GEOSPATIAL excellence 2023 awards

2023 Nomination Kit

Hosted by

Geospatial
Council of Australia

What are the Geospatial Excellence Awards?

Following the merger of the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute and the Spatial Industries Business Council, the **Geospatial Excellence Awards** are the new name for the Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards (APSEA), hosted by the Geospatial Council of Australia.

While the name has changed, the intent has not – these awards are our opportunity to celebrate the achievements of top geospatial organisations and individuals, showcasing the finest projects and most significant performance of professionals the industry has to offer. Those attaining recognition through this program are deemed to be truly outstanding achievers and pre-eminent in their field.

Previous years have seen an excellent standard of competition, with a diverse range of individuals and small, medium and large private, public and academic sector organisations vying for these prestigious awards.

Key Principles

- Recognise and acknowledge excellence in the geospatial industry.
- Celebrate excellence before an audience of industry peers.
- Encourage activities that create a stronger, relevant and connected industry.
- Congratulate individuals for their contributions to improving the quality of the profession.
- Embrace the achievements of the industry and its related industries and professions.
- See the industry as a whole grow and mature through its achievements in innovation, business and in project management.
- Promote the industry's capabilities to a broader market and the wider community.

Who is eligible to enter?

Nominations are invited from geospatial professionals and organisations either based in or undertaking work in Australia and/or New Zealand.

Industry Awards are open to any organisation — private, public, academic or not for profit — provided the evidence submitted relates to the 18 months immediately prior to the making of the application and relates to geospatial activities. ***Nominations should be submitted in the region the project took place (not the location of head office/staff).***

Organisations of all sizes, from sole traders to large national firms, are encouraged to enter.

Individual awards are open to any individual in the geospatial field, with the exception of the Professional and Future Leader of the Year awards, where nominees **must** also be current individual members or employees of organisation members of the Geospatial Council or members of SSNZ.

Nominations for individual awards should primarily relate to activities undertaken in the 18 months immediately prior to the making of the application.

Please see the **Special Awards** section for specific eligibility guidelines for these.

Fees

There is no charge to enter the awards.

Nominees are however expected to attend their local award dinner, usually held in each awards region. Attendance at these dinners is at the nominee's cost, however ticket prices are kept at a reasonable level to make the events as accessible as possible.

Regional winners will be invited to attend the Gala Dinner at the Geospatial Council National Conference, Locate, in Sydney in May 2024, where the overall winners will be announced. Discounted tickets will be available for finalists.

Please note, the three Special Awards do not have regional finalists and are only presented at the Oceanic level at the Sydney conference Gala Dinner, with the exception of the Hydrography Excellence Award which is presented in the location of the winning entry.

Judging

The judging panels provide expert, objective and independent opinions on the merits of the nominations entered. Panels are established for each category and are comprised of industry peers, associates and advisors from across all regions of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, inclusive of professionals of diverse areas of speciality, experience, gender, ethnicity, race, religion and sexual orientation.

Judges will individually score each nomination in their category based on the criteria listed below, with the highest scoring submission being deemed the winner. Judges will recuse themselves from judging selected nomination/s where there is a conflict of interest.

The judges' decisions are final. No correspondence is exchanged once the decisions are made. **Information about nominees or winners will not be issued or made public prior to the awards presentations.**

Preparing the nomination

We encourage you to consider nominating yourself, a colleague, a peer or a project your organisation has undertaken or been involved with. We are committed to promoting an inclusive and diverse geospatial profession and encourage you to actively consider diversity in your nomination/s.

The organisers have established criteria to assist with the framing of your nomination and word limits have been established. We have aimed to find a process that is not overly onerous for nominators but also provides sufficient information for the judges to make an informed comparison and decision.

Successful nominations use clear, concise language, highlighting key challenges, outcomes and achievements. See below for a couple of links that may assist in the preparation of your award submission:

- Clear, Concise Writing Guide
- https://publicrelationssydney.com.au/how-to-write-an-effective-submission-for-an-award-application/
- https://businesschicks.com/how-to-write-a-killer-awards-entry/
- https://lushthecontentagency.com/blog/write-award-entry/
- Check out the previous winners on the Geospatial Council website – you might know one of them and could ask them to share some hints and tips!

