ice
Institution of Civil Engineers

Awards 2027

East Midlands



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2027 ICE East Midlands Merit Awards (EMMAs)

Call for entries

The premier civil and infrastructure engineering awards in the region

ice.org.uk/eastmidlands



2027 HEADLINE SPONSOR

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02
Introduction



The ICE East Midlands Merit Awards (EMMAs) provide an opportunity to showcase outstanding civil and infrastructure engineering achievement, innovation and ingenuity in the region.

Winners will be announced at the ICE East Midlands Merit Awards Ceremony taking place at the Crowne Plaza in Nottingham on Friday, 25 June 2027.

The awards will be presented to the attending organisation or other partners (commissioning authority, designer, contractor or research establishment as appropriate) or individuals.

Award categories:

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Award
- Social Value Award
- Health & Safety Award
- Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Award
- Innovation & Technical Excellence Award
- Best Use of AI & Digital Award
- Project under £10m
- Project over £10m

People Award categories:

- Team Achievement Award
- Rising Star Award
- Individual of the Year Award
- William Kemp Award

All submitted projects have an opportunity to receive an Organisation of the Year Award. This category will be awarded at the judge's discretion to recognise the outstanding achievement of an organisation that has demonstrated sustained performance across multiple award categories.

If you are intending to enter an award, ICE East Midlands ask that you complete the online form by midday on Thursday, 1 April 2027.

All completed entries should be submitted via the WeTransfer and the link emailed to: emmas@ice.org.uk by midday on Thursday, 22 April 2027.

Please contact ICE East Midlands for more information via:
e: ice.eastmidlands@ice.org.uk
t: +44 (0)121 227 5949

03
Rules of Entry



Colwick Fish Pass
ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2024
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The EMMAs celebrate the work of professionals engaged in civil and infrastructure engineering in the East Midlands. All entries should demonstrate civil and infrastructure engineering at its best and, where applicable, their alignment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

Civil and infrastructure engineering is all about helping people and shaping the world. It's the work that civil engineers do to improve lives while also developing wider benefits to society and the environment including:

Keeping the nation switched on by powering our homes

Providing clean water and purifying waste water before it is discharged to rivers from where it can be re-used

Creating and maintaining transport infrastructure, from roads and bridges to railways and airports, so that people can get around

Developing solutions to overcome problems such as pollution or working with nature to minimise flooding

Ensuring infrastructure projects—both new and enhanced—embed net zero carbon strategies in all decision-making

Award entries must conform to the rules of entry and the category descriptions set out in this document.

3.1 Projects submitted must have been substantially completed during the 2026 calendar year.

3.2 In the case of longer-term projects (over more than one calendar year), the submitting organisation should decide in which year the project has made a significant impact and enter accordingly. It may be appropriate to enter a stand-alone element of the project into an appropriate category, and the completed project in future awards.

3.3 Different elements of a project may be entered in different categories where appropriate (e.g. Project under £10m and Innovation & Technical Excellence Award categories), so long as the submissions correspond to the relevant judging criteria.

3.4 There is no shortlisting. All submissions will be judged for an award.

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Submissions



Witches Oak Floating Wetlands - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2026
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Submissions must include the following; failure to include any element may result in disqualification.

4.1 A fee of £250 + VAT is to be paid at the time of submission. The deadline for entries is midday on Thursday, 22 April 2027. Make a payment.

4.2 No fee is required for those entering the People Award categories or from academic institutions entering the Project Award categories.

4.3 Evidence of prior written approval by all involved parties must be included in the submission. This approval of entry also covers approval of all subsequent promotion of the EMMAs by ICE. It is the entrant's responsibility to provide all relevant permissions; failure to provide these at the time of submission may result in the entry being withdrawn.

4.4 The submission should set out the conception, realisation and execution of the project with particular emphasis on the points included in the judging criteria.

