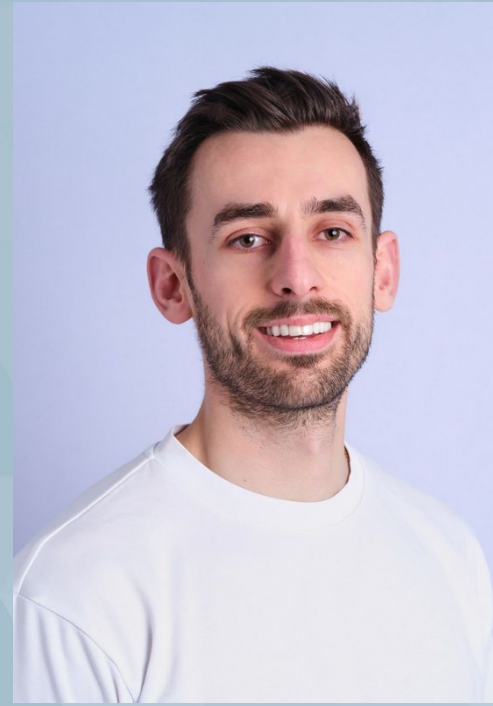




James Rennie Medal Final 2026

Monday 23 March 2026

Programme

18.00	Registration and welcome refreshments
18.30	Introduction – Steve Feeley, director of membership recruitment, ICE
18.35	Celebrating 30 years of the James Rennie medal award – Darren James
18.40	Introduction to the event format and finalists, David Porter, President, ICE <i>The finalists will have 20 minutes to present their report and 10 minutes to answer questions from the judging panel and audience.</i>
18.45	Finalist presentation – James Wright
19.05	Q&A
19.15	Finalist presentation – Jack Roberts
19.35	Q&A
19.45	Finalist presentation – Liam Eagle
20.05	Q&A
20.15	Interval
20.30	Vote of thanks and winner announcement – Olivia Perkins
20.38	Summary and event close for online participants
20.40	Drinks reception for in person participants
21.40	Event close

Introducing the Finalists

James Wright CEng MICE

senior structural engineer, AECOM



James is a Chartered Structural Engineer with 5 years' experience delivering complex building and infrastructure projects across the UK, Europe, and the Middle East. Currently a Senior Engineer at AECOM, James first joined the Sports Structures team in 2017 on his first placement, before joining permanently in 2021. James has experience in leading design teams, coordinating multidisciplinary delivery, and engaging with clients to achieve efficient, buildable solutions. Career highlights include his influence in the successful delivery of five Serpentine Pavilions.

Jack Roberts CEng MICE

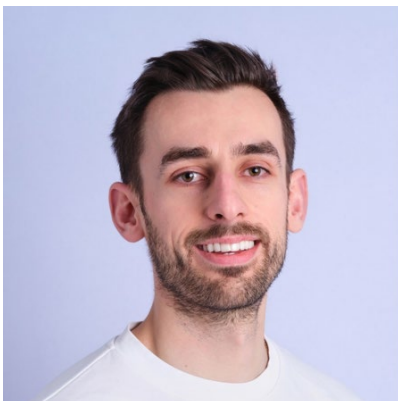
senior geotechnical engineer, Mott MacDonald



Jack Roberts began his engineering career conducting ground investigations with Ground Investigation Specialists in the West Midlands, before relocating to the United Arab Emirates in 2018. Whilst working for WS Atkins & Partners Overseas (now Atkins Realis) he spent three years working across the region on various major projects. In 2021 Jack then joined Mott MacDonald Spain, based in Madrid, working on local and global projects.

Liam Eagle CEng MICE

engineer, Ward & Burke Construction



After graduating from the University of Oxford in 2018, Liam joined the contractor Ward & Burke Construction. He began his career as a site engineer on the Thames Tideway project before getting a scholarship with Ward & Burke to undertake geotechnical laboratory research at Tufts University in Boston. After his time there, he spent two years as the civils design lead working on a £350m energy from waste scheme in Cheshire, before moving onto AMP 7 and AMP 8 projects for United Utilities in the North-West.