Industry Awards

Some further suggestions are provided below for the industry awards. Typically, winning submissions used all or many of the below:

- Use criteria fields effectively to provide novel insight or information about the project (not a cut and paste of other criteria)
- Are supported by client testimonial or peer review evidence
- Clearly identify the community or market segments directly benefiting from the initiative separately from downstream beneficiaries
- Demonstrate potential as a new geospatial science benchmark or exemplar
- Provide evidence of any claims of the newness of the project's contribution to the industry, either new markets, new products/technology development or application, new approaches to old problems, a new standard of operation
- Provide evidence of measurable benefit to the client/community or ROI
- Clear identification of the outcome that was not able to be delivered without the geospatial technology and information
- Highlight areas of ingenious adaptation of new or existing solutions, innovative application of emerging or developing technologies and the uniqueness of the project.
- Upload high resolution images related to the initiative - where possible, include images of beneficiaries engaging with the initiative
- Include a brief (*30-60 seconds is recommended but there is no limit*) video about the initiative - our experience is that we learn so much more about the initiative when we talk to the entrants, and hear them passionately describing elements of the initiative that didn't shine through in the submission.

    Note the video should be used as supporting evidence to the nomination, not a replacement for written content.

How to submit

Submissions must be made via the **NOMINATIONS PORTAL.**

They should address the criteria for the category entered and include at least one image of the person or project nominated.

A brief nomination summary will be required, as this is utilised as the basis of the award citation should the nomination be successful. Please also **carefully check** the person's, company and/or project name/s before finalising the submission as these are used for certificates and trophies.

Applicants may login and amend/continue their submission up until the final closing date.

Industry Award Categories

- Award for Community Impact
- Award for Environment and Sustainability
- Award for Innovation
  - Small Business
  - Medium to Large Business
- Award for International Partnership
- Award for Geospatial Enablement
- Award for Technical Excellence
- Award for Workforce Development & Inclusion

The word limit for the industry categories is **minimum 500 words and maximum 1500 words,** not including the nomination summary which is a **minimum of 50 words and maximum 100 words**.

Award for Community Impact

The Community Impact award recognises unique contributions the geospatial industry has had on people and communities. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Project description:** Describe the project, technology or solution that has provided a positive impact to local communities.
- **Benefit to communities:** Describe how the project was identified, why the project was undertaken, who were the key actors involved at a community level and its intended or delivered impact.
- **Methodology, verification and reporting:** Describe the rationale for the project, how the initiative has been validated and reported on. Describe any cultural, safety and structural or technical integrity considerations and the rationale for actions taken to address these.
- **Contribution to the field**: Describe how your project showcases emerging or developing technologies or ideas as they are applied to supporting communities.

Award for Environment and Sustainability

The Environment and Sustainability award recognises geospatial products and projects that help to resolve any issue in an environmental context. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Project description:** Describe the timeframe of the project (is it a discrete project or part of a bigger program) relative size (eg FTEs, budget), a brief statement of complexity (multiple stakeholders, unusual constraints), funding source (e.g. client, private, CRC/research, other grant)
- **Benefit to the environment:** Describe why the project was undertaken, including the impact on natural resource management and effect on the balance of the environment.
- **Methodology, verification and reporting:** Describe the rationale for the methodology, how the initiative has been validated and reported on. Describe any safety and structural or technical integrity considerations and the rationale for actions taken to address these.
- **Contribution to the field**: Describe how your project showcases emerging or developing technologies or ideas as they are applied to enhancing environmental or sustainability outcomes.

Award for Innovation

The Award for Innovation is broken into two sub-categories – Small Business (1 – 20 FTE) and Medium to Large (greater than 21 FTE) to allow greater opportunity for all organisation sizes and to assist judges in their assessments.

The Innovation Award recognises a unique delivery of a project, product or service based on a **new** idea, method, technology, process or application resulting in significant social, environmental and/or economic benefits.

Small Business
The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Project description:** What was the purpose of the project, how was it identified, how was it addressed and what was its impact?
- **Innovation Claim:** What was unique about your innovation? You might describe how your project contributes to the national digital transformation strategy through the use of spatial data and technology, how your project showcases design of original solutions or ingenious adaptation of existing solutions such as innovative application of emerging or developing technologies
- **Market potential:** Describe the potential of your innovative solution and potential impact or real impact on markets.
- **Contribution to industry:** Describe how the project has had an ongoing impact on the industry and the community or how it could provide impact e.g. realising new technical, social, cultural, environmental and/or economic benefits.