4.5 Include a150-word executive summary of the entry. This is intended to highlight key aspects of the submission and areas of excellence, including any special features. The executive summary wording may also be used in promotion of the entry in the ICE East Midlands marketing and publicity.

4.6 A submission on the standard form - note maximum 1000 words to cover the criterion (excluding the executive summary) presented in PDF format, including copy text. Photographs and images/drawings can be submitted separately as long as the total submission does not exceed 10Mb. Please contact the ICE East Midlands Regional Support Team for further guidance. All pages should be suitable for printing in A4 format.

4.7 Photographs/images illustrating the project should be of high-resolution (minimum of 1Mb) JPEG format at a resolution of not less than 300dpi. One of these photographs should be highlighted and captioned as the image to be used in the main publicity material and for promotion of the entry at the awards ceremony. For the Innovation & Technical Excellence Award category, computer generated models may be appropriate. Copyright ownership or permission must also be evidenced.

4.8 For the People Awards, please provide a head shot of the nominated person. Entries should be submitted in the format detailed within the rules of entry above.

4.9 In the People Award Categories, previous winners within the last two years are not eligible for consideration.



Bennerley Viaduct - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2022
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4.10 Additional supporting material may be included, but should be concise and clearly referenced within the entry submission (i.e. using page/diagram/figure details) otherwise it may be disregarded by the judges. Electronic visualisations may be included to emphasise or explain a particular part of the design or process, but will not form part of the judging process.

4.11 It is the responsibility of the entrant to declare, at time of submission, any instances of negative media coverage related to the project. Please note that this will not affect the judging process and is for awareness purposes for ICE external media planning.

4.12 All entry materials should be submitted via the WeTransfer platform.

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Judging process



Lower Idle Asset Management Scheme - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2022
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5.1 There is no shortlisting process – all submitted entries will be considered and the winning entries will be announced at the awards ceremony. No announcements will be made in advance.

5.2 The judges can only act on the information provided in the submission. No prior knowledge can be assumed by submitting organisations.

5.3 ICE East Midlands reserves the right to edit any copy submitted due to editorial constraints in our marketing and promotions. ICE East Midlands also reserves the right to use images submitted in any future publications, news items and promotional materials as appropriate.

5.4 It is the entrant's responsibility to determine which category an entry is eligible for. If the judges decide that a submission is inappropriate or incorrect for the category, they reserve the right to reject the submission. The judges will decide whether entries are worthy of a merit award or highly commended level in each award category.

5.5 The judges' decision is final and binding on all entrants and no discussions or correspondence relating to any of the judges' decisions will be entered into. Judges, at their discretion, may make more than one award for each category, but they also reserve the right to withhold from making an award if the submissions are not of the required quality.

5.6 The judges may request online presentations of up to 10 minutes, followed by up to 20 minutes Q&A. The presentation could enable aspects of a project to be viewed that could otherwise only be appreciated by a site visit, or could better demonstrate Whole Project Impact (for example through interviews with the public). If this is the case, ICE East Midlands will contact the submitting organisation to arrange.

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Categories



Strategic Pipeline Alliance - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2025
© Anglian Water Services

Any civil or infrastructure engineering project, design, study and research paper, team activity or individual may be entered for an award, provided the project, study, infrastructure or civil engineer meets the criteria as listed in the Project or People Awards category descriptions.

PEOPLE AWARDS

RISING STAR AWARD

This award recognises the outstanding achievements (either personal, professional or both) of a person who has under ten years civil or infrastructure engineering industry experience. Open to all ICE membership grades, it may be someone in a team who has overcome a difficulty and still excelled in their work project or studies; or their contributions have improved outcome or delivery. Open to those who either live or work in the East Midlands.

TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nominations are invited from any team working in operations, construction, design (or any combination) involving the delivery of civil or infrastructure engineering related practice, and which has made a significant contribution to society.

A clear demonstration of team working must be presented, highlighting the successes of the team, as well as how challenges were overcome through collaborative working.

