



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SOIL MECHANICS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ISSMGE AWARDS AT 21 ICSMGE VIENNA 2026

The ISSMGE offers awards to recognise those members who have made important contributions to our profession, society and the world.

The following awards are open for call for nominations in view of the attribution at the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering 2026 (21 ICSMGE):

- ISSMGE Outstanding Technical Committee Award
- ISSMGE Outstanding Geotechnical Project Award
- ISSMGE Outstanding Innovator Award
- ISSMGE Outstanding Member Society Award
- ISSMGE Outstanding Paper Published in the International Journal of Geo-Engineering Case Histories Award
- ISSMGE Outstanding Public Relations Award
- ISSMGE Outstanding Young Geotechnical Engineer Award

Guidelines for the nomination of the various awards follow below.

All nominations must be made through the local ISSMGE Member Society (except the Outstanding Paper Award and the Outstanding Technical Committee Award) and must reach the ISSMGE Secretariat by **31 December 2025** in time for the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (21 ICSMGE 2026) to be held in Vienna, Austria in 2026.

ISSMGE Outstanding Technical Committee Award

Purpose

To reward an ISSMGE Technical Committee in recognition of one or more of the following achievements:

- Conducting work in aggregating and disseminating the knowledge on topics that are within the Technical Committee's sphere of activity.
- Effectively enhance current geo-engineering practice through up to date and innovative solutions concerning guidelines, standards, technologies, laboratory methods or recommended laboratory apparatus.
- Providing education and training with emphasis on current geo-engineering issues.

Nomination

Award nominations for particular committees are to be submitted to the ISSMGE Secretariat by the announced date by the chairs of the ISSMGE Technical Committees who wish to nominate for this award. The nomination package should include the following:

- A written motivation, not more than two pages in length, which should include relevant attachments (publications, patents, reviews, confirmations of implementation, etc.) concerning the subject of the award.
- Information regarding active participation in conferences, seminars, workshops as well as other meetings concerning the Technical Committee's work which is presented in such a way as to document and confirm that the Technical Committee's outstanding activities entitle it to an award.
- Information as regards to the organising of conferences, seminars and other types of meetings concerning the Technical Committee's activities since the last quadrennial ISSMGE conference (regular meetings, internet conferences, etc.).
- Demonstration of the effectiveness of organisational meetings for scientific, engineering, educational and training purposes.

Exposure

Presentation of the activity on ISSMGE website and social media channels, as well as in the ISSMGE Bulletin.

ISSMGE Outstanding Geotechnical Project Award

Purpose

To recognize projects that best illustrate superior geotechnical engineering skills and represent significant contributions to geotechnical engineering progress and society. Criteria reflect the importance placed on sustainability while continuing to recognize innovative design and construction. Any geotechnical engineering project, regardless of its location and cost, is eligible, e.g. projects such as tunnels, dams, innovative foundation engineering solutions and military projects.

Nomination

Nominations for the award are invited from ISSMGE Member Societies and must reach the ISSMGE Secretariat by the announced date. Member societies are encouraged to arrange their own competitions to identify an outstanding geotechnical project which can then be nominated for the ISSMGE award.

The nomination package should include:

- A cover letter, signed by the nominator (Chair of the ISSMGE Member Society), introducing the nominated project.
- A written motivation, not more than five pages in length, to address the following:
 1. Originality and innovation – new or innovative application of technology, design, materials, process/methods and construction;
 2. Resourcefulness in planning and solving design challenges – (a) complexity of the problem or situation addressed, (b) creativity in solutions;
 3. Photographs, video, design drawings, figures, sketches as applicable.

And, where applicable:

4. Sustainability considerations – (a) environmental, (b) social, (c) economic;
5. Project planning and delivery – (a) financing, budget and schedule, (b) meeting the client's needs particularly related to budget and schedule adherence;
6. Contribution to the well-being of people and communities, including aesthetic value;
7. Focus on health and safety elements;
8. Equality, diversity and inclusion considerations.

All files shall comprise a declaration that the nominator has the permission of the client to share the details of the project and for the nomination.

Selection

AWAC will judge the nominations per region, selecting 1 project for each region. One overall project will be selected by AWAC to be awarded as the ISSMGE Outstanding Geotechnical Project.

Exposure

All the selected regional projects will be presented on the ISSMGE website and social media channels, as well as in the ISSMGE Bulletin.

ISSMGE Outstanding Innovator Award (individual or team)

Purpose

The ISSMGE Award for Innovation in Geo-engineering is awarded to an individual ISSMGE member or groups of ISSMGE members (researchers, consultants and contractors) in recognition of innovations in Geo-engineering that have a pronounced impact on geo-engineering practice, research and education. The term “innovation” is used broadly to describe any major, unprecedented achievements that led to a major advancement in our profession. Examples include:

- The development of a theory or a design approach that has pronouncedly affected our understanding of earth materials or design methods for geotechnical infrastructure.
- The invention of a technique or a technology that has significant applications in field or laboratory investigations or measurements.
- The successful implementation of an unprecedented construction technique that has a sustained impact in geotechnical construction.
- Other outstanding innovations or approaches (e.g. development of software, internet technologies) that impact the practice or education of the Geo-engineering profession worldwide.