Medium To Large Business
The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Project description:** Describe the purpose of the project, product or service, how was it addressed and its intended and actual impact. Include a brief statement of unique complexities which may include unusual constraints, new applications of location data, planned integration into other projects, unique elements of interoperability), timeframe of the project (is it a discrete project or part of a bigger program) relative size (eg FTEs, budget), a brief statement of complexity (multiple stakeholders, unusual constraints), funding source (e.g. client, private, CRC/research, other grant)
- **Innovation Claim:** What was unique about your innovation? You might describe how your project contributes to the national digital transformation strategy through the use of spatial data and technology, how it showcases design of original solutions or ingenious adaptation of existing solutions such as innovative application of emerging or developing technologies
- **Product market fit:** Demonstrate how the project meets a quantified market need and how the need has been validated.
- **Market entry strategy:** Describe the rationale for the approach to market including overcoming barriers of entry to market.
- **Contribution to industry:** Describe how the project has had an ongoing impact on the industry and the community or how it could provide impact e.g. realising new technical, social, cultural, environmental and/or economic benefits.

Award for International Partnership

The International Partnership Award recognises organisations that have successfully conducted business through developing trade opportunities in international markets through unique projects, products and services. This may be through products or projects that have successfully been delivered through local or international collaboration in a market outside of Australia or coordinated with international organisations/clients, applying geospatial knowledge, products, and/or IP. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Project description:** Describe the timeframe of the project (is it a discrete project or part of a bigger program) relative size (e.g. FTEs, budget), a brief statement of complexity (multiple stakeholders, unusual constraints), funding source (e.g. client, private, CRC/research, other grant).
- **International supply:** Describe what skills, products or services your organisation provided as part of the project. For example, discuss the proportion of content (e.g. IP, resources, experience, data) that was developed locally, and/or in conjunction with the international organisation.
- **Markets**: Describe the international sector/s actively entered into (countries and segments).
- **Entry Strategy:** Describe the rationale for the partnership including overcoming barriers.
- **Contribution to client:** Describe how the project has had an ongoing impact for the client.
- **Collaboration:** Describe the project delivery process and the nature of the collaboration that was required.

Award for Geospatial Enablement

The Award for Geospatial Enablement recognises products or projects in which the application of **geospatial** information, methodology and/or tools has greatly improved the outcomes of a **non-geospatial** project, process or product. This could for instance entail identifying benefits to those sectors and or organisations that use geospatial technology/solutions to underpin their core business like health, transport and agriculture. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Project description:** Describe the timeframe of the project (is it a discrete project or part of a bigger program) relative size (e.g. FTEs, budget), a brief statement of complexity (multiple stakeholders, unusual constraints), funding source (private, CRC/research, other grant)
- **Describe enablement in your context:** Discuss how the project showcases the application of geospatial information and methodology and/or tools in a non-geospatial market or project.
- **Project Status:** Has the project been implemented and how is it likely to be utilised?
- **Contribution to client:** Describe how the project has had an ongoing impact on the client, for example realising new technical, social, cultural, environmental and/ or economic benefits.

Award for Technical Excellence

The Technical Excellence Award recognises geospatial projects that apply **existing** technology and methodologies to an exceptionally high technical standard, overcoming significant technical challenges, and delivering outstanding results for the client. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Project description:** Describe the timeframe of the project (is it a discrete project or part of a bigger program) relative size (e.g., FTEs, budget), a brief statement of complexity (multiple stakeholders, unusual constraints), funding source (e.g. client, private, CRC/research, other grant)

- **Degree of technical methodology to overcome the challenge in delivering the solution**: Describe the rationale for the methodology including overcoming barriers and managing risk.

- **Level of complexity of the challenge:** This sets the context for technical excellence – what are the technical skills and knowledge at play? Why is it such a big deal? Complexity comes in many forms: scale, geographic location, quality of results, many interdependent tasks or resources.

- **Contribution to client:** Describe how the project has had an ongoing impact on the client.

Award for Workforce Development and Inclusion

The Award for Workforce Development and Inclusion recognises excellence in approaches taken to develop and prepare the workforce for current and emerging technology and market needs. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Project description:** Describe approaches taken to develop talent and skills for your or your client's workforce. Describe unique challenges keeping pace with emerging technology, business practices, legislative and regulatory changes to ensure the skills currency of your workforce is developed.

- **Skills gaps and development of workforce:** Describe how your business addresses skills gaps and how it manages the ebb and flow of meeting skills needs.

- **Diversity:** Describe how your organisation addresses diversity across the workforce and describe the benefits to your or your client's business performance and culture.

- **Training, educational programs:** Describe training and education programs are undertaken (e.g., internships, apprenticeships, micro-credentialling etc) and the impacts these have on your productivity, staff retention and culture.

