

CESA AON

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2026

CATEGORIES & CRITERIA

AWARDS BANQUET • 20 AUGUST 2026 • VODACOM WORLD, MIDRAND

CALL FOR ENTRIES & SUBMISSION



CESA is proud to host this annual event, as a platform to showcase the important role that infrastructure plays in the sustainable development and delivery of basic services to society. By designing state of the art infrastructure that stands test of time, the Awards recognize the contribution that engineering practitioners make in the pursuit of excellence in service delivery. The Awards focus on local consulting engineers and their clients who participate in or initiate and deliver infrastructure projects that promote the advancement of technology, the economy and social wellbeing of communities both locally and internationally.

BANQUET FUNCTION

Awards will be presented at a formal banquet on Thursday the 20th of August 2026 at Vodacom World, Midrand, Johannesburg.

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CELEBRATING ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

The CESA Aon Engineering Excellence Awards celebrate and showcase the innovation, quality, outstanding workmanship, and professionalism in the industry.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

PREVIOUS AWARDS WINNERS: <http://cesa.co.za/awards/>

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

Pre-entries close on **Tuesday, 31 March 2026**. Successful Pre-entries will be notified by **14 April 2026**.

Companies that successfully meet the pre-entry criteria will then be invited to submit a full entry. A briefing session will be hosted on the **17 April 2026**.

Full Entry Submission close on **Friday, 5 June 2026**.

COST OF ENTRIES EXCLUDING VAT.

A non-refundable **deposit/ entry fee of R 5 049.00**.

A non-refundable **submission fee of R 16 830.00 per successful award entry**. This entry fee includes one table that seats ten people, at the Awards Banquet.



AWARD WINNER'S CATEGORIES

- **Winner Award** — awarded for Individual Awards, Projects Awards, Media Awards, Business & Development Awards, and Initiative Awards categories. This award is only made when there is more than one submission, all of which are deemed eligible to be shortlisted as finalists in the specific category, from which the highest scoring submission is chosen.
- **Commendation Award** — awarded to a worthy runner-up related to the above or when there is only one worthy submission. This award may also be bestowed on a company or an entrant in the case where they are deemed eligible but where there are no other competitors in the category of submission.
- **Recognition Awards** — awarded by the CESA Board for the Visionary Client and Lifetime Achievement categories.

1 CATEGORY: PROJECTS AWARDS

1. Projects with a value less than R50 Million
2. Projects ranging in the value from R50 Million to less than R250 Million
3. Projects with a value equal to R250 Million to less than R1 Billion
4. Mega Projects - Projects with a value equal or greater than R1 Billion
5. Best International Project
6. Engineering Technology and Innovation:
 - 6.1. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (Wash) Design Excellence Award
 - 6.2. Renewable Energy Systems Design Excellence Award
 - 6.3. Smart Building Systems Design Excellence Award

Engineers and engineering innovation has played a critical role in increasing the health and quality of life in the last century. From developing better water supplies, municipal sewer systems, wastewater treatment plants to the design of buildings to protect us from natural hazards and providing health care. To improved agriculture through water resource development and distribution projects to rapid and dramatic changes in transportation systems – engineers have developed the basic infrastructure on which modern society and economies depend. To providing reliable electricity - engineers play a key role in supporting the growth and development of any country's economy.

The CESA Aon Engineering Excellence Awards celebrate South African-based consulting engineers who are making an impact in the local, regional, or global communities.



Guideline

Projects Entries will be judged on a combination of the following criteria:

1 - 5 Criteria for Project Categories	Points
1) Quality of engineering design	10
2) Ingenuity, originality, and innovation (solution during planning & design and/or solution during construction)	15
3) Management of planning and technical design	10
4) Aesthetics of engineering elements	5
5) Budgetary compliance	10
6) Influence of consulting engineer on Implementability and constructability	5
7) Complexity and sophistication	10
8) Responsibility carried by consulting engineer (risk)	10
9) Sustainability considerations	10
10) Responsiveness to needs of client	15
11) Social impact of the project	10
12) Meeting the client's deadline for completion	5
13) Intercountry Logistics – Challenges and Solutions (only relevant for International Projects)	25
Total	140

