ORBA Transportation Infrastructure Innovation Award

Purpose:

The ORBA Transportation Infrastructure Innovation Award recognizes innovative techniques and methods, applied on actual projects or in activities or processes, performed by an ORBA member company, which improve the quality and/or reduce the cost of construction.

Recognition Categories:

- **Outstanding Achievement** - awarded to one member an annual basis.
- **Honourable Mention** - recognizes select applicants that have met the eligibility criteria.

Frequency:

The Award is announced annually at the ORBA Annual Convention.

Applicant Eligibility:

The Award is open to all ORBA members, irrespective of whether the eligible innovative technique or method was performed by the member acting in the capacity of general contractor, sub-contractor or supplier.

A general contractor and sub-contractor may make a submission for the Award as joint applicants. A general or sub-contractor may also partner with an ORBA associate member to apply as joint applicants.

Innovators and their employers must disclose sufficient information about the innovation to allow documentation for the selection panel and an informative presentation at the ORBA Awards Breakfast.

Award Criteria:

1. The innovative technique or method must be clearly identified and the improvement to the quality and/or reduction of cost of construction must be documented and measurable or otherwise predictable through objective supporting information such as data, photographs, and third-party assessment.

2. Innovative techniques or methods must be applied on a project or in an activity or process. Eligible projects are public sector federal, municipal or provincial capital or maintenance projects.

3. The innovative technique or method must demonstrate a significant advance and, relative to an owner project, go beyond the original tender/contract requirements and specifications and/or activities which are added to the contract at the initiative of the ORBA member (i.e. a member-initiated Change Proposal). The innovative technique or method should not be a natural evolution of existing techniques and methods, common sense or good practice.

4. The innovative technique or method must be implemented during the submission year.

5. Improvement to the quality and/or reduction of cost of construction may include, but is not limited to, the construction process, materials, design, equipment, detailing, contract administration, labour relations, management, training, procurement, maintenance and manufacturing.

Selection Panel:

The Award will be determined by a Selection Panel consisting of ORBA, MTO, IO, Metrolinx, OGRA and independent subject matter experts as may be required.

The review process will be supported by ORBA staff. Panel members will review applications, and conduct interviews with applicants and contractors as required. Members making a submission are not eligible to participate on the Selection Panel.

Submission Format:

1. Submissions must be filed in digital format:

    - One (1) full colour copy via email
    - Photos included should be high-resolution in PDF or JPEG format.

2. The written submission should not exceed 6 pages in length, excluding the cover page, index page(s), and appendix section.

Submission Content:

1. The title page of the submission should include the following information:

    - Member company name
    - Short description/title of the innovative technique or method in one sentence
    - Date of submission
    - Year for which the submission is being made

- Contact information of company staff to whom questions about the submission should be directed.

2. Description of the innovative technique or method, including:
    - the genesis, how it was developed,
    - how it was implemented,
    - the timing/duration of implementation,
    - photographs, diagrams, charts, analysis and or other reference information,
    - other information as may be relevant to the technique or method.

3. Description of the project, activity or process, including:
    - copy of the contract between the project owner and the contractor (where applicable)
    - name of project owner/project number or another identifier
    - scope and nature of the project, activity or process
    - geographic location of the project, activity or process
    - duration of the project, activity or process
    - photographs, diagrams, charts, analysis and or other reference information
    - other information as may be relevant to the project, activity or process.

4. Explanation of how the innovative technique or method improves the quality and/or reduces the cost of construction, including:
    - How it was measured or otherwise predicted through objective supporting information such as data, photographs, diagrams, charts, analysis, 3rd party assessment
    - Other information as may be relevant to demonstrating the impact, including testimonials, other awards received, letters of recognition/accolades from owners, community representatives, industry participants, etc.

5. Description of how the innovate technique or method is prevalent and/or promoted as a value/best practice within your company.

6. Letter of support from the general contractor where the member company acted as a sub-contractor on the project.

Submission Requirement:

All submissions must be received electronically to the ORBA staff member below by Friday, December 11, 2026. No extensions will be given past this date.

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