- **Demonstrated benefit and/or contribution to the industry:** Describe how the approach has had an ongoing impact on the organisation and/or community, for example realising new technical, social, cultural, environmental and/or economic benefits.

Individual Award Categories

- Professional of the Year Award
- Future Leader of the Year Award
- Diversity & Inclusion Award
- Undergraduate Student Award
- Postgraduate Student Award
- Educational Development Award

The word limit for the individual categories is **minimum 300 words** and **maximum 1200 words,** not including the nomination summary which is a **minimum of 50 words** and **maximum 100 words**.

*You are able to be nominated by a colleague/peer or nominate yourself, however if you nominate yourself for an individual award, **we strongly recommend** you attach a statement of support (an email or letter) from a supervisor or colleague to support your claim.*

Professional of the Year Award

Must be a current individual member of the Geospatial Council or Survey & Spatial New Zealand or an employee of an organisation member of the Geospatial Council.

A practitioner who is working in any of the disciplines of the geospatial sciences whose professional achievements are acknowledged by peer citation as exemplifying the highest standards of excellence and ethical conduct. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Outstanding performance in their occupation**: focus on the achievements/performance of the nominee that are beyond the usual. For example, consider what makes the nominee outstanding in relation to their day-to-day business and/or how they may have changed the way their profession does business or solves problems.

- **Service to the geospatial profession:** Consideration should be given to committees that the nominee may have served on and representation roles, as well as roles in CPD events such as coordinating and/or speaking at conferences.

- **Held in highest respect by peers***: e.g., list any awards or commendations that the nominee may have received in recognition from their peers or anecdotal evidence of standing amongst colleagues.

- **Made a difference to the geospatial profession by their leadership**: include professional initiatives that the nominee played a key role in that had have far-reaching impacts and other leadership roles.

- **Recent contribution and achievements**: highlight the activities undertaken, achievements and/or challenges overcome in the last 18 months.

Future Leader of the Year Award

Must be a current individual member of the Geospatial Council or Survey & Spatial New Zealand or an employee of an organisation member of the Geospatial Council. The nominee must not exceed 15 years since entering the profession.

This award recognises an early career professional who has performed at an exceptional level in their career to date and made substantial contributions in the field of geospatial science in the last 18 months. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Outstanding performance in their occupation**: focus on the achievements/performance of the nominee that are beyond the normal. For example, consider what makes the nominee outstanding in relation to their day-to-day business and/or how they may have changed the way their profession does business or solves problems.
- **Leadership**: Document examples where the nominee may have led a significant project, leadership roles in the workplace and leadership roles amongst geospatial professionals.
- **Participation in professional sub-committees and groups**: Consideration should be given to committees that the nominee may have served on and representation roles.
- **Ongoing continuing professional education**: include nominee's commitment to continuing professional development e.g., ongoing study, participation/attendance at CPD events.

Diversity & Inclusion Award

This award recognises a geospatial professional who has improved, or contributed to the improvement of, opportunities for those from diverse backgrounds and/or actively campaigned for a more inclusionary workplace or industry, in a way that has had a positive and long-term impact.

Diversity is about employing people who are different across a range of indicators such as age, gender, sexual orientation, industry background, cultural identity, ability as well as diversity of thinking approaches among many others.

Inclusion is about valuing that difference and creating processes and cultures that enable a sense of belonging and psychological safety.

The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Contribution to the profession:** provide information on the nominee's specific contribution to championing and building a more inclusive and diverse profession, either as an expert (e.g., research, teaching etc) or as a role model or ally (e.g. championing difference and behaviours that lead to a more inclusive culture, including challenging inequality, barriers and bias etc).
- **Impact**: provide information about professional initiatives that the nominee has played a key role in that had have far-reaching impacts. Can the nominee demonstrate positive outcomes arising from their interventions for individuals, an organisation or the profession more widely.

Postgraduate Student Award

Students eligible to enter this award include PhD and Masters Research students who have completed (or planning to complete) the subject to which their research contributes during the calendar year of the award nomination.

This award is conferred on a Postgraduate student who has undertaken a research project that contributes to the ongoing progression of the geospatial profession. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **The quality and usefulness of the research and development**: Provide reasons why the project is being undertaken; the link to the geospatial industry; and any broader impacts.
- **Relevance of the project to current issues and initiatives**: include significance and implication of the project for the geospatial industry.
- **Demonstrated technical prowess**: description of technical processes and elements used as part of the project.
- **Quality of project design and implementation**: if the research has been assessed or peer reviewed, include the assessed grade or comments.
- **Engagement**: Contribution the nominee has made to the geospatial profession through volunteering and/or involvement in industry or social groups related to the profession, if relevant.