6. Engineering Technology and Innovation

6.1. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Design Excellence Award

Award Criteria	Points
1. Complexity of system, incl. Process Engineering aspects	25
2. Overall system efficiency and reliability	15
3. Health and Safety considerations	15
4. Cost effectiveness	15
5. Maintainability	15
6. Environmental considerations	15
7. Intercountry logistics – challenges and solutions (only relevant for International Projects)	25
Total	125

6.2. Renewable Energy System Design Excellence Award

Award Criteria	Points
1. Complexity of system, emphasis on system design aspects as well	25
2. Overall system efficiency and reliability	15
3. Health and Safety considerations	15
4. Cost effectiveness	15
5. Maintainability	15
6. Environmental considerations	15
7. Intercountry logistics – challenges and solutions (only relevant for International Projects)	25
Total	125

6.3. SMART Building Systems Design Excellence Award

Award Criteria	Points
1. Complexity of system	25
2. Energy and Water Efficiency considerations related to Technology	15
3. Resilience to the environment	15
4. Special design aspects and impact	15
5. Comfort, energy efficiency, water use efficiency and (air and/or water) quality	15
6. Global warming reduction considerations.	15
7. Intercountry logistics – challenges and solutions (only relevant for International Projects)	25
Total	125



GUIDELINE

1. Only member firms of Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) are eligible for submission of projects, nominations or entries, except in the category of Media Awards.
2. Member firms are authorized to submit a maximum of two projects per award category, subject to an overall cap of four entries across the six designated project award categories. The judges reserve the right to award a commendation or winner if both projects submitted are from the same member firm
3. Media of the Year Awards are valued based on independent media reports covering CESA and confirmed by the Directorate.
4. Submission for the individual awards are limited to one submission per category per member firm.
5. In the case of projects submitted, the entry must be the original work or an adaptation of another design system, or it must incorporate proprietary design systems.
6. The project or relevant stage of the project forming the subject of the submission, where applicable, must have been completed satisfactorily for the beneficial use by the Owner not more than 24 months prior to the due date for submission (31 March 2026). Projects must have been completed between 29 April 2024 and 31 March 2026.
7. The firm submitting the entry must not be involved in or have any knowledge of any possible litigation or allegations of corruption (project/Initiative/person), dispute or claim involving the entry.
8. All JV projects submissions must include a signed letter of consent from all JV partners. This letter must be submitted together with the pre-entry form. Failure to submit this letter with your pre-entry form will result in your entry being disqualified.
9. There is no prescribed format for the layout of full submissions, but only submissions addressing each of the evaluation criteria will be considered.
10. A written motivation is required, in terms of the 1-2 pages per criteria (not exceeding 25 pages)
11. Other forms of evidence can be submitted in support of the entry.
12. The executive summary must explain all factors that showcase the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced and overall social impact.
13. See Appendix B for Physical Requirements Regarding Material for Awards Entry Submission
14. Content submitted for any award may not be used in more than one category.
15. All submissions are subjected to an impartial judging and moderation process.

EVALUATION OF SUBMISSION

16. Where a specific criterion cannot be evaluated (i.e., certain "soft engineering projects"), a zero score will be assigned for that criterion and the total score adjusted pro-rata.
17. The entries for the CESA Aon Engineering Excellence Awards are evaluated by a minimum of four judges, against a set of uniform criteria, each allocated a certain number of points.
18. The total score achieved by each entry is the sum of the individual judge's scores. The winner is the entry for that category that achieves the highest average score.
19. Any outlier score, varying by more than 20% from the average scores, will be disregarded and the average scores will be adjusted accordingly.
20. All results will be audited and moderated where such latter action is required by CESA CEO and select Managers from the Directorate.
21. The CESA Board determines the winners in the categories, Lifetime Achiever and Visionary Client of the Year.
22. The Board reserves the right to withhold recognition in the categories in Item 21, based on objective, qualitative and strategic considerations in respect of the reputation of the Organisation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ENTRANTS

