IRF
GLOBAL
Global Road Achievement Awards
Showcasing Global Industry Excellence
Applications Due By May 22, 2026
Awards

“ IRF turns good ideas into common practice. By curating replicable case studies and recognizing excellence, it accelerates safer, greener road networks worldwide. ”

Tijen Sipahi
CEO, ERG Otoyol Yatırım ve İşletme A.Ş

SHOWCASING INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE

The International Road Federation’s Global Road Achievement Awards (GRAA) is a one-of-a kind competition to recognize innovative road projects and exemplary people that place the road industry at the forefront of worldwide social and economic development.

Instituted in 2000, the Awards have distinguished more than 120 programs, projects and products from around the world. Today, the Awards are recognized as a prestigious industry accolade in their own right, but they also serve to remind a much wider audience that the mobility everyone takes for granted would not be possible without the talent and commitment of our industry. By showcasing new technologies and creative solutions, they also serve as an accelerator of progress and new ideas.

IRF views the awards as an important way to promote road innovation around the world and will make substantial efforts to see that the awarded achievements receive maximum worldwide publicity, including a presentation of a crystal trophy at the IRF Annual Awards Dinner and recognition in IRF and industry publications.

KEY DATES

- **May 22:** Application due
- **June 17:** Winners notified
- **August 15:** Book of Winning Projects materials due
- **September 15:** Project video due
- **November 5:** IRF Awards Ceremony

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Entries are judged by an international panel of expert judges drawn from IRF's academic members as well as independent subject matter specialists. No member of the selection panel may have an interest or bias related to the current applications. If a judge should have such an interest, that judge will be excused from reviewing the applicable entry/entries and an alternate will be appointed.

The selection panel is not obligated to select an award recipient in each of the eleven categories. Rather, the panel will recognize only those submissions that show outstanding merit. The panel also has the discretion to recognize submissions that do not win an award, yet nevertheless show exceptional merit.

Entries are open to projects that may have been recognized in other award programs, provided that they have not been recognized in a previous IRF Global Road Achievement Award competition.

There is no limit to the number of entries an organization may submit.

Awards will be presented to organizations which have submitted applications demonstrating:

- Complexity
- Replication capability
- Cost and efficiency considerations
- Technical value to road development industry
- Contributions to social, economic and sustainability concerns
- Original or innovative use of existing technologies
- Original or innovative application of new technologies
- Development of new technologies, products or equipment
- A successful program, concept, or product on a specific project
- The surpassing of minimum regulatory requirements or industry standards
- Degree to which the project, meets the needs of the public, industry, owner or client

The selection panel expects to name winners of the 2026 GRAAs on June 17, 2026.

2025 IRF GRAA Winners

Recipients were honored in front on hundreds at a special Gala dinner during the IRF Global R2T Conference & Exhibition, held in Long Beach, CA, USA

For a list of the 2025 Award winners, please visit www.IRF.global/graa

ASSET PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

Innovate asset preservation solutions combined with effective maintenance management programs are essential pillars of economic, fiduciary and environmental stewardship in the road sector. Public and private sector authorities providing these services to the general public are encouraged to compete in this category which is designed to recognize innovation in the planning and delivery of durable pavements, maintenance functions and advances in safety, energy efficiency, and materials recycling.

CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY

Competitive entries in this category will demonstrate significant achievements in construction that enhance the quality, timeliness, cost effectiveness, safety, and/or efficiency in the construction means, methods and delivery on road development projects. An award will seek to recognize those entrants who demonstrate effective construction strategies that can be replicated or serve as examples to advance the process of road construction generically. Entrants will base their applications on the success of a concept as demonstrated on a specific project.

DESIGN

This category recognizes organizations that demonstrate outstanding achievements in the broad design arena, including aesthetics, applications in challenging environments, cost efficiency and originality. Qualification for the award will be determined upon the organization's application of a design (or designs) on a specified project.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

This category recognizes public and private organizations that show outstanding progress in protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment in the planning, design and/or construction of road development projects. Entries in this category will be evaluated on successful efforts to incorporate environmental mitigation on a specific project.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The growing demand for new and refurbished infrastructure is leading to partnerships between Government and the private sector to manage this work through dedicated program management offices. This category is open to public and private sector organizations that are showing leadership in the provision of integrated services for the management of large transportation infrastructure programs. Of particular interest will be those entries that demonstrate program goals and objectives being met, that show a high degree of complexity and an ability to deal with a variety of issues, and that exemplify the ideals of program and project management.

PROJECT FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

This award is open to organizations and/or projects that enable road development to take place from funding sources that are different from traditional government or institutional procurement. Although traditional forms of funding can be part of the mix for entries in this category, priority is given to submissions that demonstrate innovative approaches in this field. An award will be evaluated on demonstrated success in planning, constructing, and/or operating a project or program in a cost effective / profitable manner.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

This category will recognize organizations that have developed and implemented a quality management system to maximize stakeholder satisfaction at the lowest overall cost to the organization. Quality management is all activities of the overall management function that determine the quality policy, objectives, and responsibilities, and implement them by means such as quality oversight, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, and quality improvement within the quality system. This award is targeted at organizations that innovatively apply the principles and practices of quality management, and demonstrate superior results for delivering products or services.

