Smeaton Medal 2021 - Smeatonian Society 250th Anniversary Series

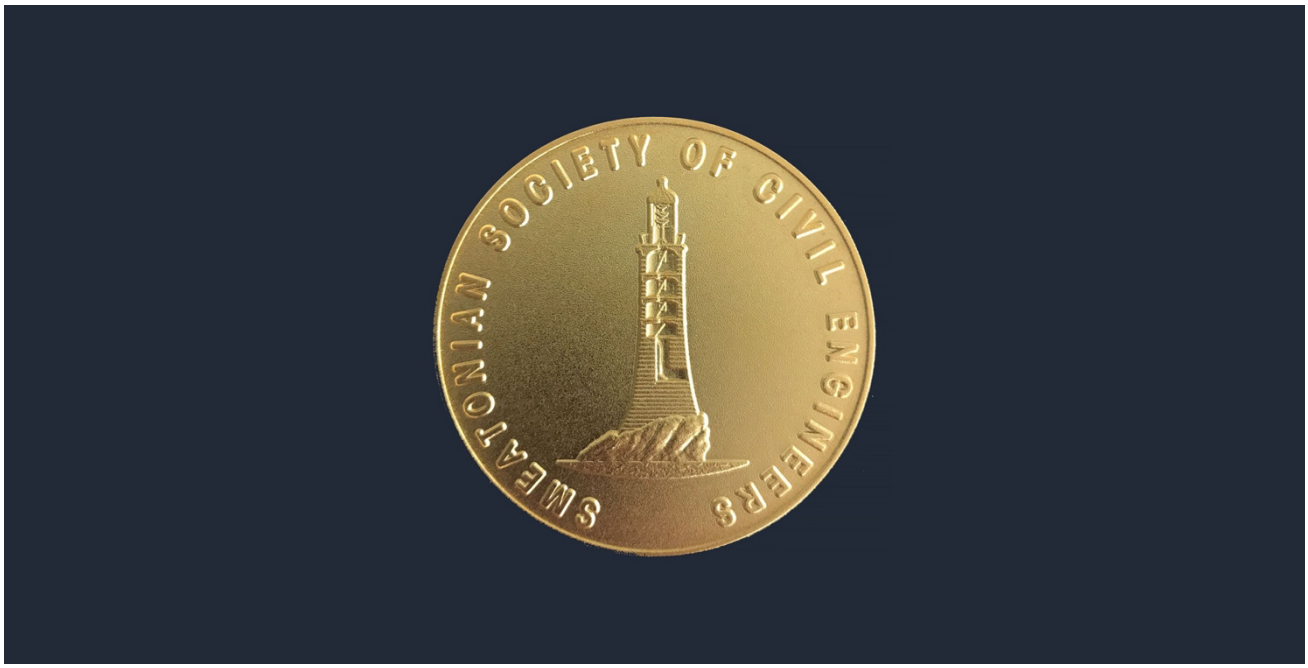
A PRESTIGE MEDAL FOR ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT IN HOSTILE OR EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS

Introduction

Storms, pandemics, space, earthquakes, cyberspace, subsea, cold regions. The challenges that face engineers are unprecedented in history. Do you know an engineer who has overcome extraordinary challenges working in hostile environments?

This pack has been created to provide supporting material for the promotion of the Smeatonian Society's campaign to encourage applications to the 250th Anniversary Smeatonian Society series medal.

Smeatonian Society 250th Anniversary Series Medal



The Smeatonian Society, the oldest engineering society in the world, is searching for candidates for its annual prestige medal to be awarded to an engineer in the early or mid-stage of their career for an engineering achievement in extreme or hostile environments. 2021 marks the Societies 250th anniversary and will be the first year of this special award. Do you know someone who might meet the criteria?

The Society is named after John Smeaton, an outstanding engineer of his generation. In the eighteenth century, his design and construction of the Eddystone Lighthouse represented a huge engineering achievement in one of the most challenging environments of his era. the exposed site posed huge design and construction problems that that had to be overcome. The imagination, determination and innovation that John Smeaton brought to complete the project in 1759 has inspired members of the Smeatonian Society ever since.

The Society invites nominations for engineering achievement in today's hostile or extreme environments. There are many parallels in today's world to the challenges faced by John Smeaton in his time. Engineering in cyberspace or outer space, mitigating natural disasters, the deep oceans, designing medical devices for the human body, or engineering in extreme climatic, chemical, biological or nuclear environments. Engineering in any of these environments requires special application and inventiveness. The Smeatonian Society wants to celebrate younger engineers of today who have adapted their work to meet the challenges

posed by these extreme conditions. One winner will be chosen each year to be recognised through the award of the Smeaton Medal.

The Award will consist of the medal, in hallmarked sterling silver with a gilt finish and an accompanying commemorative certificate. The winner will be contacted by 1 September 2021. The winner and one guest will be invited to attend a formal dinner of the Society to be held in London in late 2021, during which the Medal will be presented to the winner by the President.

How to Apply?

Nominations open on 1st February and close on 30th April 2021.

All nominations should be made using the nomination form at www.smeatonians.org/smeaton-medal and will be considered by the Judging Panel.

Nominees must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

Further information may be sought from the shortlisted candidates prior to the Panel reaching a final decision on the winner.

250 Years of History

The Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, founded in London in 1771, is the oldest Society of engineers in the world and embraces engineers of all specialisations.

