

Regulation of the “2025 IIFC Award for Outstanding FRP Field Applications”

1. Award Definition

1.1. General

Applications to the “2025 IIFC Award for Outstanding FRP Field Applications”, promoted by the International Institute for FRP in Construction (IIFC), can be submitted in one of the following two categories, concerning the structural use of fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) composites in civil engineering applications:

- New FRP Structures;
- FRP-Strengthening of Existing Structures.

1.2. IIFC Award for Outstanding New FRP Structures

This award category recognizes outstanding structural design and construction projects of new structures (buildings, bridges or other infrastructure projects), either (i) exclusively made of FRP composites, or (ii) combining FRP composites with components made of other structural materials (in so-called hybrid structures), or (iii) using FRP reinforcement, namely in FRP-reinforced concrete structures.

1.3. IIFC Award for Outstanding FRP-Strengthening of Existing Structures

This award category recognizes outstanding structural design and construction projects involving the use of FRP composite systems to strengthen existing structures.

2. Submission Requirements

2.1. General

Submissions for the “2025 IIFC Award for Outstanding FRP Field Applications” shall be made according to the instructions provided in the special portal for this award, available in IIFC website (www.iifc.org).

Submissions shall be made under one of the two categories outlined in Section 1, whichever best describes the project. The Jury reserves the right to reassign a submission to a different category if it is deemed more suitable.

To be eligible for an award, the project must have been completed before 31 March 2025. Projects may only be submitted once.

Submissions shall comprise of two elements: (i) Nomination Form, and (ii) Project Description, described in Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this regulation, respectively. These elements shall be submitted electronically according to the instructions provided in the portal for the “2025 IIFC Award for Outstanding FRP Field Applications”, using the template files provided by IIFC. Applications submitted via any other medium will not be considered.

The deadline for submissions is 31 March 2025 23.59 (CEST).

Applicants required to provide confirmation or clarification of any unclear information concerning their submission shall reply comprehensively and promptly.

2.2. Nomination Form

The Nomination Form shall be completed in English and contain the following information about the project:

- Project name and location.
- The award category.
- Starting date of the project (design).
- Completion date of the project (construction).
- Brief description of the project, up to 100 words, to be used by IIFC in promotional announcements if the project is shortlisted.
- Names, addresses, role, contact person, phone and email for all main institutions involved in the project. As a minimum, this shall include: (i) the client and/or owner of the project; (ii) the structural engineering designer; and (iii) the main contractor. In addition, the following institutions may also be included whenever applicable (in case they played a relevant role): (iv) the architect; (v) consultants; (vi) design supervision (vii) sub-contractors (undertaking significant parts of the work); (viii) construction supervision.
- The name and contact details of the person submitting the application, for communication with IIFC on anything related to the award. This person shall belong to one of the institutions involved in the project.
- The name, affiliation and email of the co-authors of the report with the “Project Description”.
- A signed declaration by the person submitting the form that all named institutions involved in the project and all co-authors of the report with the “Project Description” (see Section 2.3) have given their consent to the submission, that the content is original and that IIFC can make it available under a non-exclusive copyright transfer.

Note 1: If a dispute arises among the institutions involved in the project regarding the submission, the project will not be considered until the dispute is resolved.

Note 2: The copyright for all submitted materials, including text, images and drawings, remains with the authors. Any required credits for images and drawings must be clearly indicated in the report or in their filenames. However, by submitting their application, applicants grant IIFC royalty-free permission to use the submitted content for any purpose deemed appropriate, including dissemination via IIFC’s website, newsletter, and other channels. This may involve adapting images for marketing, public relations, and exhibition purposes.

2.3. Project Description

The Project Description, to be prepared in English, should provide enough detail to explain why the project is considered exceptional and deserving of the award in its category. Specifically, the Project Description should include sufficient information on the structural engineering and construction (execution) aspects to enable the Jury to assess the project based on the judging criteria outlined in Section 3.

The Project Description shall comprise:

- A report up to 1,750 words and five A4 pages (including text, images and drawings), highlighting the outstanding features of the project that qualify it as a strong candidate for an award in one of the two categories. In addition to the main structural design aspects, the report should also cover any relevant manufacturing and construction (execution) aspects. When applicable, it may also address other significant points, such as any relevant experimental testing or advanced numerical modelling that supported the design. Examples of sections that may be included in the report are provided in the Nomination Form. The report shall be submitted in both DOCX and PDF formats.