Introducing the judging panel

Darren James

CEO at Aureos, and chair of the James Rennie medal award panel



Darren is CEO of Aureos, a £500m infrastructure engineering contractor. Prior to this, he was CEO of Keltbray Group from April 2020 and COO of Costain Group PLC, where he started as a graduate. Previously a NED at the Port of London Authority and now an NED on the Board of Welsh Water.

A Surrey University Civil Engineering graduate, a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and was the inaugural winner of the James Rennie Medal in 1996

Olivia Perkins

managing director for rail at Morgan Sindall Infrastructure, and chair of the James Rennie judging panel



Olivia is Managing Director of Morgan Sindall Infrastructure's Rail Business Unit. The company delivers rail projects across the UK, primarily with Network Rail and Transport for London.

Olivia is a Chartered Civil Engineer; prior to joining Morgan Sindall, she worked on a range of infrastructure projects including Crossrail, HS2 and Luton DART.

She is keen on challenging her teams and the industry on the way we undertake infrastructure projects and is passionate about supporting the next generation's professional development.

David Scarr

head of foundations, Jera Nex bp



After an Oxford degree, David joined Arup in London and worked on design and build of Offshore Platforms and the, Spinnaker Tower, winning the 2002 Rennie medal. At BP he worked on LNG including a short period in Japan. He spent 6 years in Azerbaijan; constructing a large offshore platform and modifications to operational facilities. In 2017 he was Engineering Manager for the Tortue Hub; an LNG port offshore Mauritania & Senegal. Most recently he is enjoying engineering wind farms.

Introducing the judging panel

Sarah Glover

associate director, Arup



Sarah is an Associate Director at Arup where she is responsible for design and construction of a wide range of multidisciplinary engineering projects. A geotechnical specialist, she has particular experience of the design of foundations and deep basements on urban sites which are frequently constrained by sensitive existing buildings and underground third party infrastructure. She is a chartered engineer, supervising civil engineer and former winner of the James Rennie Medal.

Claire Lepoutre

technical services director, Skanska



Claire is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and Technical Services Director at Skanska, where she is responsible for planning, digital delivery, engineering surveying, GIS, and business improvement.

James Wright's Project

James will present on his role in delivering the 2023 Serpentine Pavilion. Titled *À table*, the timber-framed structure has nine radial scalloped edges to form a communal and events space. The Serpentine Pavilion is an annual commission in London's Kensington Gardens, featuring a temporary and demountable structure designed with a different signature architect each year. James will explore the challenges of managing an innovative, low-carbon design within a highly compressed programme, which requires close collaboration with the client, architect and contractor from the outset.



Installation of the steelwork for oculus covering. Courtesy: Stage One



Pavilion entrance showcasing refined detailing and discretely concealed timber connection interfaces throughout



The Pavilion exterior, everything seen is structural. Photo: Iwan Baan, Courtesy: Serpentine



The 2023 Serpentine Pavilion interior at completion

Jack Roberts' Project

Jack Roberts CEng MICE, senior geotechnical engineer at Mott MacDonald Spain, will discuss his experiences on the investigation into a failing structure and the lessons learnt from working and living around the globe. He will also touch on his voluntary role as team lead and project manager for the Kisaro Suspension Bridge development in Rwanda.



Site works in the Rub' al Khali desert, UAE



Construction of Marsa Al Arab looking over to the Burj Al Arab, UAE



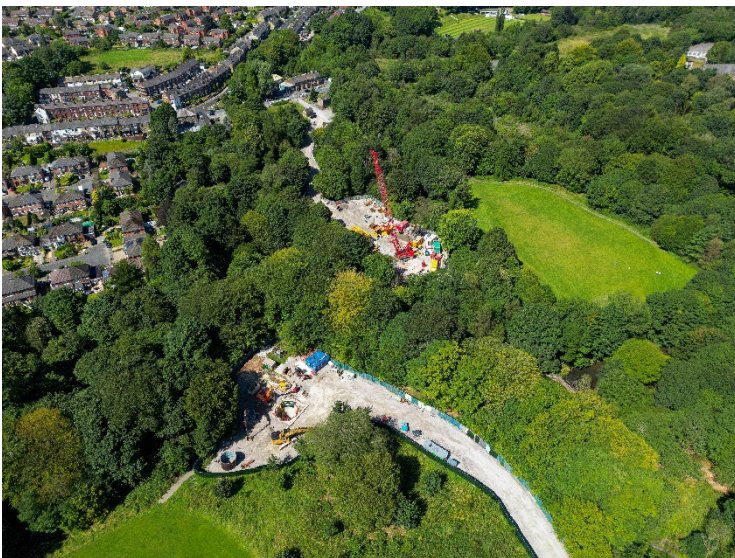
Ground investigation at Wadi Safar near Riyadh, KSA