Nomination

ISSMGE Member Societies are invited to nominate important contributors in their respective fields. Nominations are limited to one per Member Society for the award. The nomination package should include the following:

- A cover letter, signed by the nominator, indicating the person/parties nominated and the name of the award (Outstanding Innovator).
- A written motivation, not more than two pages in length, which should include reference to the supporting evidence of distinguished accomplishments (technical papers, etc.) by the nominee.
- The nominee’s CV (up to 5-pages) or biographical information. In case of a group of individuals, CVs for all individuals should be provided if judged applicable by the nominator.
- Minimum 2 letters of recommendation from independent persons without conflict of interest.

Exposure

The awardee(s) will present the achievements on the ISSMGE website and social media channels, as well as in the ISSMGE Bulletin.

ISSMGE Outstanding Member Society Award

Purpose

To recognise the 2 most outstanding ISSMGE Member Societies. Criteria for evaluation relate to extent of the society's activities, given the number of members and the rate of progress and advancement. These activities could include:

- Conferences and workshops supported by the local Society and/or endorsed by ISSMGE in the past 4 years.
- Encouragement given by the Member Society and recognitions for its members in terms of awards and honours.
- Contributions to ISSMGE Technical Committees through member participation.
- Any other information representing the contributions by the Society, including those that have made an impact on community welfare and safety (e.g. affected by natural hazards).
- In judging the nominations, emphasis will be placed on growth in achievements or new and recent developments.
- Financial support for young members and students
- Public service
- Other notable activities

Nomination

Nominees for these awards are individual member societies. Member Societies are invited to nominate themselves by submitting a brief submission (not more than two pages) addressing the above. The necessary supporting documentation should accompany the nomination. Nominations must reach the ISSMGE Secretariat by the announced date.

Selection

One awarded member society will be decided by AWAC and another one by ISSMGE president and board.

Exposure

The awarded member society will be advertised on the ISSMGE website and social media channels, as well as in the ISSMGE Bulletin.

Incentives

- Financial support for its young members to attend ISSMGE conferences – max. 2000 USD to be granted via an application to the ISSMGE Foundation.
- Priority for hosting ISSMGE events.

ISSMGE Outstanding Paper in The International Journal Of Geo-Engineering Case Histories Award

Purpose

To recognise the most outstanding paper published by an ISSMGE member in the International Journal of Geo-Engineering Case Histories.

Nomination

The three best papers published in the International Journal of Geo-Engineering Case Histories (IJGCH) during the past four years (2022 - 2026) are selected by the IJGCH Editorial Board. IJGCH will send the nominations to the ISSMGE Secretariat who will relay them to the ISSMGE Awards Committee.

Exposure:

The title of the awarded paper will be advertised on the ISSMGE website and in the ISSMGE Bulletin, with link to the paper.

ISSMGE Outstanding Public Relations Award

Purpose

The ISSMGE Outstanding Public Relations Award in Geo-engineering is awarded to any individual or organization, who contributed outstandingly in promoting geotechnical engineering and showing its importance as a profession in life.

Nomination

ISSMGE Member Societies are invited to nominate candidates for this Award. Candidates would be public relations individuals or organization, author of any geotechnical contribution that has made an impact within or through the news, media, internet, and/or the general public.

Nominations are limited to one per Member Society. Nominations must reach the ISSMGE Secretariat by the announced date.

The nomination package should include the following:

- A cover letter, signed by the nominator, indicating the person / organization/ parties nominated and the name of the award (Outstanding Public Relations).
- A written motivation, not more than two pages in length, which should include reference to the supporting evidence of distinguished accomplishments (advertisement, movie, promotion, documentary, activity or innovative approach) by the nominee, with a copy of that accomplishment if applicable (printout, CD, USB, etc.)
- The nominee's CV (up to 5 pages) or biographical information. In case of a group of individuals, CVs for all individuals should be provided if judged applicable by the nominator. An organization can submit one qualification document that describes it and its activities with the CVs of key personnel as deemed applicable by the nominator.

Exposure

The activity of the awardee will be advertised on the ISSMGE website and in the ISSMGE Bulletin.

ISSMGE Outstanding Young Geotechnical Engineer Awards

Purpose

The aim of the ISSMGE Outstanding Young Geotechnical Engineer Award is to acknowledge the contribution of young members to the profession and to the society. The award will be given in recognition of achievement during the four-year period preceding the year of the award.

The ISSMGE Outstanding Young Geotechnical Engineer Award will be presented up to 6 individuals (1/region) who have made outstanding contributions to the practice or research in geotechnical engineering through their contribution to one or more research or industrial projects. There would be a maximum of 1 award per region made every 4 years, which are presented at the ICSMGE.

The awards each amount to a cash prize of £1,000.

The nominations would be evaluated holistically based on contributions to any or several of the following criteria:

- Geotechnical project development and construction;
- Research contributions in the geotechnical community;
- Involvement in national and international geotechnical societies; and
- Publications and education in the geotechnical discipline.

Nomination of candidates

The awards will be given to ISSMGE young members who are less than 36 years of age on 31 December of the year of the quadrennial ICSMGE conference. One nomination may be made by each member society, which should include the following:

- A written motivation, not more than two pages in length, clearly explaining why the candidate is deserving of this award, provided by the candidate's current organization and endorsed by the member society.
- The nominee's one-page CV.

Nominations must reach the Secretary General by the announced date.

Exposure

The recipients will briefly present their contributions on the ISSMGE website and in the ISSMGE Bulletin.