

The HST Certificate of Excellence

The HST Certificate of Excellence is presented in recognition of special efforts and achievements relating to the development of the High Speed Train network.

The aims of awarding and presenting the HST Certificate of Excellence are threefold:

- First, to recognise high quality work carried out in the HST network and publicise the fact that a special achievement has been made in one of the HST towns, cities or regions.
- Secondly, to spread knowledge and understanding of the HST network and of HST Partners' ambitions to a wide audience.
- Thirdly, to raise the visibility of the projects, the HST network and the European Commission's spatial development expectations for transport and trans-national connectivity.

The HST Certificate may be presented for the demonstration of excellence in four categories:

Stations

Recognition of achieving a fully integrated, multi-modal HST interchange station delivering demonstrable benefits to its town, city or region. The station is of the highest possible design quality and demonstrates significant practical value for travellers and the local community.

The better connection of the area to the HST network and the station's 'landmark' status will be contributing to economic and social regeneration and development. The station project conception, procurement, engineering, management and implementation provide a high best practice benchmark and example to others in the HST network.

Special Infrastructure

Recognition of achieving the construction of infrastructure such as tunnels or bridges in particularly challenging circumstances. The challenges may be location, topography, engineering, dimension or finance. The solutions may be special design, innovative tunnelling methods, construction, or financial management. The special infrastructure will demonstrate a direct transnational benefit and impact.

Individual Service

Recognition of people who have provided skills, ingenuity, vision, tenacity, or significant political support for the growth and development of the HST network. Such individuals will have demonstrated a continuing interest in HST matters as well as an ability to impact on decision-making at regional, national and European levels.

HST Promotion

Recognition of organisations which put special effort into publicising the use of the HST network and its multitude of connecting services. Such organisations may be public sector authorities, communities or service providers who are demonstrating the full advantages and benefits to be gained for their town, city or region through HST network development.

Awards are made on the nomination of HST Project Partners tabled, discussed and agreed at quarterly Core Executive meetings. Presentations can be made during Best Practice or Project visits. They may also be made as part of project milestone events.

The first HST Certificate of Excellence was awarded to the designers, builders and operators of the new Liège Guillemins station, designed by Santiago Calatrava, in recognition of their contribution to further improvement of the quality of high speed train access and mobility in Europe and the better connection of regions and cities to the HST network.

The Certificate was presented by James Brathwaite CBE, SEEDA's Chairman, to Mr Willy Demeyer, Deputy and Mayor of Liège, Mr Vincent Bourlard, Managing Director, Euro Liège TGV, Mr Gerd Leers, Mayor of Maastricht, and Mr Iwan Couchard, Director, District South East, SNCB Holding (*see below left to right*).