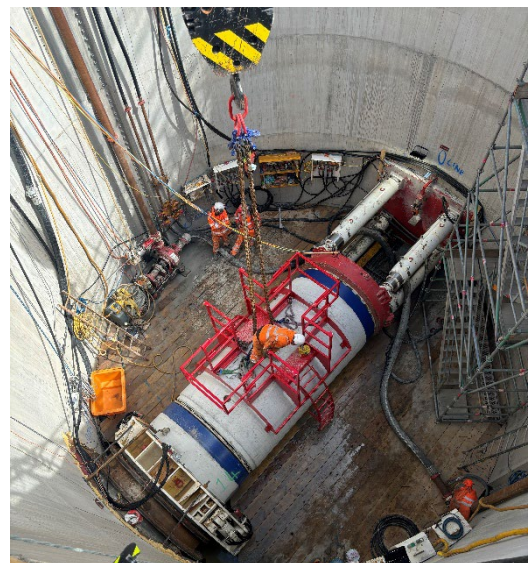
Marine ground investigation at Qetaifan Island, Qatar

Liam Eagle's Project

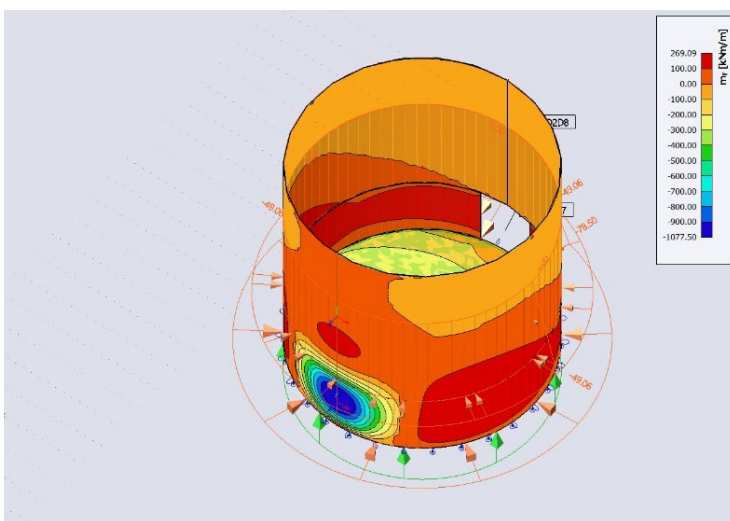
Liam Eagle was the engineering design lead on a £13m United Utilities AMP7 scheme in Bolton, connecting two sewer overflows to reduce spills into Bradshaw Brook. A 900m long 1.83m ID pipejacked tunnel provided 2,900m³ of stormwater storage along with the key benefits of cutting embodied carbon and minimising disruption within sensitive parkland when compared to traditional detention tanks.



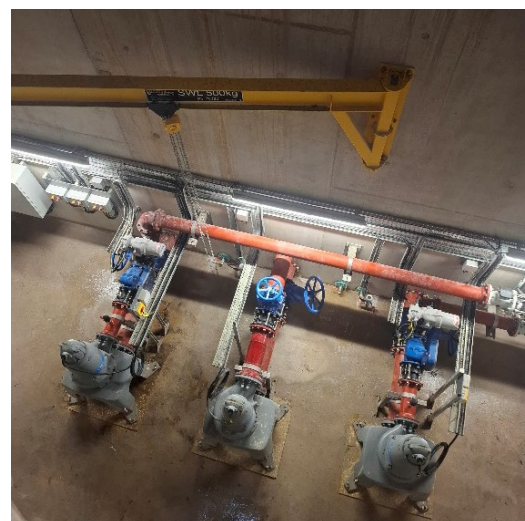
Drone image of the Royal Oak and Longsight Park construction sites



Unloading of a precast jacking pipe ready to form part of the 900m long pipejacked tunnel



Finite element analysis of the Firwood launch shaft completed by Liam



Mixer pump and duty/standby return pumps within the completed Firwood dry well

Celebrating the James Rennie legacy

In celebration of the 30th year of the James Rennie Medal Award, we would like to acknowledge past winners of the award. Read about their reflections on the award, where they are now, and some of the outstanding contributions they have made to the field of engineering.

