

2013 Mark of Excellence Categories

2013 SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR AWARDS CATEGORIES and DESCRIPTIONS

Residential projects must be completed within the United States between January 1, 2011 and September 1, 2012.

1. **Multi-Room Audio/Video Project of the Year**

This award recognizes the best multi-room audio, integrated A/V and/or networked media application throughout the home. The entry should highlight A/V sources, as well as the user interfaces installed to access audio and/or video throughout the home.

2. **Home Theater/Media Room Project of the Year**

This award recognizes the best designed and installed dedicated entertainment system, including video display, surround sound, multiple sources and control. The winning entry should demonstrate ease of use, integration with the room's environmental systems (lighting, window coverings and temperature) and/or other house systems (security, cameras, access control, distributed audio/video, etc.).

3. **Innovation Award**

This award recognizes an innovative achievement of a specific application. The winning integrator, large or small, will have created a solution that best demonstrates a unique application of technology for an unusual challenge.

4. **Integrated Security Project of the Year**

This award recognizes the finest integrated security system, including security controllers, sensors, cameras and access devices. The winning entry should demonstrate how technology was used for fire and intrusion protection, property monitoring, door entry control and/or emergency detection such as water leakage, as well as integration with other home technologies, including lighting, HVAC controls, distributed video and/or home automation.

5. **Lighting Control Project of the Year**

This award recognizes the best new and/or improved lighting and/or shade control project. The winning solution will provide tangible benefit to the homeowner. Entries may include wireless, powerline or hard-wired systems, control devices, unique designs, controlling technique and/or the manufacturer's communication protocol.

6. **Retrofit Project of the Year under \$50,000**

This award recognizes the ingenuity of an integration project where a new system has been installed into an existing residential structure, where the home or section of the home is not under construction. The entry must demonstrate how an existing home was upgraded with new technology. The entry should include the hardware used, the wiring or wireless approach, the installation methodology, customer requirements, ease of use and how the most difficult install challenges were overcome. Creativity and expertise should demonstrate your retrofit prowess.

7. **Retrofit Project of the Year over \$50,000**

This award recognizes the ingenuity of an integration project where a new system has been installed into an existing residential structure, where the home or section of the home is not under construction. The entry must demonstrate how an existing home

was upgraded with new technology. The entry should include the hardware used, the wiring or wireless approach, the installation methodology, customer requirements, ease of use and how the most difficult install challenges were overcome. Creativity and expertise should demonstrate your retrofit prowess.

8. Specialty Project of the Year

This award recognizes how an integrator's technical expertise is applied to deliver the best integrated system for a multi-disciplined design and installation within a multi-family, commercial, hospitality, house of worship and/or healthcare environment. The entry should include the hardware used, the wiring or wireless approach, the installation methodology, customer requirements, ease of use and how the most difficult install challenges were overcome.

9. Sustainable Project of the Year

This award recognizes a project utilizing technology that best demonstrates the management, integration or conservation of energy or other natural resources. The project should show how the technology reduces consumption, reduces negative environmental impact, provides actionable data to the user, or otherwise simplifies and promotes energy or natural resource conservation. Projects may include, but are not limited to, solutions that address climate control, lighting control, shade control, LED lighting, Pool, domestic water or irrigation management, Solar or wind generated energy, unique scheduling or control solutions or demonstrates how technology encourages or promotes a savings or other benefit to the user.

10. Universal Design Project of the Year

This award acknowledges a home the best utilizes technology to facilitate the principles of Universal Design within a home. The winning entry epitomizes Universal Design by fulfilling specific needs of the homeowner that include an adaptable living environment, simple and flexible user interface solutions, communication of critical user information, low demand for physical effort and a high tolerance for the users capabilities. This project may also highlight technology solutions that anticipate the needs of the future/current homeowner by helping the home evolve with the user's abilities and desires for decades to come.

11. Home of the Year (installed price up to \$50,000)

This award recognizes how an integrator's technical expertise is applied to deliver the best integrated system for a multi-disciplined within an installed price (to the end user) of no more than \$50,000. The entry must show how the provided hardware and programming solve problems improve lifestyle and/or deliver a user-friendly experience in a complex home with many high-tech systems. This year the award encourages integrators to submit both remodel and new construction projects.

12. Custom Home of the Year (installed price between \$50,000 - \$150,000)

This award recognizes how an integrator's technical expertise is applied to deliver the best integrated system for a multi-disciplined within an installed price (to the end user) between \$50,000 and \$150,000. The entry must show how the provided hardware and programming solve problems improve lifestyle and/or deliver a user-friendly experience in a complex home with many high-tech systems. This year the award encourages integrators to submit both remodel and new construction projects.

13. Luxury Home of the Year (installed price between \$150,000- \$300,000)

This award recognizes how an integrator's technical expertise is applied to deliver the best integrated system for a multi-disciplined within an installed price (to the end user) between \$150,000 and \$300,000. The entry must show how the provided hardware and programming solve problems improve lifestyle and/or deliver a user-friendly experience in a complex home with many high-tech systems. This year the award encourages integrators to submit both remodel and new construction projects.

14. Ultimate Home of the Year (installed price above \$300,000)

This award recognizes how an integrator's technical expertise is applied to deliver the best integrated system for a multi-disciplined within an installed price (to the end user) costing more than \$300,000. The entry must show how the provided hardware and programming solve problems improve lifestyle and/or deliver a user-friendly experience in a complex home with many high-tech systems. This year the award encourages integrators to submit both remodel and new construction projects.

15. TechHome Integrator of the Year

This award recognizes the best Electronics System Contractor in the industry. The company receiving this award exhibits outstanding business success and comprehensive technical skills, shows exceptional quality in their professional installations and is an example of leadership within their community and our industry. The company demonstrates successful execution of innovative business strategies relative to their size and market available to the contractor.

16. TechHome Small Business Integrator of the Year

This award recognizes the best Electronics System Contractor in the industry with annual revenues less than one million dollars. The company receiving this award exhibits outstanding business success, resource utilization, comprehensive technical skills, and shows exceptional quality in their professional installations and is an example of leadership within their community and our industry. The company demonstrates successful execution of innovative business strategies relative to their size and market available to the contractor.

17. Best Education or Support Program

Education and support are cornerstones for improving our industry and building the success of the custom integration channel. Entries in this category fall into two primary categories. Entrants may enter in either category. The first category is end-user support programs. This category includes programs that provide ongoing support, service and/or upgrade programs to end-users of technology. The second category covers efforts from the integrator community that reach out to and provide trade organizations (i.e. Architects, Builders, Realtors, Designers) with education, technology seminars and or presentations. Programs can be live, online, in print or on other media. Entries are evaluated based on the direct benefits to promoting business revenue opportunities, value to the recipient, client adoption, adherence, and promotion of standards, professionalism and how the program positively affects our industry.

