

## **2012 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

### **Official Call for Entries**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey (ACECNJ) invites you to participate in its 41st annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) Program. The EEA celebrates with pride the outstanding achievements of professional engineering companies.

#### **THE PROGRAM**

The goal of the program is to convey to public and private sector clients, the media and the general public, the contributions that engineering firms make to society and to their local communities through exceptional engineering, planning, design and construction. In addition, member firms have an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of enlightened clients, and to recognize individuals who have provided the innovative thinking and leadership that make a project successful. The EEA Program is a true celebration of the contributions made by engineering firms.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Any engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the awards program, whether or not the firm is a member of ACECNJ.

#### **JUDGING**

A distinguished panel of judges including professional engineers, architects, educators and members of related industries will assess each project based on the entry materials and taking into account the following Rating Guidelines.

It cannot be emphasized enough that the Executive Summary and Project Description should be written to clearly address each of the Rating Guidelines.

#### **RATING GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING**

1. Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques	20%
2. Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public	20%
3. Social, economic and sustainable design considerations	20%
4. Complexity	20%
5. Exceeding client/owner needs	20%
Total	100%

## **RATING GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS**

### **1) Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques:**

- Does the entry demonstrate the 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 and Perception by the Public:**

- Will the entry redefine current engineering thinking?
- 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-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?

### **5) Exceeding Client/Owner Needs:**

- Did the entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
- Is it an economical and cost-effective solution?
- How did the final cost relate 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 2012 **ACECNJ** EEA competition. All materials must be submitted as designated below. If, after New Jersey judging, a project becomes eligible for the national ACEC EEA competition, entrants are reminded to be certain to comply with the national “Call for Entries” requirements as found on the ACEC website (<http://www.acec.org/getinvolved/eea.cfm>).

Entries may be submitted through only one Member Organization (MO). That is, if your project is entered into competition through ACECNJ it may not be entered through ACECNY, ACECPA, or another MO.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A complete ACECNJ EEA entry submission includes the following:

### I. OFFICIAL ENTRY NOTEBOOK

Notebook (3-ring, ½” binder, with clear overlay to accommodate print of display panel) must include ONE COPY of the following:

- **ACEC National Official Entry Form**  
Note: If your firm was NOT responsible for the entire project, then the Entrant’s portion of the Total Project Construction Budget should be the amount of the project construction budget your firm was responsible for. This information is about project costs, not firm fees.
- **Endorsement/Release Letter:** the client/owner (*original*)
- **Executive Summary** (*see specifications below*)
- **Project Description** (*see specifications below*)
- **Photos or Graphics:** six different images or graphics (*w/captions and labeled: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc.*)
- **Display Panel:** small print (laser, inkjet, or photo) sized to fit the notebook clear cover overlay.
- **CD-ROM** (*includes JPEGs of Display Panel, Photos, and Graphics. All JPEGs should be high resolution*)
- **Entry fee(s):** Check payable to ACECNJ  
(*\$425 for ACECNJ members and \$1,300 for non-ACECNJ members*)

Please note the following:

1. The Engineer and Client/Owner all must sign the *original Official Entry Form* stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011.
2. The one-page signed **Client/Owner Letter**, addressed to ACECNJ, must describe the relationship the client/owner had with the entrant in the development of the project and how it met or exceeded the client/owner needs.
3. **Executive Summary** – 1 page (double-spaced; 8.5” x 11” with 1” side margins; minimum 12 pt. type) describing the problem and solution. Project/Entry title must appear at the top of the page (*reminder: write-up should address the Rating Guidelines*).
4. **Project Description** – not to exceed 5 pages (8.5” x 11”, 1” side margins) addressing items a, b, c, and d as listed below. Project/Entry title must appear at the top of each page. Entrants may use text (minimum 12 pt.), photos, graphs, etc.
  - a) Role of entrant’s firm in the project;
  - b) Role of other consultants participating in project;
  - c) Brief description of the entrant’s contribution to the project addressing each of the following rating guidelines:
    - Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques;
    - Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public;
    - Social, economic and sustainable design considerations;
    - Complexity;
    - Exceeding client/owner needs. Include total project budgeted cost, total project actual cost, entrant’s portion of the budgeted cost, entrant’s portion of the actual cost, scheduled and actual date of completion information as indicated on the official entry form.
  - d) Describe in layman’s terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (not to exceed 500 words). Explain all factors that comprise the project’s uniqueness such as innovative engineering, challenges, and overall social impact.
5. **A list of the key participants** on the project. Provide firm name, address, phone number, website and email address of each participant. Key participants should include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects and designers involved in the project.
6. **Photographs/graphics** - three photographs/graphics must be of the completed project and provide the highest level of visual impact. The other three photographs/

graphics should display the planning, start-up, and/or construction of the project. Photographic, laser, or ink jet prints are acceptable.

7. Be sure to test your **CD** on different computers to ensure it is not machine dependent. The CD-ROM must be read-only (CD-R).

## II. DISPLAY PANEL

Panel text and photos should demonstrate the challenges, solutions and innovative uniqueness of key project elements. The panel should be prepared **with high-quality photos and graphics with minimal text** (*250 words maximum*).

The display panel should meet the following requirements:

1. Panel shall be 30" x 30" square display mounted on foam board or "Gatorboard." Lamination to protect the surface is a plus; but not required. Framed panels will NOT be accepted.
2. Maximum of 6 photos and/or graphics shall be used on the panel. Each image shall be a minimum of 7" x 5". A background photo is not considered a photograph.
3. Minimum 32 pt. type for text or descriptions and minimum 28 pt. type for captions and graphics.
4. ACECNJ logo, project title, and location of the project, client/owner's name and location, and entering firm's name and location (*minimum 32 pt. type*) shall be indicated on the front of the panel.

## AWARD NOTIFICATION & NATIONAL COMPETITION

Following the judging, ACECNJ will issue award letters to each entrant. ACECNJ has three (3) award categories, listed here in descending order: 1) Grand Honor, 2) Honor, and 3) Distinguished. One firm plaque and one client plaque will be awarded for each project. Awards will be presented at ACECNJ's 41st Annual Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet to be held in March, 2012.

Top rated projects from the New Jersey competition are eligible to advance to the national competition. If your project qualifies you will have the opportunity to submit your project, to be received in National Headquarters no later than January 6, 2012.

New Jersey entry notebooks will be returned to you and must be reviewed to comply with the ACEC National EEA program requirements as described in the ACEC "Call for Entries" document as found on the ACEC website (<http://www.acec.org/getinvolved/eea.cfm>).

It is the entry firm's responsibility to see that entry materials are delivered to ACEC national headquarters by the published deadline.

The submission and entry fee for the ACEC National Awards competition is the sole responsibility of the Member Firm. The ACEC National Awards Dinner will be held on April 17, 2012 in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the ACEC Spring Conference. If, as an eligible firm, you decide not to enter the national competition, please inform ACECNJ.

**Submit entry materials for the ACEC New Jersey competition to:**

ACECNJ  
Attn: Joseph Fiordaliso  
116 Village Boulevard, Suite 200  
Princeton, NJ 08540-5700  
Tel. 609-951-2234

**Direct all inquiries to:**

[eea@acecnj.org](mailto:eea@acecnj.org)