Darren James – 1996 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Despite it being 30 years ago, I remember distinctly the family and friends of the late James Rennie populating the front rows of the Telford Theatre to listen to the three finalist presentations. I vividly recall the feeling of immense pride when the winner announcement, that my submission on the Strengthening of the Avonmouth Bridge, was conveyed by the President to the audience and I was being compared to the great man himself.

I have the immense privilege now to Chair the James Rennie Medal and for many years watched exceptional young professional Civil Engineers be recommended, shortlisted, finalists and winners of this ultimate accolade of a newly Chartered Civil Engineer.

Long may the medal, James Rennie's legacy and the importance of the role of the Chartered Engineer in Society continue.



Paddy J Brow – 1998 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award



Since receiving the award I have had a long and fulfilling career in the UK Water Industry, with highlights being the 2003 to 2006 technical management of a large bathing waters compliance scheme for the most beautiful part of Northern Ireland, working with Stantec to help develop and deliver an international training course for technical managers, receiving the 2009 UK Utility Industry 'Team of the Year Award' on behalf of NI Water for a project for which I was the Programme Manager, leading on the development of Regulated Asset Management Plan submissions for NI Water, serving on the Board of UKWIR for 7 years, and setting up the Living With Water Programme (LWWP) in 2015.

In 2025 I received the CIWEM Presidents National Award for Innovation for how the LWWP Partners had collaborated to create an innovative catchment based approach to develop a £2.1bn integrated investment plan for Greater Belfast to comply with the EU Floods Directive and EU Water Framework Directive, with the LWWP approach used as a foundation by WaterUK for creation of the Drainage & Wastewater Management Plan Framework 2018.

Joanne Iddon – 1999 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Joanne Iddon is now a Principal with Arup in their New York City (NYC) office, having recently celebrated 30 years with the firm. She is the Americas Region Service Lead for Program and Project Management.

Across her career, she has worked with global corporates, internationally known education establishments, financial institutions and government agencies helping them develop their asset base to meet their ever-changing business needs. Most recently she has been advising NYC government agencies setting up and running program offices for alternative procurement delivery models.

She was honoured by the NYC Women Builders Council in 2025 as a recipient of the Outstanding Women Award recognising professionals whose leadership, vision, and accomplishments have made a lasting impact across the city's AEC industry.



Alexander Watts– 2000 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award



Since winning the award I have been fortunate to work on projects and businesses, and in roles, that have allowed me to utilise my collaborative behaviours, engineering intuition and people skills.

Some significant projects have included the M6 Toll Motorway (Project Manager, Section 1), St Pancras Station Refurbishment (Joint Venture Board Member) and Regional Rail Link Packages B and C, Melbourne (Alliance Leadership Team Member). These joint venture and alliance projects were marked by teamwork and positive, honest relationships.

This achievement helped me become Transport Director for Laing O'Rourke, Executive Consultant with Evans & Peck, and General Manager (NBN) with Transfield Services; all fabulous experiences during which I was able to support and mentor others.

More personally, the opportunity to resettle in Australia has been hugely beneficial for me and my family, and the chance to gain further perspective.

My current role, as Interface Manager on Snowy Hydro 2.0, is an opportunity to experience FIFO on the delivery of the largest committed renewable energy project in Australia. The international project team provides opportunities to learn about new cultures.

David Scarr – 2002 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Receiving the Medal in 2002 gave me the confidence that integrating engineering and construction was not only a good project philosophy, but one I could build a career around.

After Arup, I joined BP, where I spent over 20 years working across technology development, engineering, project management, construction, installation, operations support and modifications. My career has taken me around the world; living abroad four times and projects in more than 33 countries. This has included offshore deserts, coastal, arctic facilities and buildings and taught me the value of extending my philosophy to include operations and business.

I came full circle in 2009 when I joined the Rennie Award Panel. Every year I am inspired by the ideas, energy and purpose in the shortlist. I remain grateful to those who encouraged my early career.



