

GUIDELINES**ATSE Awards 2026****DAVID & VALERIE
SOLOMON AWARD**

for leadership in fostering industry-research collaboration

The award is made available through a generous donation from David and Valerie Solomon.

The David and Valerie Solomon Award consists of a trophy, a cash prize of \$15,000, 12 months of mentoring from a senior entrepreneur/industry ATSE Fellow, and an additional \$5,000 to cover travel expenses for the awardee to enhance this mentoring experience. This Award is announced by ATSE annually.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE**Tuesday 12 May 2026 close of business****AWARD PURPOSE**

Unlocking the potential of Australia's world-class research system requires bridging the gap between cutting-edge discoveries and their practical applications. This crucial translation of research outputs into economic and societal benefits is at the core of Australia's future competitiveness and prosperity. Achieving this requires effective collaboration between our universities, publicly funded research organisations and industrial research and development organisations.

While Australia's world-class universities and other publicly funded research organisations are renowned for their scientific excellence, true innovation also depends on factors beyond research quality. Research partnerships and collaborations with the private and public sectors, an entrepreneurial spirit and effective transfer of knowledge are key to achieving this. The David and Valerie Solomon Award recognises and celebrates public sector researchers who are engaged with industry and collaborating with industrial researchers to drive collaborative activities, producing real-world impact.

Specifically, the Award will:

- Highlight the importance of collaboration between industry and research, and the translation of research for economic, social and environmental benefit.
- Recognise the achievements of an early-mid career researcher who has worked across the research-industry divide, beyond purely academic research or only experimental development.
- Bring the key role applied science, technology and innovation play in the nation's development to the attention of policy makers.

The Academy honours David Solomon for whom this award is named as an example for industry-research collaboration and knowledge translation for the economic and social benefit of Australia. David is a Foundation Fellow of the Academy and has been supported in his career by his wife Valerie.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Awardee will have clearly demonstrated:

- Excellence, innovation and impact in a field of academia / research or industry R&D.
- A track record of substantial ability to foster research-industry collaboration and knowledge transfer for the benefit of Australia.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Awardee must be:

- An Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- No more than 40 years of age on the first day of the year in which the Award is made. We're committed to ensuring equity of access for all of our awards. Applicants who have had career interruptions because of family or carer responsibilities are eligible for extensions to the age criterion, equivalent to the length of the career breaks or illness. We strongly encourage Nominees to get in touch with us to discuss their situation.
- Winners of other professional, state, national or international awards are eligible for the David and Valerie Solomon Award, providing they meet all other eligibility criteria.

ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the David and Valerie Solomon Award must be nominated by an individual Proposer and an individual Secunder. At least one of these must be a person currently working in industry.

Current members of ATSE's Board or of the David and Valerie Solomon Award Committee are not eligible to be a Proposer, Secunder or Referee for this Award.

The Proposer is to complete and submit the David and Valerie Solomon Award Nomination Form by the closing time and date.

The Secunder will support the nomination with a letter clearly indicating their detailed knowledge of the work for which the nomination has been made.

Self-nominations will be excluded.

The Referee for the application should be an industry or technical expert in the Nominee's field who can comment on the Nominee's contribution to research-industry collaboration. It is strongly encouraged that referees are not the Nominee's direct supervisor or manager.

The Nominee must acknowledge the nomination by signature, thus confirming the facts attested in the nomination (electronic signature acceptable).

The Selection Committee may seek assistance from appropriate learned specialists, professional associations or consultants.

OBLIGATIONS OF WINNER

Each Nominee will give permission for details contained in the nomination to be released to the members of the Selection Committee (both those listed in the nomination form and external referees) for the purposes of the selection process.

Whenever such material is considered by the Selection Committee, this information and details of their deliberations and recommendations will remain confidential. The Nominee should note that a description of the work being acclaimed, and images of the winner will be publicised.

The winner of the David and Valerie Solomon Award will be expected to:

- Attend the annual ATSE Awards ceremony.
- Be available for any associated media activity.

- Participate in activities within 12 months of receiving the award to promote the importance of science and technology to Federal and State Parliamentarians and administrators, and the technology and innovation communities, to reinforce with these communities the contribution science and technology makes to Australia's reputation as a centre of technology and innovation leadership.
- Interact with ATSE Forums to promote the importance of applied sciences, technology and engineering.

NOMINATION DOCUMENTS

The following materials constitute a complete nomination:

Eligibility Criteria

- Graduate of an Australian university. (Legally certified evidence attached.)
- Age. (PDF evidence attached.)

Proposer and Nominee details and contact information

Current role

Supporting statements

- Executive Overview (Maximum 100 words)
- Selection Criteria
Excellence, innovation and impact in a field of academia / research or industry R&D. (Maximum 300 words)
A track record of substantial ability to foster industry-research collaboration and knowledge transfer for the benefit of Australia. (Maximum 300 words)

Secunder details and letter (attached)

Referee letter (attached)

Nominee's CV (attached)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Tuesday 12 May 2026 close of business

Only electronic submissions of nominations and attachments will be accepted. Incomplete applications and any received after the closing time and date will not be considered. All decisions taken by the Selection Committee will be final.

ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Elvira Copur – Membership Manager
Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering
02 6185 3240 (9am–5pm AEST / AEDT)
membership@atse.org.au

In accordance with the Privacy Act, ATSE protects the privacy and security of information provided by you. By completing the form in the Nomination Portal you agree to the use of your personal information by ATSE for purposes related to the ATSE Awards program; that ATSE may contact you about our products and services; and that ATSE may use this information for internal purposes. If you do not wish to receive further information from ATSE, please email info@atse.org.au



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Technological Sciences
& Engineering
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