



# ASIA-PACIFIC

## SPATIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Recognising excellence, innovation and contribution

2021 Nomination Kit



Pacific GIS and  
Remote Sensing Council

## What are the Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards?

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The Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards (APSEA) celebrate the achievements of top surveying and spatial information enterprises and individuals, showcasing the finest projects and most significant performance of professionals the industry has to offer. Projects and individuals attaining recognition at this premier event are deemed to be truly outstanding achievers and pre-eminent in their field.

The regional awards provide a stepping-stone for organisations and individuals to be nominated in the Oceanic Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards that are held at the annual Locate Conference – the only awards for the Asia-Pacific region that recognise the achievements of both individuals and organisations engaged in the surveying and spatial industry at a single event.

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.

APSEA is jointly hosted by the two organisations that created the concept – the Spatial Industries Business Association and the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute. Survey + Spatial New Zealand and the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council also participate in the program.

## APSEA Key Principles

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- Recognise and acknowledge excellence in the surveying and spatial industries.
- 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.
- Recognise 'achievement relative to opportunity' within all individual awards, supporting a positive acknowledgement of what an individual can and has achieved given the opportunities available to them - achievements are assessed on an individual basis, not on a comparative basis with other individuals.

## Who is eligible to enter?

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**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 surveying and/or spatial activities.

Organisations of all sizes, from sole traders to large national firms, are encouraged to enter. *Please note industry awards aren't open to New Zealand based entrants.*

**Individual awards** are open to any individual in the surveying or spatial sciences field, with the exception of the Professional and Future Leader of the Year awards, where nominees must also be current members of SSSI, SIBA|GITA or S+SNZ.

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

## Fees

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In 2021, there is no charge to enter the awards.

Nominees are however encouraged to attend their local APSEA award event, in Australia held in conjunction with SSSI [regional conferences](#) and at locally organised functions in [New Zealand](#) and Fiji. Attendance at these events is at the nominee's cost, however ticket prices are kept at a reasonable level to make the events as accessible as possible.

2021 regional winners will be invited to attend the Oceanic APSEA event at Locate in Canberra in May 2022. Discounted tickets will be available for these oceanic award finalists.

## Judging

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The APSEA 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. A final review of winners is undertaken by SSSI or SIBA|GITA representatives to ensure quality and consistent application of APSEA principles.

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.

The names of the judging panellists will be published after the completion of the judging in the interests of transparency.

## Preparing the nomination

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We encourage you to consider nominating yourself, a colleague, a peer or a project your organisation has undertaken or been involved with. APSEA is committed to promoting an inclusive and diverse surveying and spatial profession and encourages 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 [APSEA 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 spatial sciences 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 spatial 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

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Submissions must be made via the [APSEA Nominations website](#).

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.

**Please note, in contrast to previous years, the submission will be prepared in two parts – summary and nomination. Word limits apply to the total application rather than per criteria.**

# 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 Spatial 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

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The Community Impact award recognises unique contributions the spatial 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

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The Environment and Sustainability award recognises 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

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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

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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 surveying and spatial 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 (eg 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 (eg 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 Spatial Enablement

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The Award for Spatial Enablement recognises products or projects in which the application of **spatial** information, methodology and/or tools has greatly improved the outcomes of a **non-spatial** project, process or product. This could for instance entail identifying benefits to those sectors and or organisations that use spatial 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 (eg 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 spatial information and methodology and/or tools in a non-spatial 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

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The Technical Excellence Award recognises surveying and spatial 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 (eg 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

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The Award for Workforce Development and Inclusion recognises excellence in approaches taken to develop and prepare 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
- Educational Development Award
- Postgraduate Student Award
- Undergraduate Student Award
- Vocational Education Training (VET) Student 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**.

## Professional of the Year Award

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*Must be a current member of SSSI, SIBA/GITA or S+SNZ.*

A practitioner who is working in any of the disciplines of the surveying and spatial 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 surveying and spatial 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 surveying and spatial 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

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*Must be a current member of SSSI, SIBA/GITAI or S+SNZ and approx. 15 years or less since entering 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 surveying and spatial 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 surveying and spatial 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

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This award recognises a surveying and spatial professional who has improved, 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 an 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.

## Educational Development Award

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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 fields of surveying and spatial science. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Contribution to the education and learning of individuals or community groups in the field of surveying and spatial sciences:** 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 surveying, spatial and related discipline education.
- **Contribution to the advancement and improvement of education in the surveying and spatial sciences:** consideration should be given to any surveying, spatial 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 spatial 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 surveying and spatial sciences:** 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.

## Postgraduate Student Award

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*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 surveying and spatial 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 surveying and spatial industry; and any broader impacts
- **Relevance of the project to current issues and initiatives:** include significance and implication of the project for the surveying and spatial 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 surveying and spatial profession through volunteering and/or involvement in industry or social groups related to the profession, if relevant.

## Undergraduate Student Award

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*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 surveying and spatial 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 surveying and spatial industry; and any broader impacts
- **Relevance of the project to current issues and initiatives:** include significance and implication of the project for the surveying and spatial 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 surveying and spatial profession through volunteering and/or involvement in industry or social groups related to the profession, if relevant.

## Vocational Education Training (VET) Student Award

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*Students eligible to enter this award include final year Certificate/Diploma, Vocational and Educational Training (e.g. TAFE, Polytechnics) students who have completed their course no longer than 12 months prior to nomination or will complete it in the calendar year of the nomination.*

This award is conferred on a student who has undertaken a spatial or surveying Vocational Education Training course and has contributed to the ongoing progression of the surveying and spatial profession. The following criteria should be addressed:

- **Demonstrated academic achievement relevant to surveying and spatial information services:** Description of technical prowess, commitment to learning, innovation and creativity applied throughout studies
- **Application of studies to career achievements in surveying and spatial information services:** Description of how the nominee has successfully applied skills and knowledge from their training to a workplace or work placement; and any impact on the workplace
- **Demonstrated team and communication skills in spatial and surveying services:** Consider any skills developed through training which have positively influenced others
- **Engagement:** Contribution the nominee has made to the surveying and spatial profession through volunteering and/or involvement in industry or social groups related to the profession, if relevant.