The lead partner and/or majority of the project team must be based in the East Midlands. It should be absolutely clear that these team members have been instrumental in the successful delivery of the project.

WILLIAM KEMP AWARD

The prestigious William Kemp Award is presented to an individual (not necessarily a civil or infrastructure engineer) who has made a sustained and exceptional contribution to civil or infrastructure engineering in the East Midlands over many years. This may cover contributions in one or more fields arising out of design, research, development or investigation, construction, management (including project management), education and training, and contribution to the profession.

The William Kemp Award is awarded to individuals who are in the course of, or have just completed, their active careers. Nominations from the wider community are welcome.

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

This award recognises the outstanding achievements (either personal, professional or both) of a person who has gone 'above and beyond' in their role to support individuals, teams, or a project in an organisation within the sphere of civil or infrastructure engineering. Open to all ICE membership grades.



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PROJECT AWARDS

All projects must be located within the ICE East Midlands geographical region (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland).

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD

This category recognises an individual, project team, initiative or network that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). Entries should showcase how inclusive practices, behaviours, initiatives, or campaigns have created positive change for people, teams, organisations, or the wider industry. This award is open to individuals, project teams, organisations, joint ventures, employee networks, site-based initiatives, and industry-wide campaigns.

SOCIAL VALUE AWARD

This award recognises the project team that has excelled in delivering social value through their project. The winning team will have demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing value within the local community by identifying and implementing initiatives focused on community engagement, supply chain development, skills enhancement, or similar areas.

HEALTH & SAFETY AWARD

Awarded to the project team that can demonstrate outstanding levels of performance within health, safety, wellbeing on their project.

CLIMATE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION AWARD

This award honours the project team that has demonstrated a strong commitment to carbon management and sustainability practices. The winning team will have shown significant progress incorporating climate adaption and sustainability in their projects.

INNOVATION & TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognises projects and/or teams that can demonstrate innovation and/or technical excellence through the creative application of engineering, design or technology to deliver outstanding outcomes for people, places, or the environment. Submissions are welcome from academia and industry alike. The lead partner and/or majority of the team must be based in the East Midlands. It should be clear that these team members have been instrumental in the project's success and implementation. A submission in this category could include, for example, use of robotics in construction, digital twins, and smart infrastructure, meeting the net-zero carbon target, closing the productivity gap (Project 13).

NB: those considering entering this category are encouraged to also review the criteria for the Best Use of AI and Digital Award, in case the entry would fit better there.



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BEST USE OF AI & DIGITAL

This category recognises a project and/or organisation that demonstrates how the application of AI and/or digital practices has improved productivity and efficiency. The application does not have to be a 'first-of-its-kind' application, rather, it could represent a significant enhancement to existing practices. This category aims to recognise the practical application of AI and/or digital practices.

NB: those considering entering this category are encouraged to also review the criteria for the Innovation and Technical Excellence Award category, in case the entry would fit better there.

PROJECT UNDER £10M

This category is for projects with a value under £10m.

PROJECT OVER £10M

This category is for projects with a value over £10m.

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Judging criteria



Dolphin Lane - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2024
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The judges will consider each entry against the Project Award criteria, except for the People Awards, for which separate entry forms are available. The judging panel, chaired by a senior member of the profession, will comprise civil and infrastructure engineers and other professionals working in the built environment.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD

A clear vision, purpose, or objective for improving EDI, and how the approach has created meaningful change.

How inclusive values and behaviours have been embedded within a team, project, initiative, organisation, or wider industry activity.

The role played by individuals, leaders, sponsors, champions, or stakeholders in driving positive and inclusive outcomes.

Measurable evidence of success, including progress against objectives, improvements in representation, engagement, accessibility, culture, or employee experience.

Lasting impact, sustainability or potential for continued growth and development.

Positive outcomes achieved for individuals, teams, organisations, or the wider industry.