RESEARCH

This category will recognize specific research initiatives that significantly advance the road development industry. Possible topics include improved materials, innovative use of existing materials and products, advances in technology or new applications for existing technology, and ground breaking theories in design, construction, or O&M processes. This award is targeted at researchers in public, educational and private institutions for their achievements in developing a specific product, system, measure, etc. that advances roadway development.

SAFETY

Entries in this category should demonstrate significant contributions to improving road safety by devising concepts, products, processes and/or systems in relation to road infrastructure, road/vehicle interaction or driver behavior. Entries will be evaluated on successful and possibly quantified efforts to reduce road casualty numbers and/or seriousness.

TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT & MANUFACTURING

This category, which recognizes inventors and manufacturers that integrate, develop and market new products and/or equipment that advance the road construction industry, is open to manufacturers of all types of equipment and products. This category seeks products and equipment that enhance quality, improve efficiency, increase safety, enable new design and construction techniques, etc. An acceptable entry will include a specific product or products that demonstrate innovation in at least one of the aforementioned areas.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

This category recognizes public and private organizations that demonstrate significant achievements in making the most of existing infrastructure to accommodate present and future traffic, by using advanced or original traffic management concepts, organizations and/or systems.

URBAN PLANNING & MOBILITY

This category recognizes efforts to plan and develop tomorrow's cities, responding to the twin challenges of enhanced mobility demand and reduced environmental footprint. Winning projects will demonstrate their systemic impact, notably by fostering seamless connections across travel modes and/or through special attention to the needs of non-motorized traffic.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 22, 2026

The application package must include:

1. A completed application form
2. A project summary (<500 words)
3. An explanation of how the project meets the criteria of the category in which it has been submitted (~100 words)
4. Microsoft PowerPoint® presentation (.ppt or .pptx) including but not limited to slides, photographs, drawings, diagrams, videos, or additional explanatory materials. (Presentations should be limited to 30 slides or less).
   - If completing a paper application, please compress all your files into a single ZIP archive and send the files via email (if <5MB) or a file-sharing service (if ≥5MB) such as Dropbox, WeTransfer, ShareFile or other like service.
     OR
   - Complete our online application, which includes built in file uploading (https://irf.wufoo.com/forms/2026-graa-application/)

Incomplete applications will not be considered. All materials must clearly identify the name of the project, the award category, and contact information of the submitting applicant.

Please note:
The submission of copyrighted material to IRF for the Global Road Achievement Awards shall constitute a general grant of permission to IRF to use the materials for promotional purposes.

Regarding entries in the categories of Research, Design, Excellence in Project Finance & Economics, Technology, Equipment & Manufacturing, the subject matter of the submissions must be published or in the public domain prior to the closing date. For all other categories, the subject matter of the submissions must be substantially completed or in operation for a minimum of six (6) months, but not longer than five (5) years prior to the closing date.

Each application package must be accompanied by a non-refundable entry fee of $400 for IRF Member, $875 for non-members. A separate application package (accompanied by payment of the entry fee) must be submitted for each project entered in each category.

Entry packages must be received by the IRF, at the address listed below,
by **5:00pm EST on May 22, 2026.**

Entries must be addressed to:

Global Road Achievement Awards
c/o International Road Federation
500 Montgomery Street.
5th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314 USA

For further information, please contact:
graa@IRF.global
Tel: +1 703 535 1001

2026 Global Road Achievement Awards

Entry Application (May 22, 2026 Deadline)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Payment Received Date

YEAR MONTH DAY

Contact Information

SUBMITTING ORGANIZATION	PROJECT NAME
PROJECT WEBSITE	
CONTACT NAME (INDIVIDUAL)	PHONE (WITH COUNTRY CODE)
EMAIL	FAX NUMBER (WITH COUNTRY CODE)
ORGANIZATION ADDRESS	

CITY	STATE/ PROVINCE	POSTAL CODE	COUNTRY

Entry Category

SELECT ONE

- ☐ Asset Preservation & Maintenance Management
- ☐ Construction Methodology
- ☐ Design
- ☐ Environmental Mitigation
- ☐ Program Management
- ☐ Project Finance & Economics
- ☐ Quality Management
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Technology, Equipment & Manufacturing
- ☐ Traffic Management and ITS
- ☐ Urban Planning & Mobility

Application Package Checklist *(check each box to ensure your application package is complete)*

INCOMPLETE PACKAGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

- ☐ Application Form
- ☐ Application Fee: US $400 for IRF Members, US $875 for non-members
- ☐ Brief project summary (<500 words)
- ☐ Explanation of how project meets category-specific award criteria (~100 words)
- ☐ PowerPoint™ presentation

Payment

PAYMENT TYPE ☐ Invoice ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card	CARD TYPE ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX	CARD NUMBER
CARD EXPIRATION DATE (MM/YY)	CARD SECURITY CODE	NAME ON CARD
AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED (IN US DOLLARS)	TODAY'S DATE (YYYY/MM/DD)	PAYMENT SIGNATURE

By signing this document, I agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions applicable to IRF Events and provide full release of my likeness and voice to be used for promotional purpose by the IRF. This release covers photos and videos taken during the event.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE OF APPLICATION (YYYY/MM/DD)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE IRF:

Magid Elabyad: melabyad@IRF.global or fax **+1 703 535 1007**

GLOBAL

KNOWLEDGE • ADVOCACY • EDUCATION
BEST PRACTICES • BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Better Roads. Better World.

IRF GLOBAL

International Road Federation

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