

Guidelines for the Best Congress Paper Award

Guideline n. III - Award

1. Scope and Purpose

The Best Congress Paper Award is established by the International Society for Energy Geostructures (ISEG) for papers submitted to the World Congress on Energy Geostructures (WCEG).

The Award aims to formally recognize and honour outstanding contributions that demonstrate excellence in originality, technical quality and impact within the field of energy geostructures.

Through the establishment of this Award, in alignment with the objectives set forth in its Statutes, the International Society aims to promote scientific excellence, enhance the visibility of the discipline and foster the development of an international community by encouraging participations and engagement among researchers, academics and professionals.

2. Award Categories and Conferment

The Best Congress Paper Award shall be conferred under the following three categories:

- a) **Best Research Paper:** the award recognizes papers that present outstanding fundamental or applied research contributions, characterized by high scientific rigour, methodological soundness, and significant advancement of knowledge in the field of energy geostructures.
- b) **Best Case Study / Project Paper:** the award recognizes papers that document and analyse real-world applications, engineering projects, or field implementations, demonstrating practical relevance, technical excellence, and contribution to professional practice.
- c) **Best Innovation Paper:** the award recognizes papers that introduce novel concepts, methodologies, technologies, or interdisciplinary approaches with the potential to significantly influence future research and/or practice in the field.

The classification of eligible papers into the above categories shall be determined exclusively by the Award Committee, based on the content, objectives, and primary contribution of the work. Authors shall not be required to select or indicate a category at the time of submission.

One award may be conferred in each category. The Award Committee has the right not to confer an award in any category if, in its judgment, the submissions do not meet the required standard of excellence or for any other well-justified reason.

3. Eligibility

All full papers accepted for presentation at the World Congress on Energy Geostrutures (WCEG) shall be considered for the Best Congress Paper Award.

Eligible papers shall constitute original work. At the time of submission, the paper shall not have been previously published, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. At least one author of the paper shall be duly registered and shall present the paper at the World Congress on Energy Geostrutures (WCEG). At least one author of the paper shall be member of the International Society for Energy Geostrutures (ISEG).

Only papers that fully comply with the above requirements shall be considered eligible and admitted to the evaluation process. The Award Committee reserves the right to exclude any paper that does not meet these criteria.

4. Evaluation Criteria

All eligible papers shall be evaluated by the Award Committee based on criteria reflecting scientific quality, relevance and contribution to the field of energy geostrutures.

The Award Committee, in its evaluation, shall determine the relative importance of the criteria listed below. Its assessment and final decisions shall be at its sole discretion and shall be final.

4.1. Common criteria to all categories

- a) Originality, as degree of novelty and innovation of the contribution,
- b) Technical Quality, as soundness, rigour, and reliability of the methods and analysis,
- c) Impact and Relevance, as significance of the contribution to research and/or practice in the field,
- d) Clarity of Presentation, as organization, coherence, and quality of the written work.

4.2. Additional criteria about the primary nature of the contribution

- a) Best Research Paper: emphasis on scientific rigour, depth of analysis, and advancement of knowledge,
- b) Best Case Study / Project Paper: emphasis on practical relevance, quality of implementation, and demonstrated engineering or field application,
- c) Best Innovation Paper: emphasis on originality of concepts, novelty of approaches, and potential for future impact.

5. Award Committee and Selection

5.1. Composition of the Award Committee

The Best Congress Paper Award shall be administered by an Award Committee, appointed by the Executive Board of the International Society for Energy Geostrutures (ISEG) or its designated representatives.

The Award Committee shall consist of a Chair and two members, who have recognized expertise in the field of energy geostructures and ensure appropriate international representation and coverage of relevant disciplines. Chair and members shall serve for the duration of the edition of the World Congress on Energy Geostructures (WCEG) for which they are appointed.

All members shall declare any conflicts of interest and shall abstain from the evaluation of papers where such conflicts exist.

5.2. Selection procedure

A preliminary shortlist of candidate papers shall be established on the basis of the peer-review process conducted for the Congress. The scores and evaluations assigned by the reviewers shall be used to identify the highest-ranked papers, which shall constitute the initial pool of shortlisted papers.

The Award Committee shall review the shortlisted papers and carry out a comparative assessment in accordance with the established evaluation criteria. On the basis of this assessment, the Award Committee shall select the recipient(s) of the Award in each category.

The Award Committee shall have full authority over the selection process. Its decisions shall be final and not subject to appeal.

The recipient(s) of the Best Congress Paper Award in each category are formally announced during the Congress.

6. Award Recipients and Benefits

The Best Congress Paper Award shall be honorary in nature and intended to recognize excellence in research and contribution to the field. The Award shall be conferred collectively to all authors of the awarded paper, without distinction among co-authors.

Each Award consists in the following:

- a) Official Best Paper Award Certificate,
- b) Formal recognition during the closing ceremony of the World Congress on Energy Geostructures (WCEG),
- c) Promotion of the awarded paper through the Congress website and official communication channels of the International Society for Energy Geostructures (ISEG).

In addition, a one-year membership to the International Society for Energy Geostructures (ISEG) is offered to the author presenting the paper at the WCEG.

7. Communication, Transparency, and Ethics

7.1. Outreach and Dissemination

The International Society for Energy Geostructures (ISEG) shall prepare and distribute appropriate materials to support the promotion and visibility of the Award, including the official call for the Award, announcement notices and promotional flyers for circulation via email and

newsletters, dedicated information pages on the official website, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents, where appropriate.

ISEG shall ensure broad and international dissemination of the Award through appropriate communication channels, including but not limited to academic mailing lists, relevant scientific associations and institutional networks, professional societies, social media platforms and direct communications with universities, research institutions, and industry stakeholders.

7.2. Record Keeping and Transparency

ISEG shall maintain a record of the main activities related to the Award, including key stages of the selection process, in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

Where appropriate, anonymized summaries of the evaluation reports by the Award Committee may be prepared and made available.

7.3. Principles of Inclusiveness, Balance and Ethical Standards

In all aspects of implementation and communication of the Award, ISEG shall promote principles of inclusiveness, with due consideration to gender balance, geographic diversity, and broad representation of the international community.

Implementation and communications shall adhere to high standards of clarity, accuracy, and professionalism, and shall be consistent with the ethical principles and statutory objectives of ISEG.

7.4. Responsibilities for the Award Process

ISEG shall have overall responsibility for the proper organization, management, and integrity of the Best Congress Paper Award process. ISEG shall ensure that:

- a) the Award Committee is duly appointed,
- b) the selection process is conducted in accordance with these Regulations,
- c) principles of fairness, impartiality, and transparency are upheld throughout,
- d) any conflicts of interest are appropriately managed.

The Award Committee shall be responsible for the evaluation and selection of the award recipients, in accordance with its mandate.

7.5. Contact

ISEG shall designate appropriate contact points for all matters related to the Award. Official contact details shall be made publicly available to ensure accessibility and proper handling of inquiries.

Approved on 30/4/2026