How lessons learned, good practice or successful approaches have been shared, replicated, or scaled across other projects, teams, organisations, or industry groups.

SOCIAL VALUE AWARD

How has the project identified and delivered opportunities to enhance value in the local community?

These could include initiatives focused on community engagement, supply chain and/or skills development, or similar.

Are any of the initiatives aligned to the client's own commitments for social value?

Have any initiatives been delivered by a single organisation or through collaboration of the value chain (including the client)?

Please provide evidence of outcomes achieved, e.g. number of jobs created, training hours delivered, community feedback and wellbeing improvements.

Have the social value achievements been measured in line with a recognised framework, for example national Themes Outcomes and Measures (TOMs)?

What lasting benefits will remain after project completion?

Has the project introduced innovative approaches to delivering social value and what lessons have been learned and shared?



The North and East Melton Mowbray Distributor Road - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2026
© Galliford Try

HEALTH & SAFETY AWARD

Has a robust process for hazard identification and risk management been employed?

How are wellbeing practices being continued or embedded beyond the project (e.g. rolled out across other sites, adopted by partner organisations)?

What approaches have been adopted to promote health and wellbeing across the project team (including mental health, and wellness)?

What mechanisms have been used to monitor performance, learn lessons and implement improvements?

CLIMATE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION AWARD

How is or has the project demonstrating its progress in adopting the whole-life carbon hierarchy outlined in PAS 2080 (Avoid, Switch, Improve)?

How was a carbon baseline and reduction target set and does the reduction target align with the clients transition to net zero?

Has the value chain been involved in setting the plan for reducing carbon and has it been achieved or exceeded?

Has sustainability been considered from the outset (feasibility) and been embedded throughout the whole project lifecycle and with active participation from the whole value chain?

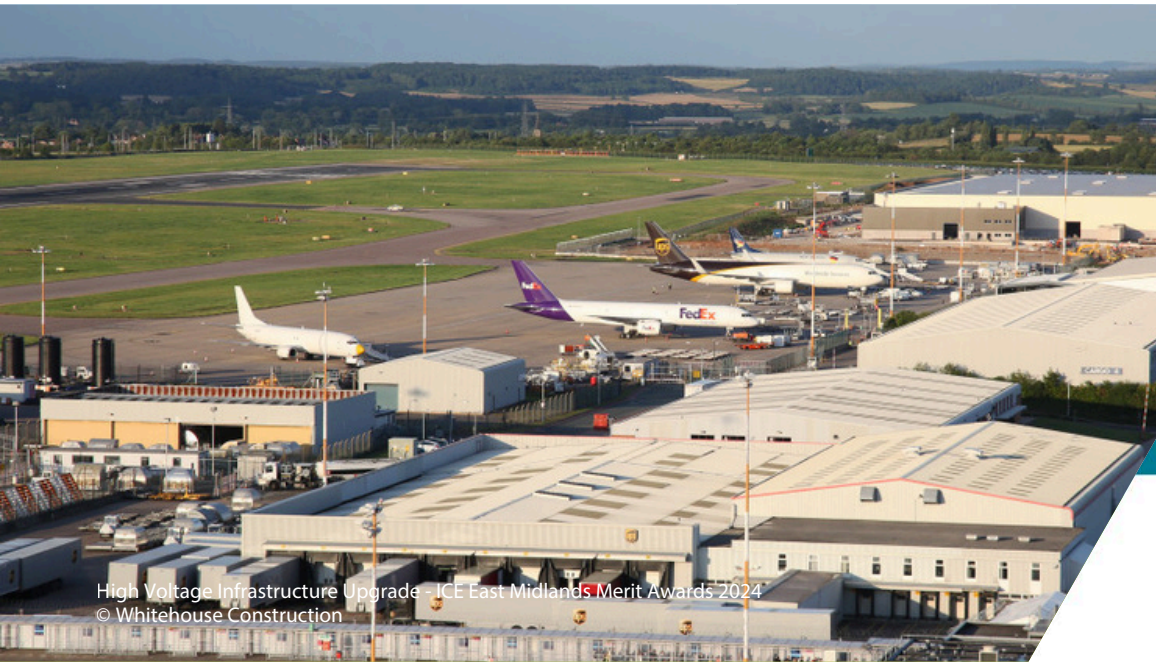
How has the project adopted and embedded the principles of circular economy into its design and delivery?

