



20/09/2024

Medical device visionary among Sydney's Engineering Excellence Award winners

Sydney's most innovative engineers and engineering projects have been named at the 2024 Engineers Australia Excellence Awards – People and Projects Sydney, held at the Four Seasons Hotel last night.

“Celebrating innovation and dedication, the [Engineers Australia Excellence Awards](#) showcase the impact of engineers on society. By acknowledging their work, we offer a platform for them to inspire future talent and reinforce the importance of engineering in building a better future,” said Engineers Australia General Manager – Sydney, Jamie Burrage.

Local winners will go on to represent their division at the national awards' gala dinner on 21 November at the Brisbane City Hall.

Sydney Project of the Year

Project SABRE (Sydney AutoStrad Botany Rail Expansion) – Patrick Terminals

The Sydney AutoStrad Botany Rail Expansion project achieved the world's first truly automated rail-container interchange at Port Botany. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and innovative design, the project improved logistical efficiency, reduced train turnaround times by 33%, and significantly lowered transport costs. The increase in container transfer capacity, coupled with the reduced reliance on road transport, resulted in a substantial reduction in road congestion, with 900 fewer truck movements daily. The project's innovative use of automatic container cranes and digital twin technology sets new global standards for port automation, delivering widespread social and economic benefits.

Sydney Professional Engineer of the Year:

Brock Dominish – ResMed

Brock Dominish, a visionary mechatronic engineer, has revolutionised the medical device and manufacturing industries in Australia. His work with robotics has led to cutting-edge healthcare solutions, making him a driving force behind advancements in manufacturing. Known for his inventive approach and willingness to push boundaries, Brock's “mad scientist” persona sets him apart. His work epitomises the essence of engineering: improving lives and creating a better future.

Sydney Emerging Professional Engineer of the Year

Megan Wheeldon – Aurecon Australasia

Megan Wheeldon has made a lasting impact on the renewable energy sector through her innovative work across a series of groundbreaking projects. Her dedication to sustainability and her ability to seize opportunities for growth and learning have been key to her success. Ms Wheeldon's active involvement with influential organisations such as the Hydrogen Council highlights her commitment to driving positive change in the energy landscape. Her achievements demonstrate her expertise in delivering impactful results, earning her recognition as a true trailblazer in the field.

Civil College Sir John Holland Civil Engineer of the Year

Distinguished Professor Buddhima Indraratna AM - University of Technology Sydney

Honoured for his groundbreaking contributions to civil-geotechnical engineering. As Director of the Transport Research Centre at UTS, Professor Indraratna AM has made significant advances in soft soil engineering and ground improvement techniques, benefiting infrastructure projects around the world. His extensive publication record and mentorship of over 150 postgraduate students demonstrate his profound impact on both academia and industry.

Environmental College Environmental Engineer Achievement Award

Professor Qilin Wang - University of Technology Sydney

Professor Wang is recognised for his tireless efforts in promoting engineering and environmental sustainability. His commitment to diversity and inclusion, particularly in supporting young women in engineering, has set him apart as a leader in the field. An award-winning mentor and educator, Professor Wang's outreach and media engagement have made significant contributions to advancing both the engineering profession and environmental stewardship.

Engineers Australia

Media Release



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Information, Telecommunications and Electronics Engineering (ITEE) College Neville Thiele Eminence Award Geoffrey Sizer - Genesys Electronics Design

Geoffrey Sizer has been honoured for his exceptional contributions to engineering innovation and leadership over a distinguished 40-year career. With 16 patents and extensive experience across multiple industries, Geoff's work has had a lasting impact on product development. His leadership roles, including Chief Technology Officer and CEO, have demonstrated his ability to guide engineering teams in creating innovative solutions that advance technology and industry.

Mechanical College AGM Michell Medal

Professor David Eager - University of Technology Sydney

Professor Eager is recognised for his exceptional contributions to mechanical engineering and public safety. His work in developing safety standards for playgrounds, trampolines, and soccer goalposts has improved industry practices. Professor Eager's innovation in creating a portable impact test rig and his commitment to mentoring have further advanced the field, leaving a lasting impact on safety and diversity in engineering.

Structural College John Connell Gold Medal

Stephen Foster - University of NSW

Professor Foster has been honoured for his influential contributions to structural engineering. With a career spanning over 40 years, he has driven advancements in materials and design methodologies, particularly in concrete structures. His leadership in developing industry standards and his commitment to research, education, and professional service have improved engineering practices both in Australia and internationally.

Transport Australia society Transport Medal

Dr Michelle Zeibots - University of Technology Sydney

Dr Zeibots is recognised for her substantial contributions to sustainable transport planning and advocacy. A leader in the field, Dr Zeibots has influenced key projects such as the Sydney Airport Rail Link and the Inner West Light Rail. Her academic work at UTS has transformed transport engineering education, equipping future engineers with the skills to meet evolving challenges, including the shift to electric vehicle infrastructure.

Events like these are not possible without the support of our Excellence Awards category partners:

- Edith Cowan University - Emerging Professional Engineer of the Year
- Bluebeam - Professional Engineer of the Year
- Department of Transport and Main Roads - Engineering Associate of the Year
- Metecno - Project of the Year

Engineers Australia: As Australia's national engineering body, we champion our 127,000 plus members, providing resources, connections and growth for high-value work in our communities.

Ends.

Media: Lisa McKoy 0468 366 691 | lmckoy@engineersaustralia.org.au