23. Acknowledgements must be made to the Owner, Contractor and any other design professionals associated with the entry for mention in the Awards Magazine only (refer to Appendix B).
24. The Awards certificate will only indicate the consulting engineer/s and the client/s.
25. Entrants are advised that details of their entry will be published in an industry specific magazine which will be distributed at the Awards Banquet. Members have an opportunity to advertise their projects/firms at their cost in this magazine.
26. The information received by the organisers may be submitted in its entirety to the publisher of the industry specific magazine for inclusion in the publication and entrants should be mindful of submitting information that might be regarded as sensitive or confidential as it will be in the public domain. If you do not want the information to be published, **DO NOT SUBMIT IT UNLESS IT IS A CRITERIA FOR ADJUDICATION!**
27. The Awards may be carried as a separate section within the magazine, or published separately with its own cover, but distributed together with the relevant issue of the magazine.
28. As such, entrants are reminded that the information they submit will be accepted verbatim by the publishers and therefore should be checked and approved by all parties, clients etc., and prior to submission thereof.
29. All JV partners will be mentioned, and their logos included in the Awards Banquet Multimedia presentation and the Awards Magazine unless we are advised to the contrary, in writing. In addition, it is the responsibility of the firm submitting the entry to resolve any issues between the JV partners.
30. Entrants should be aware that their information will undergo an editing process, necessary to ensure that both entrants and category winners can be accommodated in the magazine as well as the Multimedia script.

2.1. CATEGORY: BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

Guideline

Entries or nominations from consulting practices that have achieved a distinguished level of business excellence in all aspects of enterprise, are invited to participate in this category.

Criteria

Entries or nominations received for this category will be judged in accordance with the following criteria / rating guideline:

Award Criteria	POINTS
1. Overall management and leadership of the Firm	10
2. Technical excellence and innovation (demonstrated on projects executed in the last 3 years)	20
3. Financial probity (summary of financial success over the last 3 years, audited financial statements, showing turnover and bottom-line trend)	25
4. Extent to which the Firm embraces Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment	15
5. Mobilisation and optimisation of human resources	10
6. Marketing image of the Firm	15
7. Social impact - Demonstrate social projects	10
8. Extent to which the Firm represents and upholds world class industry standards & International best practice a) Quality - ISO 9001 b) Services / solutions - awarded projects c) Services / solutions - unique niche service offerings d) Anti- Corruption / BIMS e) Sustainability - project and office best practices promoting sustainability	25
Total	130

Submission

- A written motivation is required, in terms of the 8 criteria (not exceeding 10 pages)
- Other forms of evidence can be submitted in support of the entry
- See Appendix B for Physical Requirements Regarding Material for Awards Entry Submission



2.2. CATEGORY: SMALL MEDIUM COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Guideline

CESA recognises the need for development and growth of small firms/practices in the consulting engineering sector. The role of engineers is paramount in effectively and efficiently delivering services and public infrastructure, leading to the creation of employment, and expanding the economy.

This award targets consulting engineering firms with a turnover below R25 million per annum. Previous winners and finalists can be re-nominated.

Criteria

Entries or nominations for this category will be judged in accordance with the following criteria / rating guideline:

Award Criteria	POINTS
1. The company's ability in terms of technical excellence (demonstrated on projects executed in the past 2 years)	30
2. The company's ability to manage its operations effectively and as a sustainable business	20
3. The Company's strategy for the development of Young Engineers for future sustainability	10
4. Examples of projects showcasing the entrant's participation in the project resulting in a beneficial impact on the community it serves	20
5. The company's ability to demonstrate growth in meeting the needs of clients.	20
6. Implementation of an effective Quality Management System	10
7. Implementation of systems to promote proactive integrity and risk management	10
8. Extent to which the Firm embraces Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment	20
Total	140

Submission

- A written motivation is required, in terms of the 8 criteria (not exceeding 10 pages)
- Other forms of evidence can be submitted in support of the entry
- See Appendix B for Physical Requirements Regarding Material for Awards Entry Submission

2.3. CATEGORY: MENTORING COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Guideline

Our future depends on companies creating an enabling mentoring environment for the development of future engineers and leaders.

