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| https://www.smenet.org/getmedia/7adfe3a8-dc46-4716-8818-c497b2c67683/ucalogo.png.aspx?width=340&height=83&ext=.png | **UCA Technical Innovation**  **of the Year**  **Guidelines & Procedures** |  |
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| **Overview** | Nominations for this category of UCA of SME Awards are innovations that have been implemented in tunneling or underground space use projects one (1) 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** | The UCA Technical Innovation of the Year adheres to the following timeline:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Due Date** | **Task** | | August 1st | Call for nominations due – Issued by Chair for T&UC | | September 1st | Nominations Open | | October 31st | Nomination deadline | | November 20th | UCA Award Committee to submit recipient name and citation to Awards Coordinator | | November 30th | Awards Coordinator will submit to UCA of SME Executive Committee | | March T&UC | Award recipients announced | | Award will be presented annually at the NAT Conference typically held in June or in odd years at the UCA Fall Conference | | | |
| **Nominations** | 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. This should include specific attributes as to why this innovation is outstanding.   If assistance is needed with the online application, please contact UCA staff at [awards@smenet.org](mailto:awards@smenet.org) or call UCA Customer Service at 303-948-4200. | |
| **Administration** | The UCA Award Committee and of UCA of SME staff will administer this award under the direction and supervision of the UCA Executive Committee |
| **Selection of Recipients** | After nominations have closed, the UCA Award Committee will be notified that nominations are ready for review. Once notified they will login at smenet.org and view all nominations and supporting documentation.  The Award Committee will review nominations and select a recipient. The Awards Committee shall consider the quality of nominations and may decline to make a recommendation if there is no qualified recipient. Using their best judgement, 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 to consist of a suitable 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 of SME membership. |
| **Presentation of the Award** | The award is presented annually at the NAT Conference or at the UCA Fall Conference in odd years when the NAT conference is not held.  There may be only one awardee per year. |
| **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  Phone: 303-948-4200  E-mail: awards@smenet.org |