Infrastructure Investor 2026 Global Awards

Now in its 18th edition, the *Infrastructure Investor* global awards are the industry's most prestigious honours. They are now 100 percent editorially led with shortlists and winners decided by PEI Group's internal panel of judges, made up of senior editorial figures across asset classes.

However, we still very much want your submissions. But given the number of new participants we attract each year – for which we are very grateful – and, also, the voluminous number of categories we ask you to submit for, we thought a guide to our awards process might come in handy.

How we draw up our shortlists

Our shortlists are based on two main factors – submissions from the industry, which we call for every year; and the editorial team's expertise, drawn from our coverage and conversations with sources. These form the basis for our considered selection process, and will play a key role in informing our selection of the winners.

For fairness's sake, we make the end of our call for submissions – this year, Monday 30th of November 2026 – the hard deadline to consider eligible entries. That means that if a deal or a fund closes after our call for submissions deadline, we will only consider it in the following year's edition.

The period covered by the *Infrastructure Investor* 2026 Global Awards is the 12-month period between November 2025 and November 2026.

What goes into our categories?

It probably goes without saying but all award selections are inherently subjective. Our choices take into account a mixture of qualitative and quantitative criteria, including non-financial considerations, when selecting what goes into each category and, eventually, the winners. We are looking for evidence of how active, but also how innovative, a firm has been. To use a deal example, we don't just select the biggest deals of the year – though of course some of those will feature – but we also look for transactions that are unique in some fashion.

Our award categories are organised by region and sector. We believe these labels are mostly self-explanatory, but don't hesitate to get in touch if you want to learn more about what comprises each – put simply, there isn't an exhaustive list we can give you, especially considering how new investments crop up every year that often expand the boundaries of the asset class.

We can, however, give you some pointers based on the broad categories:

Fund Manager/Investor of the Year**:** These categories try to capture everything of note a manager or investor has done over the preceding 12 months. This includes deals, both on the buy-side and sell-side; funds raised or being raised; and other noteworthy initiatives. We

privilege all activities that have closed or reached a conclusion within the 12-month period we are examining, but, unlike in other categories, we will consider initiatives, fundraisings and deals that have started, but not yet concluded.

Fundraising of the Year**:** In this category, we are only looking at fundraising processes which have reached a final close within the 12-month period under consideration. Fundraisings that have started or are still underway will not be considered. Regional fundraisings will consider whether a fund will invest a significant portion of its capital in the region for which it is being nominated, as well as its ability to attract LPs from that region. Global fundraisings will measure a fund's ability to invest and attract LPs from across the globe.

Deal of the Year: At the project and M&A level, only deals that have achieved financial close will be considered – we will not consider deals in any other stage of the process. Commitments to platforms are trickier, since we accept not all of the funds raised or announced will be disbursed in the 12-month period under consideration. However, we feel the time of announcement should determine eligibility, taking into account that disbursements will take place over many years, and we won't necessarily have visibility into yearly disbursements.

We've also introduced two new Global categories this year, so here's some guidance on them:

Law Firm of the Year: Submissions will be considered only for transactions which have closed in the 12-month period and only where the partner or partners have had a lead role on the deal. The judges will look out for advisors who have provided advice on especially complex or challenging transactions, particularly innovative structures and clear examples of how the advice helped to bring transformational transactions over the line.

Financial Advisor of the Year: Submissions will be considered only for transactions which have closed in the 12-month period and only where the advisor has had a lead role on the deal. The judges will look out for especially complex or challenging transactions, particularly innovative structures and evidence of having held a key role in executing a transformational transaction.

What we want from your submissions

'Brief and to the point' is probably the best piece of advice we can offer. That means a maximum of 500 words per category you are submitting. Furthermore, we require you to send us individual submissions for each category. All submissions need to be sent in PDF format or through the nominations form on our website. Finally, we request that only one person per firm submit to the relevant categories, to avoid receiving multiple submissions for the same categories from different people within firms.

As to what goes into each submission, our key requirement is that you only submit information that is relevant to the category you are applying for and make it clear why your submission is relevant. For example, if you are submitting for a Deal of the Year category, make it clear when your deal reached financial close. If it didn't close during the

period under consideration, please don't submit it. Finally, be aware that the information provided to us needs to remain valid until the winners are announced (see below for dates). We understand that circumstances change. But if they do, we require you to make us aware of what has changed ahead of any potential awards announcement.

We also ask you to be as detailed as possible – mentioning asset/fund names, counterparties, relevant dates, etc – and to clearly label what is confidential about your submissions – otherwise we reserve the right to use the content you submit in our write-ups. On that note, if you label your entire submission as confidential, then we won't be able to use it.

What are the deadlines?

29/10/2026: Call for submissions
30/11/2026: Deadline for receipt of submissions
Q1 2027: Winners announced