Criteria

Award Criteria	
1. A documented and structured mentoring policy and process – embedded in the firm's Workplace Development plan	35
2. Records of employees impacted by the mentoring programme, and evidence on progress to date of the programme	15
3. Evidence of mentor's registration and company's commitment and undertaking in accordance with ECSA regulations	15
4. Written reports comprising 300 – 600 words from approximately 5% (but not fewer than 2 reports) of those mentored in the firm detailing their experience that clearly illustrates the effectiveness of the firm's mentoring programme	30
5. Generalised business mentoring and coaching programmes for company staff	25
Total	120

Submission

- A written motivation is required, in terms of the 5 criteria (not exceeding 10 pages)
- Other forms of evidence can be submitted in support of the entry
- See Appendix B for Physical Requirements Regarding Material for Awards Entry Submission



3.1. CATEGORY: YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Guideline

To promote the consulting engineering industry to young professionals, CESA recognises the contribution Young Engineers make to the industry and the future of the profession.

Nominees for this category will be adjudicated according to the following eligibility criteria:

1. The nominee must be younger than 36 years of age on the 1st of January of the year in which the awards are made
2. The nominee must be an ECSA registered candidate or professional engineering practitioner.
3. The nominee must be a member of the CESA YPF
4. The nomination may be made by co-workers BUT must be approved by the head of the Firm
5. In addition, the nominee must be available to serve on CESA's Young Professionals Forum (YPF Executive Committee) for a 12-month period in line with the responsibilities given to them by the YPF Chairperson
6. The nomination must consist of a motivation of the outstanding achievements of the nominee under the following headings:
 - 6.1. Post Matric education achievement
 - 6.2. Technical achievements (project based)
 - 6.3. Career achievements (baccalaureate degree)
 - 6.4. Industry recognition and awards received
 - 6.5. Contribution to, and understanding of, sustainable development and the green economy
 - 6.6. Industry involvement (voluntary organisations / councils / university and research)
 - 6.7. Community involvement and social responsibility
 - 6.8. Leadership ability both within their member firm, and in society in general
 - 6.9. Papers and presentations delivered
7. Member firms are encouraged to hold internal competitions to identify the young professional best suited for the CESA Aon Awards.
8. The entry must include written consent from the nominee and Head of the Firm
9. The entry must include a well-presented and neatly bound report or motivation that is sufficiently comprehensive in describing the nomination. Where relevant, drawings, graphics, tables, and other supporting material must be included. The report must contain as one of its main headings, a clear motivation (not exceeding 10 pages) by the entrant, highlighting the merits of the nomination in terms of the CESA Aon Engineering Awards criteria
10. 3x full length (standing, photo from head to toe) and 3x close up (standing, photo from head to waist) casual & work attire high resolution (minimum 1MB) photographs in jpeg format must be included
11. Other forms of evidence or project photographs or video can be submitted in support of the entry
12. See Appendix B for Physical Requirements Regarding Material for Awards Entry Submission

NB: All nominees will be interviewed between 24 - 26 June 2026 at the CESA offices situated in Paulshof, Johannesburg. Time slots will be allocated closer to the time.



Rating Guidelines for Judging

Award Criteria	POINTS
1. Technical achievement on a Project	20
2. Post matriculation educational achievement	20
3. Career achievements after completion of baccalaureate degree	10
4. Recognition, such as awards received	10
5. Contribution to sustainable development / green economy	10
6. Papers and presentations delivered	10
7. Community involvement and social responsibility	10
8. Leadership skills	15
9. Industry involvement (position held & achievements) – CESA YPF / FIDIC / other ECSA's VAs	15
Total	120

1. Technical achievement on a Project

The nominee is required to show how he / she contributed (within a team or on his/her) to the technical achievement on a Project / Projects. The nominee's role in developing a solution needs to be demonstrated. The explanation needs to include their level of responsibility in the design and implementation, including stakeholder management as well as the complexity of the problem and how the technical achievement added value to the project, community and/or industry.

2. Post matriculation educational achievement

Include all tertiary qualifications, both undergraduate and postgraduate, including those currently in progress. Other notable training that does not necessarily have to be a Degree/ Diploma, should be added.