What measurable outcomes demonstrate the project's sustainability achievements, and how do these go beyond standard practice?

Were Life Cycle Assessments completed for key materials and products?

How has the project addressed future climate risks (e.g. flooding, heat stress, extreme weather)?

What design or delivery measures were taken to improve resilience and adaptability of the asset(s) and surrounding environment?



High Voltage Infrastructure Upgrade - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2024
© Whitehouse Construction

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INNOVATION AND TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Has the client/researcher engaged with an innovative proposal and encouraged an innovation culture?

How has innovation been embedded across the project lifecycle? From feasibility and concept through to design, construction, and delivery.

Does the innovation contribute to the improvement of the civil engineering body of knowledge?

What measurable benefits did the innovation deliver (e.g. cost savings, efficiency, sustainability, safety, quality)?

How has the project demonstrated technical excellence in design, construction, or delivery?

What new or refined technologies, construction methods, installation techniques, or products were used?

Were digital tools or processes (e.g. BIM, automation, data analytics) applied to enhance project outcomes?

What systems were in place to record lessons learned, drive continuous improvement, and share knowledge across the team and wider organisation?

What innovative design solutions, techniques, or approaches were used and was this the first application or an adaptation of an existing method?

What measurable results reflect the technical excellence achieved (e.g. structural performance, durability, safety, efficiency)?

BEST USE OF AI AND DIGITAL AWARD

Has leadership actively championed digital innovation and fostered a culture that supports the adoption of AI and emerging technologies within the organisation or project?

Does the solution represent a first-of-its-kind application, a significant advancement of existing practice, or a novel adaptation to solve a specific engineering challenge?

How effectively has AI and digital technology been embedded from planning, feasibility and design through construction, operation, and asset management?

What quantifiable benefits have been achieved with AI and digital tools, such as programme acceleration, cost reduction, productivity improvements, risk reduction, carbon savings, improved safety or enhanced quality?

How successfully has the technology been deployed? Consider system integration, reliability, scalability, cybersecurity, data governance, and user adoption.

To what extent has the project/initiative utilised advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital twins, BIM, automation, robotics, computer vision, IoT, predictive analytics or generative design?

How has the project developed digital capability within teams, encouraged collaboration across disciplines and supply chains, and ensured successful adoption of new ways of working?



Does the innovation contribute to the advancement of the civil engineering profession? Has knowledge been captured, shared, or replicated across projects, organisations, or the wider industry?

How has AI and digital technology contributed to achieving environmental, social and governance objectives, including carbon reduction, resource efficiency, resilience, stakeholder engagement, and social value?

Can the solution be scaled across programmes, business units, or sectors? Does it demonstrate the potential to transform future infrastructure delivery and create lasting value for the industry?

PROJECT UNDER £10M AND PROJECT OVER £10M

Planning and communication

Were the considerations/concerns of all stakeholders addressed and how were they incorporated into the project?

What was the desired outcome and how was this planned, communicated and achieved?

If conflict occurred, how was this managed?

What evidence of innovative communications methods were utilised?

Project management and procurement

What contribution has been made to advancing excellence in construction, including productivity improvements?

How did the client engaged the team and what leadership was demonstrated?

Has there been particular issues and how were they overcome?

Has the contractor engaged in a collaborative approach with its supply chain?

What percentage of project spend was with local suppliers?

Application of engineering principles and judgement

Was the design/research complex in its output and derivation?

Was the execution of the project/research complex in its technical requirements?

