



6 May 2026 (Rev 1)

SAICE GEODIV - PROJECT AWARD

Formal Criteria

1. Purpose

To recognise and celebrate geotechnical projects that display excellence in innovation, design, sustainability, and service to society. Projects should illustrate the art and science of geotechnical engineering, highlighting its impact on the built environment and the broader community in South Africa.

2. Eligibility

- Geotechnical Focus: Projects must be predominantly geotechnical in nature (e.g. foundations, tunnelling, earth-retaining structures, slope stabilisation, ground improvement).
- Completion Status: Projects may be ongoing or completed, however, the principal geotechnical challenges must have been demonstrably overcome within the three-year period up to and including the year of nomination (e.g. 2024 - 2026 for the 2026 award cycle).
- Location: Projects can be located within South Africa or internationally, provided at least one principal participant (firm or individual) is a member of SAICE and affiliated with the SAICE Geotechnical Division (in good standing).
- Team Composition: Multidisciplinary teams are welcome, but there must be a clear and substantial geotechnical engineering contribution.

3. Nomination Process

- Who May Nominate: Nominations may be submitted by SAICE Geotechnical Division members, project owners, or by any relevant stakeholder who can attest to the project's geotechnical merit.
- Nomination Package:
 1. **Cover Letter (max 2 pages)**: A brief cover letter signed by the nominator, introducing the project and summarising why it merits the award.
 2. **Project Motivation (up to 4 pages)**: A narrative explaining how the project meets (or exceeds) the evaluation criteria, including supporting examples and evidence.
 3. **Visuals and Supporting Material**: Photographs, sketches, design drawings, or other relevant figures that showcase key aspects and illustrate the geotechnical challenges and solutions.

4. Evaluation Criteria

The judging panel will consider the following criteria. Projects do not need to excel in every single category but should demonstrate strong performance in most.

- Originality and Innovation
- Resourcefulness in Planning & Problem-Solving
- Sustainability Considerations
- Project Planning and Delivery
- Contribution to the Well-Being of People and Communities
- Technical Excellence

5. Submission Requirements

- Submissions must be received by the deadline announced by the SAICE Geotechnical Division.
- All entries must include signed consent from the project owner.
- Include a declaration of the principal geotechnical engineer or team members highlighting their role in the project.

6. Adjudication

- The nominations will be considered by a subcommittee appointed by the Division Committee. The panel's recommendation is typically subject to final ratification by the SAICE Geotechnical Division Committee.
- In the event that no nominee meets the standard, the Committee may decide not to bestow the award that year.
- Where two or more nominees rank equally, the Committee may split the award or make multiple awards.

7. Award Presentation

- The award consists of a certificate and trophy which will be presented to a member of the Division at the AGM of the Division or at another prestigious event as decided by the Division Committee.