3. Career achievements after completion of baccalaureate degree

The candidate must demonstrate how their career has developed after completing their bachelor's degree. This can be demonstrated through industry involvement through participation in committees and institutions, growth within the company, participation in academia and development of youth, professional registration etc.

4. Industry recognition, such as awards

5. Contribution to sustainable development / green economy

The candidate must demonstrate how they have supported sustainability and a green economy in a project, within the workplace and in their personal capacity. This could include engineering solutions that were implemented on a project that were driven by sustainability considerations; or personal ideas on sustainable development / green economy etc.

6. Papers and presentations delivered

7. Community involvement and social responsibility

8. Leadership ability of the nominee and his or her contribution to building the image of the firm and the engineering industry in general

The candidate must showcase their leadership ability on a project, within the team and firm. The nominee must also demonstrate how they have contributed to building the image of the firm as well as the engineering industry, in general.

The entrant must showcase their skill at managing a team to successfully produce the necessary deliverables. They must describe any involvement in company mentoring programmes, their involvement in giving technical and self-development talks, committee work, involvement in university work or industry committees.

- 9) Industry involvement (position held and achievements) – CESA / CESA YPF / FIDIC / other ECSA's VAs

3.2. CATEGORY: MENTOR OF THE YEAR

Guideline

This award emphasises the mentorship of young engineers and technologists and recognises the valuable contribution mentors make in the consulting engineering industry.

Mentor of the Year

The entry must contain sufficient evidence to enable the adjudicators to assess the nominee

Award Criteria	POINTS
1. Passion and ability to support and guide young engineering professionals to develop and grow holistically in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Technical competence b. Independent decision making c. Interpersonal relationships and teamwork d. Management competence e. Personal matters that affect the mentee's growth and development f. Understanding the environment in which consulting engineers operate g. Developing a career path 	70
2. Maintaining ongoing contact and interaction with the supervisor/line manager of the mentee/candidate	10
3. Regular documented monitoring of development and growth	20
4. Level of planning to achieve ECSA registration	10
5. Understanding ECSA requirements for candidacy training	15
6. Registration with ECSA as a mentor (yes or no)	15
Total	140

Submission

The nomination must be a well-presented bound document containing:

1. **Please note, firms can only submit one entry for the Mentor of the Year category.**
2. The written consent of the nominee and the head of the firm.
3. A clear motivation highlighting the merits of the nomination in terms of the competition award criteria (not exceeding 10 pages)
4. Testimony of at least three mentees/candidates who have been mentored by the nominee (no more than one A4 page per testimony)
5. Any supporting documents (action plans, 2-5-year mentoring plans, etc.) that the nominee or proposer may wish to submit.
6. 3x full length (standing, photo from head to toe) and 3x close up (standing, photo from head to waist) casual & work high resolution (minimum 1MB) photographs in jpeg format must be included.
7. Other forms of evidence or videos can be submitted in support of the entry.
8. See Appendix B for Physical Requirements Regarding Material for Awards Entry Submission.

3.3. CATEGORY: LIFETIME INDUSTRY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This is a discretionary award to recognise an individual who has contributed significantly to the development and promotion of the Consulting Engineering Industry in South Africa during their lifetime.

CESA Board will consider an individual with a consistent and outstanding track record of no less than 20 years' active involvement in a consulting engineering practice who has provided leadership, commitment, mentorship entrepreneurship with unfailing integrity and professionalism.

The Award may be made to retirees even to the point of recognising individuals posthumously who have made such contribution from the dawn of our democracy in 1994 that may have passed on.

Individual

- 1. Please note, firms can only submit one entry for the Lifetime Industry Achievement category**
2. The nominees shall be visionary who has influenced the shaping of the business of consulting engineering.
3. The nominees shall have achieved great success using their engineering and business acumen to become a leader and trusted advisor in their communities, engineering institutions and client bodies.
4. The nominee must have unquestioned integrity, have displayed visionary attributes, determination to succeed, professionalism, inventiveness, entrepreneurship, individuality, team leadership and selflessness resulting in a pre-eminently high measure of accomplishment in the business of Consulting Engineering according to the judgment of the associates of the nominee and other industry leaders.
5. The nominee must be of such stature in the Consulting Engineering and broader business environment to be an icon in the industry.
6. The nominees shall be or should have been a principal or executive manager in a member firm of CESA for at least 15 years.
7. The nominees shall be a South African citizen (by birth or naturalisation) and an engineering practitioner who has succeeded and achieved major successes in the business of consulting engineering services for a period of no less than 20 years.
8. The nominees shall have an extensive track record about the mentoring of upcoming engineering practitioners and involvement in projects aimed at uplifting the engineering profession and the consulting engineering industry in South Africa.
9. This award shall be given to an individual for exemplary achievement in the business of consulting engineering.