Among its founding members was John Smeaton whose projects included harbours, bridges, canals and, most famously, the Eddystone Lighthouse. The design and construction of his lighthouse represented an extraordinary achievement for eighteenth century engineering in an extreme environment.

The imagination, determination and innovation that Smeaton brought to overcome that engineering challenge in 1759 has inspired members of the Society ever since.

To honour John Smeaton's contribution to the profession and to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Societies foundation we are launching a new series of the Smeaton Medal which will be awarded annually to an individual for outstanding engineering achievement in hostile or extreme environments.

We recognise the engineering challenges the world faces today are different than those that Smeaton faced in 1759. Fields of engineering where there are parallels to the challenges faced

by Smeaton in the 18th century might now include engineering in cyberspace, outer space, natural disasters, or extreme chemical, biological or nuclear environments.

Who should apply?

The 250th Anniversary Smeaton Medal will recognise individual engineering achievement relating to engineering in extreme or hostile environments.

The candidate should be in the early or mid-stage of their career, based at a UK organisation, university or research institution or potentially a UK national working abroad.

Nominations are welcome for candidates for the 2021 Smeaton Medal from any field of engineering.

The final choice of the winner will be determined by the Judging Panel alone on the basis of how the candidate overcame the challenges that they were faced with the extreme or hostile environment. A brief description of the challenge and the nominee's role in the project is essential. Background information on the nominee and their career to date will also be considered. The Judging Panel may request references before making any decision.

Award Timeline

1st February 2021 – Applications open for the Smeaton 250th Anniversary Medal

28th April 2021 – Applications close for the Smeaton 250th Anniversary Medal

1st September 2021 – The Smeaton 250th Anniversary Medal winner is announced.

How you can support the Medal.

Interested in helping to promote the Medal? You can help us by sharing information about the medal, application dates and our finalist across social media.

Suggested Post (Linkedin or Twitter) between 1st February and 30th April 2021.

- Do you know of an Engineer who deserves to win this year's #SmeatonMedal? The Smeatonian Society is now accepting applications for engineering achievement in extremely hostile environments. Nominate now: smeatonians.org/smeaton-medal #ExtremeEngineering
- Apply now for the #SmeatonMedal #ExtremeEngineering A national prize for engineering achievement in extreme or hostile environments. You can nominate at smeatonians.org/smeaton-medal

Suggested Post (Linkedin or Twitter) after 1st September 2021.

- Congratulations to [XYZ]. Winner of this years #SmeatonMedal. Find out more about #ExtremeEngineering at smeatonians.org/smeaton-medal

Digital Assets

You can use the following assets in social media, or blog posts to support the medal.

You can download at www.smeatonians.org/smeaton-medal

1. Photographs of the medal for print and web use.
2. 5x Social Media cards for use on Twitter or Linkedin.
3. 5x Images of extreme environments for use on blog posts or press.
4. A PDF outlining the award.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the award or want to find out more about the Smeaton Society you can contact us through our website.

www.smeatonians.org/contact-us

Notes to Editors.

About the Society

The “Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers” was founded in London in 1771 and is the oldest Society of engineers in the world.

It was initially known as the “Society of Civil Engineers” before being renamed the “Smeatonian Society” to honour Smeaton’s contribution in 1830.

The founding members were John Smeaton, Thomas Yeoman, Robert Mylne, Joseph Nickalls, John Grundy, John Thompson and James King.

While there had been various engineers carrying out non-military engineering works before 1771, Smeaton was the first to describe himself as a “Civil Engineer”. By describing himself as a “Civil Engineer” he not only differentiated his vocation from the military engineers of the time but identified a new profession.

In recent decades membership of the Society has broadened to embrace all engineering disciplines.

The Society has around 60 members.

The Societies main activity is convening dinners and discussions on engineering topics that promote the value and relevance of engineers and engineering to society.

The societies Greek motto (Τεχνη κρατουμεν ὣν φυσει νικωμεθα) is means “By art we master what would master us”, and has been used by the society since 1843.

The History of the Medal.

The first Smeaton medal was presented in 1974 and was associated with the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Smeaton. The Society decided award a medal annually to a distinguished engineer at the peak of their career. Three such medals were awarded.

Three gold medals were presented between 1974 and 1977 to top engineers of the day for their outstanding engineering achievements. These were to Geoffrey Morse Binnie (1974), Sir Stanley Hooker (1975) and Sir Leonard Renshaw (1977).

A second series of medals was launched in 1999. These were awarded to final year student or researcher nominated by a university selected by the Society to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the commissioning of Smeaton’s Eddystone Lighthouse in 1759.

The second series recognises achievements by young (student/research) engineers at universities around the UK not routinely in the public eye.

Five medals were awarded to students at the University of Plymouth (recognising the connection with Smeaton and the Eddystone Lighthouse). Three medals were awarded to students of the University of Hull. The ninth and tenth medals were awarded to students at Heriot-Watt University.

The award currently comprises the medal, in hallmarked sterling silver with a gilt finish and an accompanying commemorative certificate.

The new Award will consist of the medal, in hallmarked sterling silver with a gilt finish and an accompanying commemorative certificate. Ten medals have been cast to a modified design to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of the Society and will be awarded from 2021.

One winner will be chosen each year to be recognised through the award of the Smeaton Medal. The winner and one guest will be invited to attend a formal dinner of the Society to be held in London during which the Medal will be presented to the winner by the President.

The final choice of the winner will be determined by the Judging Panel alone on the basis of how they overcame the engineering challenges in the extreme or hostile environments in which they were working.