



6 May 2026 (Rev 1)

SAICE GEODIV

YOUNG GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Formal Criteria

1. Purpose

To acknowledge and reward the exceptional achievements of a young geotechnical engineer who, through professional practice, research, and/or community involvement, has significantly contributed to the advancement of geotechnical engineering in South Africa.

2. Eligibility

1. Age Limit: The candidate must be under 36 years of age on 1 January of the year in which the award is made.
2. SAICE Geotechnical Division Membership: The candidate must be a member (in good standing) of the SAICE Geotechnical Division.
3. Professional Status: The candidate must hold a recognised qualification in Civil Engineering or Geotechnical Engineering and be registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) as a Candidate Engineer or Candidate Engineering Technologist, or as a Professional Engineer or Professional Engineering Technologist.
4. Residency / Practice: The candidate should be actively practicing or researching geotechnical engineering in South Africa (or must have done so for a significant portion of the time under review).

3. Nomination Process

- Who May Nominate: A nomination may be initiated by an employer, mentor, supervisor, or colleague. Self-nominations are generally not encouraged unless endorsed by a reputable referee (e.g., head of firm, university head of department).
- Nomination Package:
 1. **Cover Letter (maximum 2 pages)**
 - Introduce the nominee and outline why they deserve the award.
 - Endorsement from a senior representative (e.g., head of firm, project director, or academic supervisor).
 2. **Short CV (maximum 2 pages)**
 - Provide a concise summary of the candidate's academic background, professional experience, key achievements, awards, and involvement in professional societies.
 - Qualifications and registration(s) with professional bodies must also be included.



All submissions must include the nominee's written consent, affirming that they accept the nomination.

4. Evaluation Criteria

Judges will consider the candidate's contributions and achievements over the past several years, with emphasis on the most recent 4-year period. The assessment will be holistic, covering the following areas:

- Professional / Technical Contributions
- Research and Publications
- Industry and Community Involvement
- Leadership and Professional Development
- Recognition and Distinctions

5. Submission Deadlines

- The SAICE Geotechnical Division will publish a formal call for nominations each year, specifying the deadline.
- Late or incomplete nominations may be disqualified at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

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.