NB: Your nomination must include a written motivation no longer than 4 pages or 1750 words and 3x full length (standing, photo from head to toe) and 3x close up (standing, photo from head to waist) casual & work high resolution (minimum 1MB) photographs in jpeg format.

PREVIOUS AWARDS WINNERS

To view previous award winners please visit: <http://cesa.co.za/awards/>



4.1. CATEGORY: VISIONARY CLIENT OF THE YEAR

Guideline

The **Visionary Client of the Year Award** celebrates exceptional leadership and foresight within the public, parastatal, or private sectors—not limited to infrastructure clients. This prestigious recognition may be awarded for a groundbreaking project or programme, its planning and execution, a completed initiative, infrastructure maintenance, funding strategies, or for creating an enabling environment that drives progress.

A true visionary client is more than a project owner—they are a champion of innovation, engineering excellence, and service delivery. They identify critical challenges and pioneer solutions that advance society, strengthen industry, and contribute to the nation's development. Reputation matters: integrity, transparency, and impact are central to this accolade.

Entrants will be evaluated on their ability to uphold ethical standards, combat corruption, and deliver socio-economic value through job creation, capacity building, transformation of the engineering profession, and ensuring value for money. This award honours clients who set the benchmark for visionary leadership and inspire confidence across the engineering and built environment.

Motivation Guide

Your submission should tell a compelling story of how the potential visionary client of the year has demonstrated vision, leadership, and impact. Use the following points to showcase their achievements in a way that inspires confidence and pride:

- 1. Driving Economic Growth and Job Creation**
Explain how their projects or initiatives have fueled sustainable economic development and created meaningful employment opportunities. Share measurable outcomes—such as jobs created, local businesses supported, or economic value added—that reflect their commitment to South Africa's growth.
- 2. Building Sustainable Communities**
Illustrate how their initiatives have gone beyond infrastructure to create lasting impact. Share stories of skills transfer, knowledge sharing, and community empowerment that ensure sustainability and resilience for generations to come.
- 3. Protecting Lives and Livelihoods**
Demonstrate how their work has enhanced the quality of life for ordinary citizens. Whether through improved access to services, safer environments, or better living conditions, show the human impact of their vision.

4. Opening Doors for Consulting Engineers and Professional Development

Highlight how you have provided real, demonstrable opportunities for consulting engineers and contributed to the growth of engineering and built environment professionals. Emphasize inclusiveness by showing how their efforts have enabled capacity building and transformation.

5. Leading Through Innovation

Showcase your embrace of cutting-edge design and technology. Describe how your projects reflect South Africa's ability to innovate and compete globally. Include examples of unique solutions, advanced technologies and engineering innovation, or creative approaches that set their work apart.

6. Delivering Excellence

Provide evidence of your track record in delivering projects reasonably within the parameters (on time, within budget, and to the highest standards).

7. Upholding Procurement Integrity

Show their commitment to system, which is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost effective:

- Zero tender cancellations
- Minimal validity extensions (no more than once)
- 100% feedback to all bidders—successful and unsuccessful

These practices demonstrate their integrity and respect for industry standards.

8. Ensuring Financial Reliability

Highlight their strong financial governance by showing that at least 80% of payments for engineering services were made on time. This reflects your professionalism and trustworthiness.

9. Managing Risk Responsibly

Confirm your adherence to standard risk management practices, including compliance with reasonably Professional Indemnity (PI) requirements, ensuring accountability and protection for all stakeholders.





