

## Robert E. Murray Innovation Award Guidelines & Procedures

### Overview and Eligibility

The Robert E. Murray Innovation Award was established in 2017 to recognize individuals or organizations who advance the mining industry through the implementation of technical innovation. Its primary focus is to award operations or organizations that are changing the mining industry through the inclusion or adaptation of cutting edge technologies and innovative processes.

Eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. The demonstrated application of innovative technologies, especially Preferred Innovative Technologies, resulting in favorably measured commercial results.
2. Innovative technologies are defined as new equipment, processes or systems that result in significant technological improvement to the exploration, economic viability, and extraction of minerals.
3. Preferred Innovative Technologies are defined as technologies that are currently cutting edge in other fields or novel mineral research initiatives.
4. The award will consider Innovation across the full mining cycle from exploration to closure and include ancillary roles such as engineering, construction, supply side and logistics.
5. The pace of advancing the industry through innovation is unpredictable and, therefore, the committee is not obligated to award a recipient every year.
6. Examples might include seafloor mining, space mining, autonomous vehicles, novel drone implementation, mineral processing advances, mineral-economics innovations, etc. They would currently include robotics, autonomous operation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, etc.

### Timeline

The Robert E. Murray Innovation Award adheres to the following timeline:

Due Date	Task
April 1	Call for nominations
June 1	Nomination deadline
June 30	Committee chair provides qualified applications to members of committee
July 15	First round of voting complete; committee chair schedules conference call to discuss results (if needed)
July 25	Second round of voting complete (if needed)
August 1	Recipient name and citation provided to awards coordinator
September 15	Recipient is notified
SME Annual Meeting	Award is presented

## **Nominations**

Should contain the following information:

1. Completed nomination form including demographic and contact information for the nominee and the principal nominator.
2. Letter of support by a person who can speak to the innovation or company/organization that has directly benefited (no longer than 2 pages each).
3. Nominee's biography (150 words or less for publication purposes).
4. Nominee's CV/resume (abbreviated version – 3 page maximum).
5. Additional documentation representing your innovation. (4 page maximum).
6. Appropriate award citation.

All nominations must be submitted online at [www.smenet.org](http://www.smenet.org). Questions can be submitted at [awards@smenet.org](mailto:awards@smenet.org).

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## **Administration**

The Innovation Award is administered by the Robert E. Murray Innovation Award Committee under the direction of the SME staff. The award committee will be made up of one representative from each of the SME Divisions, the current SME President-Elect and a non-voting staff liaison.

Every five years the award committee will solicit and obtain an updated list of Preferred Technological Innovations from the SME Research & Development Committee, Mining Department Chairs Committee, and other appropriate SME committees.

Societal and industrial trends will be reviewed every five years to redefine the list of Preferred Innovative Technologies and the award criteria will be updated to identify the new technologies.

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## **Selection of Recipients**

Recipients of the Robert E. Murray Innovation Award shall be selected by a majority vote by the Committee of the Award, subject to the approval of the SME Board of Directors. The Award need not be presented in any given year if a suitable candidate is not agreed upon.

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## **Presentation of Award**

The Award will be presented at SME's Annual Awards Banquet, held in conjunction with SME's Annual Meeting. Additionally, the Robert E. Murray Innovation Award recipient will be recognized during the meeting and may be invited to present a lecture of his/her choice during the Key Note Session. A good speaker is recommended for a 30 minute lecture.

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## **Award**

- 1) Annual Innovation Lecture at the SME Annual Conference & Expo Keynote session.
- 2) The Robert E. Murray Award shall be a gold-plated medal bearing the likeness of Robert E. Murray with a scarlet and gold attached ribbon, a suitable framed embossed certificate signed by Robert E. Murray, and an engraved plaque with the winner's name, year of the award, and a citation of the service or achievement on which the award is based.
- 3) The award winner will also receive a travel voucher and prepaid registration to attend the SME Annual Conference & Expo including the annual awards banquet.

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**Funding**

All expenses incurred in the administration of the Robert E. Murray Award shall be the financial responsibility of SME and shall be paid from an endowment created specifically for this award and held in escrow by SME. Mr. Robert E. Murray will provide a substantial gift of \$210,000 to create the endowment and administer all aspects of the award.

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**Amendments**

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

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