

Overview

The Churchill Medal is the premier prize awarded by the Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs) for Defence engineering achievement. The award is for an individual or a small team (the majority of whom are serving members of the Armed Forces or were serving at the time) for *'achievement in Engineering and Technical Advancement in support of the development and use of capability to support Military Operations/Readiness'* - during the period 1st April to 31st March annually.



Criteria for the award

The following, where applicable should also be considered when assessing nominations for submission:

- Operational effect.
- Innovation, effectiveness in terms of:
 - Products.
 - Processes.
 - Services.
 - Technologies.
 - Safety.
- Level of difficulty.
- Level of complexity.
- Efficiency realised in terms of:
 - Resource (equipment, manpower, cost, time etc.).
 - Improved performance.

The list is not exhaustive and other factors may be applicable when considering suitability for the award.

Citations

Managers or Commanding Officers of qualifying individuals or teams are asked to submit written citations. These should not exceed 1,000 words and can include a maximum of one diagram and one photograph. These should be forwarded to Mr Mark Organ, no later than June each year, email: markorgan@theiet.org.

Background

The Churchill medal, first awarded in 1952, was the Society of Engineers' most prestigious award. The medal was awarded at the discretion of the Council of the Society to an individual who had made a significant contribution to engineering

based on individual enterprise or a project where the nominee had made a significant contribution.

Sir Winston Churchill gave the approval for the title of the medal on 27 Nov 1946. This followed the presentation of an Honorary Fellowship of the Society to Sir Winston by the President of the Society of Engineers. Sir Winston, who expressed great enthusiasm for this award, reflected on the important contribution by engineers of all disciplines to the military needs in the Second World War. As a result of Sir Winston's recognition of the role of engineers in society, The Society of Engineers enjoyed continued support for this prestigious award by the Churchill family. Given the background of the medal and its previous association with the military, it was deemed appropriate that its re-institution would maintain that association and more specifically to the Armed Forces themselves.

Notable recipients of the Churchill Medal include Sir Frank Whittle in 1952 for the Jet Engine and Sir Bernard Lovell in 1964 for his work on Radio Astronomy. Following the reinstitution of the award in 2011, the range of innovation displayed by the successful finalists has been quite stunning with the judgement panel suitably exercised accordingly. Recent winners of the award have comprised:

2018/19 Medal – Fwd Mech Sect HMS Astute for their relentless efforts to resolve significant failings in the submarine's External Hydraulic System (EHS).

2017/18 Medal – Chief Technician Peter Wakefield, RAF for improved capability and availability of the Chinook Force.

2016/17 Medal – RN Marine Engineers for their ingenious modifications and engineering excellence in developing a technically challenging repair technique for nuclear reactors.

2015/16 Medal – Cpl Bernard Donoghue, RAF whose work was instrumental to the creation of one of the MOD's most important cyber capabilities.

Summary

The annual medal and award ceremony is organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and will take place in the IET Riverside Room, Savoy Place, London in November annually. Finalists will be notified in late August each year through their chain of command, with the actual winner being announced on the day.