Submission and Logistics

- This is a CESA Award for which we are asking member firms to nominate client/s (Public / Private Sector), who promote engineering excellence and are deserving of the honour.
- Nominations must be forwarded to the CESA head office for consideration by the CESA Board.
- Submission must reach the CESA offices no later than **Friday 5 June 2026.**
- Your nomination must include a written motivation no longer than 10 pages or 3,000 words presented in Word format with no more than 10 supporting images attached as high-resolution pictures in jpeg format (minimum 1MB each).
- “Winner/s” of these awards are chosen by the CESA Board
- Nominating firms will be notified of the CESA's Board decision.
- The successful nominee will be announced and acknowledged at the Awards Banquet and in related publications. No mention/recognition will be given to the firms who nominated a client/s and the unsuccessful nominees.
- The firm responsible for suggesting the successful nominee will not be mentioned in any way during the Awards Banquet, or in any subsequent publications.

INITIATIVE AWARDS

5.1. CATEGORY: JOB SHADOW INITIATIVE

The **Job Shadow Initiative and Poster Competition Award** help cultivate future engineers, strengthen South Africa's engineering skills pipeline, and build meaningful industry–education partnerships. It supports CESA's mission to promote engineering excellence and public service by showcasing how firms inspire young people, develop talent, and contribute to national capacity for an infrastructure driven future.

Participation information will be published on the CESA website on 31 March 2026.

APPENDIX A

NB: Heading: You must mention your company name or the JV name, the name of the project and the client (all-inclusive in not more than 150/200 words) exactly as you would like it

Example of Elevator Statement of the project/entry or Script:

In April 2022, KwaZulu-Natal experienced catastrophic floods that severely damaged infrastructure. Three slope failures along the N2 northbound carriageway disrupted this critical route. SANRAL fast-tracked repairs under Emergency Works, with Zutari delivering resilient, cost-effective solutions. The team acted swiftly to safeguard lives and restore mobility, using strong technical expertise, digital tools, and innovation. Complex conditions required cross-disciplinary collaboration to design a durable system for future extreme events. The project stabilised the embankment, improved local roads, and strengthened community connectivity, ensuring safer travel for children during wet seasons and showcasing resilience under pressure.

APPENDIX B

Failure to comply with the full submission entry requirements will result in disqualification.

Requirements Regarding Material for Awards Entry Submission

Entrants must submit the following:

1. **Full Submission** must include an MS Word document and an optional brochure, both meeting exceptionally high standards of excellence.
 - a. Photographs embedded in the full submission document as evidence to criteria must have titles/caption of no more than 50 words, attached to them and be accurately labelled with the projects or aspect of the project which they depict.
2. **Project Names:** Please provide both the short and full versions of the project names.
3. An **Elevator Statement** of the project/entry of no more than 100 words must be included; this will be used to describe your entry in the Award's multi-media production (see Appendix A). **If the submission exceeds 100 words, only the first 100 words will be used for all external communication. Please ensure your company name is consistent throughout your submission.**
4. An **Executive Summary** must also be included describing, in layman's terms, why this project/entry is worthy of special recognition (no more than 1 page or 600 words). NOTE: This summary will provide the basis for all CESA publicity for the project.
5. **Images:** A minimum of 20 separate high-resolution photos are required for each nomination - company or project. The photos must be in a JPG format at 300 dpi resolution or greater and 1MB or greater in size.
6. **MP4 Video/s:** Optional for all categories:
 - a. 2 minutes landscape MP4 Video/s may also be supplied suitable for use in the Awards multimedia preferably in Apple QuickTime (SD format), MPG and DVD footage must be of a very high quality.
 - b. Should you wish to film footage of your project using your cell phone please ensure it is filmed horizontally i.e.: shape of a plasma TV screen
 - c. This is not a requirement and will be used in full or part in the Multimedia at the discretion of the Design Team!
7. All entrants making submissions for the projects category must include their corporate **logos**, including that of the client/s or JV partner/s in JPG format of 1920 x 1080-pixel size minimum 1MB (high-resolution quality).
8. Submission files must be uploaded to the **CESA Aon Awards online platform, and two memory sticks must be delivered to the CESA offices** by 15:30 on 5 June 2026.

**For more information please
contact:**

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