

ASGC and BuroHappold scoop major prizes at Big Project Middle East Awards 2018



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Posted on November 27, 2018

Individual wins for Airolink's CEO Dr Anil Pillai and AESG's Saeed Al Abbar as industry gathers to recognise regional excellence



The 2018 edition of the Big Project ME Awards took place on November 26, 2018 at the Double Tree Hilton in JBR, Dubai. The event attracted a crowd of more than 250 construction industry professionals, with CEOs, managing directors and other senior level figures all in attendance to celebrate the best of the construction industry for the year.

Held annually, the event was hosted at an outdoor venue for the first time ever, with the guests assembling on the Double Tree Hilton's lawn, which had Ain Dubai and Bluewaters providing a stunning backdrop to proceedings.

Having grown into one of the most recognised and well-regarded award nights in the construction industry, this year's event featured submissions from a range of contractors, consultants, subcontractors, developers, suppliers and manufacturers from across the GCC and MENA region.

This year's awards saw more than 130 nominations filed for consideration across 21 categories, with several high-profile and prestigious projects, contractors and developers vying for the biggest prizes on the night. Amongst the nominees for the awards were local government authorities and bodies, such as Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority.

"The Big Project ME Award 2018 was a huge success for us and we're delighted at the turn out. The high attendance levels show that these awards are valued and respected across the construction industry and we're delighted to see so many new faces taking part this year," said Raz Islam, managing director of CPI Trade Media, the organisers behind the event and the publishers of Big Project ME magazine.

"We had more than 250 guests here tonight and it's great to see that everyone was having a great time. It's heartening to see the passion and appreciation the industry has for our awards and events. This year has seen a huge spike in our attendance figures for all our events and awards, and it's clear that what we're doing is resonating with the industry.

"The quality of entries this year has been fantastic, and I would like to offer my congratulations to all of those who took part – especially to the winners and runners up!"

The awards themselves were divided into different sub-sections – Company Awards, Individual Awards, Contractor Awards and Project Awards. Each sub-section had four to five awards, with the judges faced with tough decisions for certain major awards.

This year, the Contractor of the Year Award went to the Dubai-based contractor, ASGC; while the Project of the Year went to the Louvre Abu Dhabi, which was submitted by BuroHappold.

Other notable winners on the night were Voltas Limited, who picked up the MEP Contractor of the Year Award, and Dubai World Trade Centre, who took home the Developer of the Year award. In the individual categories, Saeed Al Abbar won the Big Project ME's Executive of the Year Award, while Dr Anil Pillai, CEO and chairman of Airolink Group, won the Big Project ME's Business Leader of the Year Award.

The judges for this year's event were: Paul Wallet (Trimble), Morgan Tuckness (Drees and Sommer), Craig Finlayson (Currie & Brown), Nicky Dobreanu (C-Quest), Steven Batchelor (F+G), Carolina Fong Guzzy (Accienta), Jesus Sancho (Acciona), and Anil Menon (CKR).

The sponsors for the Big Project ME Awards 2018 are: Platinum Sponsor: Ithra Dubai; Gold Sponsors: Airolink, Lacasa, Hill International, Pace Architecture Engineering + Planning; Silver Sponsors: ALEC, ABB, CCS Gulf, Trimble and Voltas. The Supporting Partners for the event were CIOB and RICS, while Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority endorsed the event.

The full list of winners and short-listed nominees are:

Company Awards

Product Innovation Award

Dow Chemical – Dow Cool Reflective Roof Coatings

Polypipe Middle East – Permavoid

Voestalpine Metsec – Purlin Optimization Software **(Winner)**

Excellence in BIM

BuroHappold

ECC

Shapoorji Pallonji **(Winner)**

Skills Development Programme of the Year

ALEC – Boost Programme

ASGC – ASGC Academy **(Winner)**

Sustainable Government Department of the Year

Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority

Infrastructure Leader of the Year

Ithra Dubai

Developer of the Year

Binghatti Developers

Dubai World Trade Centre **(Winner)**

Ithra Dubai

Individual Awards

Big Project ME Executive of the Year

Saeed Al Abbar (AESG) **(Winner)**

Kez Taylor (ALEC)

Muhammad BinGhatti (Binghatti Developers)

Big Project ME Woman of the Year

Agnes Koltay (Koltay Facades) **(Winner)**

Phillipa Grant (AESG)

Soura Madani (Soura Madani House of Design)

Big Project ME Personality of the Year

Talal Al Gaddah – CEO, MAG Lifestyle Development

Big Project ME Business Leader of the Year

Dr Anil Pillai – CEO, Airolink

Contractor Awards

Design and Build Contractor of the Year

ALEC – Marina Gate **(Winner)**

IHCC – Diyar Al Salam

Fit-Out Contractor of the Year

ALEC Fit-Out

DEPA (**Winner**)

Summertown Interiors

MEP Contractor of the Year

ALEMCO

China State Construction Engineering Corporation Middle East (MEP Division)

Voltas Limited (**Winner**)

Sustainable Contractor of the Year

AF Construction

Nael General Contracting (**Winner**)

Contractor of the Year

ALEC

ASGC (**Winner**)

China State Construction Engineering Corporation Middle East

Project Awards

Big Project ME Project of the Year

Gate Avenue – DIFC

Marina Gate – Select Group (**Winner**)

One Za'abeel – Ithra Dubai

Excellence in HSE on a Project

ALEC

China State Construction Engineering Corporation Middle East

Tabreed (**Winner**)

Excellence in BIM Implementation on a Project

BAM International – Museum of the Future (**Winner**)

Dewan Architects – FlyDubai Headquarters

WME – UAE Pavilion, Expo 2020

Sustainable Project of the Year

AESG – X-Works

ASGC – Enterprise Command and Control Centre

BuroHappold – Louvre Abu Dhabi (**Winner**)

Infrastructure Project of the Year

ASGC – Dubai International Airport Improvement Works and Remote Coaching Facility

China State Construction Engineering Corporation Middle East – Improvement of AI

Wasl Road Ph.1B Interchange 2.5

Hill International – Muscat International Airport **(Winner)**

Project of the Year

BuroHappold – Louvre Abu Dhabi **(Winner)**

Ithra Dubai – One Za'abeel

La Perle by Dragone