Undergraduate Student Award

Students eligible to enter this award include final year university undergraduates and graduates including Honours, Graduate Certificate/Diploma, and Masters by coursework students who have completed (or planning to complete) the subject to which their research contributes during the calendar year of the award nomination.

This award is conferred on a student who has undertaken a research project in the course of their studies that contributes to the ongoing progression of the geospatial profession. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **The quality and usefulness of the research and development**: Provide reasons why the project is being undertaken; the link to the geospatial industry; and any broader impacts.
- **Relevance of the project to current issues and initiatives**: include significance and implication of the project for the geospatial industry.
- **Demonstrated technical prowess**: description of technical processes and elements used as part of the project.
- **Quality of project design and implementation**: if the research has been assessed or peer reviewed, include the assessed grade or comments.
- **Engagement**: Contribution the nominee has made to the geospatial profession through volunteering and/or involvement in industry or social groups related to the profession, if relevant.

Educational Development Award

This award is conferred on teachers, trainers, facilitators or academics who have substantially contributed through teaching, training, research, publications and/or professional activities to transfer skills and knowledge to others. It acknowledges leadership not only in empowering individuals and groups, but also in supporting others to acquire knowledge and/or promote excellence in the field of geospatial science. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Contribution to the education and learning of learning of individuals or community groups in the field of geospatial science**: focus on the specific achievements/performance of the nominee that are beyond the normal. For example, consider what makes the nominee outstanding in relation to delivering education.

- **Contribution to the advancement and improvement of education in the geospatial science**: consideration should be given to any geospatial or related committees that the nominee may have served on, representation roles and contribution to educational publications or programs or courses e.g., the linking of geospatial professionals with teachers. Document examples where the nominee is involved in CPD activities such as certification and event organisation/speaking.

- **Significant leadership in an education role in the geospatial science:** include any activity involving significant leadership such as supervision of postgraduate students; mentoring of other teaching academics; innovation in teaching, innovative research at any level, involvement in major publications or community projects.

- **Recent contribution and achievements**: highlight the activities undertaken, achievements and/or challenges overcome in the last 18 months.

Special Award Categories

There are a number of special awards that are conferred at Oceanic level only:

- Peter Woodgate Award
- Bruce Thompson Innovation Award
- Hydrographic Excellence Award

The word limit for special categories is **minimum 300 words and maximum 1200 words,** not including the nomination summary which is a **minimum of 50 words and maximum 100 words**.

Peter Woodgate Award

This is a special joint award between AURIN and the Geospatial Council honouring the late Peter Woodgate, as a way of remembering his substantial achievements in both the geospatial and space sectors. The winner will receive a $2000 cash prize from AURIN.

This award recognises an Australian based individual or a team from within the geospatial industry or contributing to/with the industry. The nominee can be of any experience level.

The nomination should address how the following characteristics, those that Peter valued most, have been demonstrated:

- Collaboration
- Mentorship
- Leadership
- Innovation

Bruce Thompson Innovation Award

The award celebrates the innovation and dedication of the late Bruce Thompson, previous Executive Director of the NSW Spatial Services and an outstanding leader in the Australian geospatial industry.

This award recognises an Australian based individual from any part of geospatial science (public, private, academic etc) that has demonstrated innovation, enthusiasm and commitment, resulting in a positive impact on the industry. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **New idea:** focus on how the nominee has used creative thinking to generate a significant idea to address an issue
- **Technology:** include details on how the nominee has improved the use and adoption of spatial information technologies
- **Impact:** demonstrate how the innovation has been beneficial to the nation, industry or community.

Hydrography Excellence Award

Any Australian or New Zealand based hydrography-qualified individual or hydrographic team is eligible to nominate. The project or key achievements should have taken place primarily in the 12 months prior to nomination, however in cases where project details cannot be released within one year, applications for earlier projects are allowed.

This award aims to recognise hydrographic project and field work that reflect hydrographic excellence, and which deliver hydrographic best practice, either ashore or afloat. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Performance**: demonstrated professional prowess and/or outstanding performance in the nominee's field of expertise or project work
- **Achievement**: nature of outcome/result over the past 12 months or longer
- **Excellence**: demonstrated hydrographic excellence or employment of best practice processes/ procedures/techniques
- **Innovation**: use of any innovative processes, procedures or practices to deliver the required hydrographic outcome
- **Contribution**: tangible benefits the individual or team has made through their project or work to the hydrographic surveying profession.