- Up to six high-quality colour images (which can match or differ from the ones included in the report) to be used by IIFC for publicity and promotional purposes. The images shall be provided as high-resolution JPG, TIF or PNG files (one for each image).
- Up to six drawings (which can match or differ from the ones included in the report), printable and clearly legible at A3 size, including one or more general arrangements with key dimensions and sufficient further information to describe the important structural characteristics or construction (execution) features. Drawings shall be submitted in PDF format (one for each drawing).

3. Judging Criteria

In the evaluation of the applications, the Jury will consider the following criteria:

- **Structural Conceptual Design** – originality and innovation of the proposed solution, providing a rational and effective response to the project specifications and site constraints.
- **Design and Construction Detailing** – application of advanced structural engineering to provide the best outcome for the design, construction, and operation.
- **Rational Use of FRP Composites** – due consideration of the main features of FRP composites, exploiting their advantages over conventional materials in a rational way.
- **Aesthetics** – elegance in both visual and technical attributes, with careful attention to detail.
- **Sustainability** – highest standards of sustainable design and construction, considering the environmental, economic and social impacts during the entire service life of the project.

4. Jury

The following rules apply to the composition of the Jury and the process of selecting its members:

- The Members and President of the Jury shall be selected and appointed by the President of IIFC, after consultation with the IIFC Advisory Committee and the IIFC Executive Committee.
- The Jury shall consist of 5 members, 1 being the Chair.
- The Jury shall include 1 member from the IIFC Executive Committee, 1 member from the IIFC Honours Committee, 1 member from the IIFC Council and 2 members selected from the international design and construction community.
- At least 2 members of the Jury shall be currently practicing as structural engineering designers or shall have a relevant practical experience.
- A member of the IIFC Executive Committee will be appointed as the Jury Secretary to support the administration of the judging process, collaborating closely with the Chair.
- All activities, discussions and conclusions of the Jury shall be treated as strictly confidential.

The composition of the Jury and a brief profile of its members will be published on the special portal for the “2025 IIFC Award for Outstanding FRP Field Applications” (announced in and linked to IIFC website) in advance of the submission date for applications.

5. Judging Process

The judging process will involve independent assessments by individual Jury members working remotely and collaborative discussions during Jury meetings, according to the following procedure:

- The IIFC Executive Committee will first review all applications to check for eligibility, completeness, and compliance with the present regulation before forwarding them to the Jury for evaluation. At this stage, applicants may be contacted for confirmation or clarification of any unclear information and shall respond comprehensively and promptly.
- For each of the two award categories, the judging process consists of two stages: (i) the first stage identifies shortlisted projects; and (ii) the second stage selects the winners and any honorable mentions. Jury members with conflicts of interest regarding any submitted project must declare it and will not participate in the second stage or discussions during the first stage for that category.
- In the first stage, Jury members will independently assess submissions, assigning preliminary scores based on a predefined system that considers the criteria defined in Section 4. These scores are not final, serving as guides for discussions during the shortlisting in the first Jury meeting.
- The first Jury meeting will occur after the preliminary scores are compiled. Projects with the highest scores will be considered first, but all members (excluding those with conflicts of interest) may advocate for lower-scoring projects they believe deserve consideration. The aim of this meeting is to determine the shortlisted projects.
- The second stage focuses on selecting winners and honorable mentions from the shortlisted projects in the second Jury meeting. After discussion, Jury members will independently vote for their preferred winners through a secret ballot submitted to the Chair.
- Depending on the quantity and quality of applications received, the jury may choose either (i) not to present the award in any category, or (ii) to give one or two honorable mentions.
- The Chair will finalize the results and notify the IIFC Executive Committee to prepare certificates and publicity materials.

6. Presentation Ceremony

The Awards will be announced and presented during the Awards Ceremony at the biennial IIFC official conference (CICE). The President of IIFC will present each award to representatives of the winning teams during this event. The winners will receive a recognition diploma and/or any other token, as determined by the IIFC Executive Committee, and their awards will be featured in the subsequent IIFC Newsletter. Additionally, all shortlisted but unsuccessful projects will be given a recognition certificate.