Eleni Papageorgiou – 2006 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award



At the time of receiving the James Rennie award, I relocated to Greece, where the award's name carried little local significance, but its impact was immediately evident in my approach to leadership and design. I assumed responsibility for multidiscipline design management on a major highway project, Maliakos-Kleidi, coordinating engineering, environmental, and stakeholder requirements under demanding timelines. That success reinforced the belief in my abilities that the award catalysed.

Currently, working from Greece, I lead dispersed, multinational teams delivering major infrastructure projects in Canada, including the Ontario Line and the Garden City Skyway. The leadership, technical assurance, and cross-cultural collaboration skills honed since winning the Rennie Award underpin these efforts. The recognition remains a personal benchmark that encourages continual learning, bold decision making, and resilience.

Sarah Glover– 2008 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Since receiving the James Rennie Medal Award, I have had many career highlights, including acting as geotechnical lead for HS2 Euston Station, contributing to the creation of the mined deep basement beneath Claridge's Hotel, and working on major London projects such as 50 Fenchurch Street and the new US Embassy.

Outside of project delivery, I am passionate about supporting engineers in the early stages of their careers. I am an ICE reviewer, a supervising civil engineer, and actively contribute to early years development at Arup. I am also proud to be a member of the James Rennie Medal Panel, helping to support and inspire the next generation of civil engineers.



Eamonn Slevin – 2012 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Eamonn joined Costain in 2000 and spent his first decade in the water sector. He then transitioned to major projects, notably as the Construction Manager on the M53 Bidston Moss Viaduct Strengthening Project – his Professional Review and James Rennie Medal Award project.

Eamonn subsequently led numerous major highways projects. In 2020 he secured Costain a member position on the National Highways Smart Motorways Programme Alliance. He then took on the role of Alliance Assembly Director, leading the programme's delivery element. Currently, Eamonn is driving Costain's expansion into new markets and is responsible for transforming the Costain Rail business.



Olivia Perkins– 2016 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award



Winning the James Rennie Medal was career changing, it gave me a platform from which I could progress my career and gain broader involvement in both business and industry initiatives in which I could make a difference, something I am wholly passionate about.

Following the award, I was involved in further major projects with Kier Infrastructure including the early stages of High Speed 2 and delivering the Luton Dart and was also supported in undertaking a corporate development and strategy secondment. I joined Morgan Sindall Infrastructure in 2021 and became the Managing Director of the Rail Business Unit in 2022; I achieved this level of seniority at an earlier point in my career than expected and thank the business greatly for affording me this opportunity.

Joseph Maltezos – 2017 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Joseph commenced his professional career with Laing O'Rourke in the United Kingdom, leading major infrastructure projects including light rail, strategic highway upgrades, major underground stations, and large-scale wastewater schemes.

In 2018, Joseph joined the Cyfield Group of Companies in Cyprus, contributing in delivering several large-scale high-rise developments across commercial and residential sectors. He subsequently served as Project Director for one of the largest wastewater infrastructure projects in Cyprus.

Between 2023 and 2025, he led the rehabilitation of the largest landfill in Cyprus, together with associated regional sites, in EU-funded projects representing a landmark achievement in national compliance with environmental directives and long-term public benefit.



Stephen Thompson – 2019 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award



Since receiving the Medal, my career at Arup has focused on enabling meaningful climate action. I see climate change as the defining engineering challenge of our time, and my priority has been to identify robust, technically credible ways to reduce emissions across projects.

My work on Responsible Offsetting has since evolved into industry guidance and is now embedded within Arup's Net Zero service offering. The confidence and conviction gained through the Medal continue to shape my work, enabling me to deliver credible climate solutions with lasting social, environmental, and economic value.

Tina Gunnarsson– 2020 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Since winning the James Rennie Award, I have gone on to work full time with Fika, relocating to Rwanda to oversee construction of 50 bridge superstructures and support over 500 volunteers in my role as East Africa Corporate Manager to connect rural communities.

Winning the James Rennie Medal opened many doors — fuelling a fire within. It encouraged me to step into advocacy roles, joining ICE's Fairness, Inclusion and Respect Committee, standing as an ICE Council Member, and becoming a Trustee of Engineers Against Poverty. I co-founded the SheBuilds Collective and co-hosted the Engineering Rebuilt podcast to amplify diverse role models across our industry.



