

# UCA TECHNICAL INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

## Guidelines & Procedures

### OVERVIEW

Nominations for this category of UCA Awards are innovations that have been implemented in tunneling or underground space use projects one year prior to the close of nominations.

An application, process or technology that significantly advanced the capabilities of the underground construction industry to deliver safe, efficient, and sustainable underground solutions.

Technical innovations come in many forms that move forward the current “state of the art” to improve: design, application, processes, etc. and permit improved, safer and more cost- effective projects.

- Increased safety for projects or application of a process
- New or unique use of solutions for an innovative project or process
- Development of design process or construction method to achieve new functions
- Reduces the use of materials or energy and increasing sustainability
- Entries may also be supported by successful use in the laboratory and / or field

### TIMELINE

| Date                                                        | Task                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 1                                                    | Call for nominations due – Issued by Chair for T&UC                             |
| September 15                                                | Nominations open                                                                |
| October 31                                                  | Nominations deadline                                                            |
| December 5                                                  | UCA Award Committee to submit recipient name and citation to Awards Coordinator |
| December 8                                                  | Awards Coordinator will submit to UCA Executive Committee                       |
| March issue <i>Tunneling &amp; Underground Construction</i> | Award recipients announced                                                      |
|                                                             | Award will be presented at the Cutting Edge Conference                          |

### NOMINATIONS & ELIGIBILITY

Nominations should be submitted online by the membership-at-large to the Awards Committee and should include:

- A brief description of the innovation.
- Nominees and their contributions to the innovation.
- A statement as to why the innovation is deserving of the award, including specific attributes as to why this innovation is outstanding.
- A minimum of three nominations need to be received and evaluated for each award in order to select a winner.
- Current voting members of the SME Board of Directors, SME Division Executive Committees, or Award Committees, are NOT eligible for any awards that they are responsible for approving during their term, with the exception of “past chair” recognitions.
- No person is eligible to receive more than one SME, UCA or SME/AIME award in a single year.

### SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The Award Committee will recommend to the Executive Committee a recipient they determine best represents the intent of this award. The UCA Executive Committee is required to review and confirm the Awards Committee recommendation.

### AWARD

The UCA Technical Innovation of the Year Award is a plaque engraved with the recipient’s name and year of the award. The recipient will also receive a complimentary registration to the event where the award is given and a one-year UCA membership.

### PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD

The award will be presented at the Cutting Edge Conference.

### FUNDING

All expenses incurred in respect of the Award shall be the financial responsibility of general Underground Construction Division funds.

### AMENDMENTS

These guidelines may be amended by the Award Committee, subject to approval by the UCA Executive Committee. Any such amendments must be reflected in all appropriate award documentation.

### QUESTIONS

Questions may be directed to: Awards Coordinator | 303-948-4200 | [awards@smenet.org](mailto:awards@smenet.org)