

Overview

Nominations for this category of UCA 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 1 st	Nominations Open
October 31 st	Nomination deadline
November 20th	UCA Award Committee to submit recipient name and citation to Awards Coordinator
November 30 th	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 or call UCA Customer Service at 303-948-4200.

Administration

The UCA Award Committee staff will administer this award under the direction and supervision of the UCA Executive Committee

Selection of Recipients	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Award	<p>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 membership.</p>
Presentation of the Award	<p>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.</p>
Funding	<p>All expenses incurred in respect of the Award shall be the financial responsibility of general Underground Construction Division funds.</p>
Amendments	<p>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.</p>
Questions	<p>Questions may be directed to: Awards Coordinator Phone: 303-948-4200 E-mail: awards@smenet.org</p>