Ronan Royston– 2022 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award



Being awarded the James Rennie Medal in 2022 was a defining milestone in my career and a deeply valued recognition of my early contributions to the engineering profession. Receiving the award strengthened my confidence and reinforced my commitment to pursuing excellence in engineering.

Since then, my career has continued to flourish alongside my enthusiasm for the profession. I have been fortunate to contribute to several complex and rewarding design-and-build projects with Ward and Burke. Among these are the multi-award-winning Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Athlone Main Drainage Scheme, and the Ringaskiddy Port Redevelopment. Working on these large-scale, multidisciplinary projects—from concept and detailed design through to construction and operational delivery—has been particularly fulfilling. Seeing projects evolve from initial sketches to fully functioning infrastructure that serves communities is at the heart of what I value most in engineering.

Melissa Klavins-Bridge – 2023 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Receiving the James Rennie Medal in 2023 was a defining moment in my career, giving me a renewed sense of self-belief and the confidence to pursue projects I am genuinely passionate about. The recognition not only affirmed the value of work being carried out across the nuclear industry but also introduced me to a wider community of engineers and professionals whose insights have continued to influence my development.

Since receiving the award, I have joined BakerHicks, where I have had the opportunity to contribute to projects aligned with the UK's Civil Nuclear Roadmap to 2050—work that supports the country's ambition to transform its energy mix, enhance resilience and achieve a more sustainable, independent future. Being part of this work has been both motivating and eye-opening, broadening my appreciation of the meaningful role structural engineering plays in addressing complex societal challenges.

Beyond my project work, the award also strengthened my commitment to supporting others in their professional journeys. I have continued to mentor colleagues, helping several successfully reach chartership—a privilege that remains one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career.

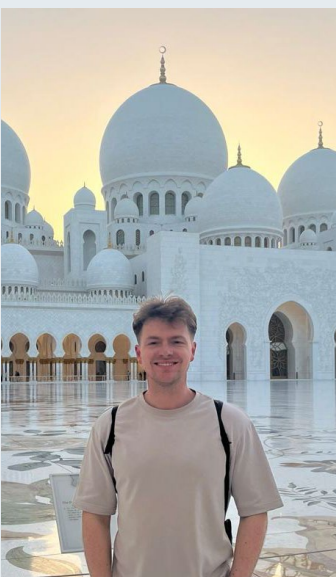


Joseph Roper – 2024 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

Receiving the James Rennie Medal was a career-defining moment and one that significantly influenced my professional direction.

Following the award, I was promoted and given the opportunity to assume increased responsibility on the HS2 programme, where I was responsible for the self-delivery of key structural assets, including Curdworth Box and the Gilson Road Retaining Walls. I actively sought this role to address a gap in my development in the self-delivery of structures, recognising the importance of continual development, something I am passionate about, through hands-on experience within a complex and high-profile environment.

The experience and confidence gained through self-delivering major HS2 structures supported my progression into an international role, and I am now based in Dubai, leading the delivery of a new residential complex in Jumeirah 2. Working internationally has broadened my exposure to different cultures, ways of working, and regulatory environments, while continuing to stretch my leadership skills and reinforce the importance of adaptability and collaboration in engineering delivery.



Emma McGregor – 2025 winner of the James Rennie Medal Award

It was a great honour and privilege to be named the winner of the 2025 James Rennie Medal, an award with such a rich history and values that represent what it means to be a successful civil engineer. To be named alongside previous winners, whose journeys and contributions to the profession are nothing short of inspiring, is something I am incredibly proud of.

For me, my whole journey to professional chartership was a chance to reflect and share my journey as a civil engineer so far on a project that I loved. To be able to share it with the wider civil engineering community at the JRM final, was incredibly rewarding. Viking Energy Wind Farm was a project that provided the springboard for my career, and to have had the opportunity to work on one of the UKs flagship civil engineering projects is something I shall always be grateful for. Last year's final was a night that shall forever remain a highlight in my career.

Since winning the JRM, I was honoured to be nominated by the ICE and named as a highly commended runner up for the Karen Burt Memorial Award 2025 with the Women in Engineering Society.



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