How did the application of engineering principles and judgement enable the successful delivery of the project outcomes?

How did it enable the simplification of complex challenges to be solved in an effective and efficient manner?



Derwent Scour Hole - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2024
© Coffey

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Collaboration

How have partnerships across the value chain been developed to align with organisational goals?

What mechanisms have been employed to ensure effective communication and co-ordination across partner organisations?

How has performance of the collaboration been measured? And how is success determined?

How have responsibilities and accountabilities been distributed, and are there appropriate mechanisms to recognise these roles?

How is continual improvement and lessons learned managed, is there a mechanism to ensure the partnership can evolve for long term performance gains?

Further considerations

Does the project have the 'wow factor' that shows it as an exemplar to the industry?

Is there clear evidence that decision-making across the project has been based on the delivery of wider societal outcomes?

Is there a clear societal benefit from the work undertaken that promotes our profession to the public?

Does it consider and help address issues around climate change, both mitigation and adaptation?

Has the project aligned with the 17 UNSDGs such as ensuring access to affordable and clean energy, building resilient infrastructure, fostering innovation, and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?



SuDs for Schools - ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2025
© AtkinsRéalis

PEOPLE AWARDS

All nominations for the Rising Star Award, Individual of the Year Award or William Kemp Award should highlight how the nominee demonstrates exceptional qualities beyond the expected scope of their role.

Please indicate how they have gone 'above and beyond' to promote civil or infrastructure engineering in the region.

What have they done outside their role that distinguishes them from other candidates?

How have they contributed ideas and/or solutions to challenges?

How do they work effectively with peers, mentors or project teams?

TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

How did the leader manage the team and ensure that the right people were in the right place at the right time?

How were the team skills developed?

How did the team integrate and then maintain its motivation to deliver?

What efforts were made to ensure diversity and inclusion within the team?

Were there examples of helping to support the team's wellbeing?

Did the team assemble mutually supportive and complementary skills?

Did the team bring efficiencies and effectiveness to the task in hand?

Did the team operate in an integrated and enthusiastic manner to deliver a high-quality result?

Was training in new skills considered, was refreshed knowledge provided and was professional development encouraged (including apprenticeships, flexible working hours and so on)?

08

Sponsorship Opportunities



The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) is a professional membership body with over 95,000 members in more than 150 countries. The ICE work to develop and qualify professionals engaged on infrastructure projects. The ICE provide informed opinion, concerning the needs of infrastructure and the built environment, that is listened to by both government and industry.

ICE awards professional qualifications that set the industry standard, lead the thinking around infrastructure and the built environment and provides an unmatched level of training, knowledge and thinking.

Membership of ICE sets professionals apart through recognition and status, providing access to life-long learning resources and networks.

GEOGRAPHICALLY TARGETED

ICE East Midlands represents and supports around 3,500 members living and working in the region. Working to develop and qualify professionals engaged in civil engineering in the East Midlands, ICE also encourages knowledge sharing and best practice for the creation of a sustainable built environment.

Partnering with ICE East Midlands provides an unparalleled opportunity to promote your company and achievements to the East Midlands students and graduates, senior employees, decision makers and influencers, and raise the profile of civil engineering as a career choice and profession.

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

Enhance your brand and increase visibility – through association with ICE's reputation, authority and excellence within the engineering profession.

Get guidance, support and advice – from an experienced and professional support team.

Promote your company – through our extensive marketing campaigns to support events which include website, social media channels, media relations and e -News.

Generate new business leads – by reaching your target audience of key decision makers, budget holders and opinion formers.

OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE

ICE East Midlands will work closely with each client to tailor an event to your business and marketing priorities.

ICE East Midlands aim to exceed your expectations by ensuring you receive excellent customer service every step of the way.

ICE East Midlands is committed to continually achieving high standards and client satisfaction.

To view our 2026 winners, please visit: ICE East Midlands Awards.

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