

CATEGORY F

Water and Wastewater

- Wastewater Collection/ Treatment and Disposal
- Residuals Management
- Storm Water Management
- Erosion Control

CATEGORY G

Water Resources

- Hydraulics and Hydrology
- Irrigation

CATEGORY H

Transportation

- Highways
- Railroads
- Airports
- Marine/ports
- Public Transit
- Intermodal Facilities

CATEGORY I

Special Projects

- Safety and Security
- Corrosion Protection
- Program and Construction Management
- Land Development
- Recreational Facilities

CATEGORY J

Small Projects

- Total project construction budget does not exceed $2.5 million
- Total project investment under 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
- Reduction Programs
- 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

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS & CHECKLIST

This section describes all required submission materials for entering the 2027 ACEC/A Engineering Excellence Award competition. Each entry is required to be submitted and paid for digitally by the **November 30, 2026** deadline. All materials must be submitted as designated below.

ALL required materials to be digitally submitted at: https://eea.acec.org/arkansas.

Project Information Submittal

1. **Official Entry:** The engineer or surveyor and client/owner must all sign the original Official Entry Form stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026.
2. **Executive Summary**: (One page: 8.5" x 11" with 1" side margins) describing the problem and solution. Project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page.
3. **Project Description:** Five pages or less (8.5" x 11") addressing a, b, and c as listed below. The project title, category, and page number should appear at the top of each page. Entrants may use text (minimum 12 point), photos, graphics, etc.
   a.
   b. Role of entrant's firm in the project
   c. Role of other consultants participating in the project
   Brief description of the entrant's contribution to the project addressing each of the following as an example:
   - 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 the actual cost and actual date of completion information from the Official Entry Form.
4. **100-word project summary**
5. **Key participants:** In an Excel spreadsheet, list the project's key participants, such as contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects, and designers involved. Include each participant's firm name, address, phone number, and email address.
6. **Photographs:** Six different photos or graphics (one per page) with captions describing the subject matter. Captions shall begin with: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc. Specifications: JPEG file; RGB format; High Resolution (300 dpi) and included in a PowerPoint.

CHANGES TO EEA SUBMISSIONS FOR 2027

Back by popular demand - we will once again have display panels at the EEA Gala. Please pload the print-ready display panel PDF like all other submission requirements and ACEC will handle the rest! A $40 fee has been added to the entry cost, which will be used to handle printing and production of the panels to be displayed at the awards banquet.

An eight (8) slide PowerPoint Presentation contains:
(1) title slide with EEA logo, firm name, project name, project location, city and state, 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. Plus one (1) 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.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.

Photographic Display Panel

You will no longer be required to print and ship display panels. The 30" x 30" panels will be displayed for judges and at the awards banquet. Panel text and photos should demonstrate the challenges, solutions, and innovative uniqueness of key project elements. Each panel should be prepared with high-quality photos and graphics and minimal text.

- High Resolution JPEG file should be inserted into the PowerPoint
- Please use 24-point type or larger for text and/or descriptions
- Title and location of the study or project, client/owner's name and location, and entering firm's name and location (minimum 24-point type) should be shown on the front of the panel.
- Additional reference to the firm's name may be made within the text on the panel.

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2027 EEA Submission Checklist

Before submitting, make sure you have included the following according to the specifications above:

- ☐ **Official Entry Form:**
  - ☐ Signature of Firm's Principal
  - ☐ Signature of Client/Owner
- ☐ **Project Information Submittal:**
  - ☐ 1 PDF containing sections 1-4
  - ☐ **Project Photograph - TOP SIX PHOTOS**

    (for marketing purposes only) SUBMITTED IN POWERPOINT FILE ONLINE**.**
- ☐ **Project Submission Fee**
- ☐ **Complete "Key Participants" as a separate document (download at the link below). You must complete and upload with the following information:**
  - ☐ Contact First and Last Name
  - ☐ Firm Name **MUST MATCH ON ALL MATERIALS**
  - ☐ Category, Size, Project Name, Email, Phone Number

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 30, 2026
Submitted materials to compete in state EEA competition must be received by ACEC/A.
(*Deadline to submit for nationals is January 6, 2027.)*

January 2-15, 2027
Judging will be held.

January 16, 2027
Winners will be announced,

January 16, 2027
Registration for event opens.

March 11, 2027
EEA Gala
Chenal Country Club, Little Rock, AR
6pm - 9pm

All materials submitted for judging in the state competition become the property of ACEC/A and may be used in future publications.

Furnish all information requested below for each entry. Firm, project and client typed or printed as they are to appear on the award. Please limit the project name to 35 characters. A fee of $475 per entry for ACEC/A members ($875 for non-ACEC/A members) must be paid during the digital submission process. (Small project entries are $375 for members and $675 for non-members). **NOTE: Submissions are not considered final until payment step has been completed in the online submission process.**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Name(Limit: 35Characters) _____

Judge the Entry in the Following Category (check one): ___ Small Entry Level ___ Large Entry Level

___A. Studies, Research, and Consulting Engineering Services
___B. Building/Technology Systems
___C. Structural Systems
___D. Surveying and Mapping Technology
___E. Environmental
___F. Water and Wastewater
___G. Water Resources
___H. Transportation
___I. Special Projects
___J. Small Projects
___K. Energy
___L. Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities

Project Location: Address (no P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Complete Relative to the Entrant's Portion of the Project: (Budgeted and/or actual costs may not apply to some studies in Category A)

Completion/Use Dates: Scheduled _____ Actual _____

Category A Costs: Budgeted $ _____ Actual _____

Construction Costs: Budgeted $ _____ Actual _____

ABOUT THE FIRM(S) SUBMITTING THE PROJECT

EnteringFirm(s) _____

Firm Representative _____ Title of Representative _____

Address (no P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (___) _____ Cell (___) _____ Fax (___) _____

Email _____

I hereby authorize submission of this project in the American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas' 2025 ACEC/A Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Senior Executive/Principal _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Address (no P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (___) _____ Cell (___) _____ Fax (___) _____

Email _____

ABOUT THE CLIENT/OWNER(S) SUBMITTING THE PROJECT

Client/Owner(s) _____

I currently 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/A 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, 2024 and October 31, 2024.

Client Owner/Representative Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Address (no P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (___) _____ Cell(___) _____ Fax(___) _____

Email _____

ALL required materials to be digitally submitted by November 30, 2026 at: eea.acec.org/arkansas

- **Project Information Submittal:** 1 PDF(Containing all sections(1-5) of the project information submittal.)
- **Project Photography: TOP SIX PHOTOS (for marketing purposes) SUBMITTED IN A POWERPOINT FILE**
- **Project Fee:** Payment will be the final step of submission. Entries will not be considered final until the payment step has been completed in the online submission process.

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