



C E B A

Controlled Environment  
Building Association

**BUILT BY  
THE BEST  
AWARD**

**Information and Submission Packet 2025**

*Submission Deadline: Thursday, 31 July 2025 COB*

*Submit application to Holly Coughlan – [hcoughlan@gcca.org](mailto:hcoughlan@gcca.org)*



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## About the Award

The Controlled Environment Building Association (CEBA) strives to provide the tools, education, and resources to help members maintain a level of excellence within the cold chain industry. CEBA members are true experts in building the cold chain.



The “Built By The Best” slogan stands as a testament to the association’s commitment to industry-changing innovations, exceeding customers’ expectations, positively impacting and growing the cold chain worldwide, and contributing to the larger society through food safety, trade development, job creation, and more.

The CEBA Built By The Best Award was created to acknowledge these factors and recognize the project teams moving the industry forward regarding the design and construction of controlled environment facilities across the world.

After three years of an "Above \$35MM" and "Below \$35MM" categories for the Built by the Best Award, the award will evolve into three new categories, as listed below:

- 1. Controlled Environment, Cold Storage & Distribution Warehouses** - Specialized facilities designed to store and distribute perishable products that require temperature control to maintain quality and safety. These warehouses play a crucial role in supply chain logistics, particularly for industries like food, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology. Submissions for this may be conventional, semi-automated, or fully automated warehouses.
- 2. Processing/Manufacturing Facilities** - Industrial operations where raw materials are transformed into finished goods or intermediate products. These facilities are key to various supply chains and include a broad range of industries. Submissions for this category should emphasize use of Controlled Environment Building features.
- 3. Special Works Projects (Small Expansions, Tenant Improvements, Maintenance, Retrofits, and Renovations)** - Targeted and strategic improvements intended to deliver specific goals/outcomes/enhancements. Submissions for this category might include things like: adding in blast freezing cells to an operating cold storage, retrofitting in some automated features into an existing facility. Building a box-in-box facility. Generally, these projects should be in the USD <\$20MM range.

## Award Eligibility

This award is open to project teams in any country comprised of Contractor/Design-Build companies and Processor/End-User/Warehouse/Third-Party Logistics companies that meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Contractor or Design-Build company must be a CEBA member. Processor/End User/Warehouse/Third-Party Logistics company does not need to be a member.
- ✓ Building must maintain a controlled environment.
- ✓ Projects must be completed within the timeframe of 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- ✓ Submission must be received by the submission deadline of Thursday, 31 July 2025 by COB. Late applications will not be accepted.
- ✓ Project must have been completed on or ahead of schedule.

## 2025 Award Updates

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After three years of an "Above \$35MM" and "Below \$35MM" categories for the Built by the Best Award, the award will evolve into three new categories, as listed below:

1. Controlled Environment, Cold Storage & Distribution Warehouses are specialized facilities designed to store and distribute perishable products that require temperature control to maintain quality and safety. These warehouses play a crucial role in supply chain logistics, particularly for industries like food, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology. Submissions for this may be conventional, semi-automated, or fully automated warehouses.
2. Processing/Manufacturing Facilities are industrial operations where raw materials are transformed into finished goods or intermediate products. These facilities are key to various supply chains and include a broad range of industries. Submissions for this category should emphasize use of Controlled Environment Building features.
3. Special Works Projects (Small Expansions, Tenant Improvements, Maintenance, Retrofits, and Renovations) are targeted and strategic improvements intended to deliver specific goals/outcomes/enhancements. Submissions for this category might include things like: adding in blast freezing cells to an operating cold storage, retrofitting in some automated features into an existing facility. Building a box-in-box facility. Generally, these projects should be in the USD <\$20MM range.



## Submission Deadline

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Project teams must complete the application process within the submission period.

No late applications will be accepted.

**Submission Deadline: Thursday, 31 July 2025 COB**

## Application Process

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A complete application must include:

- The completed written application found in this packet
- The required PowerPoint slide deck which includes:
  - A summary video
  - Photographs
  - Testimonial (or can be included in written form in this packet)

Submissions will not be considered in a different format.

## Judging Process

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Applications will be assessed during a formal scorecard review process conducted by the Selection Panel (comprised of members of the CEBA Marketing & Brand Awareness Committee). For reference, the scorecard is below for both categories

CEBA Award Scorecard		
Criteria	Possible Points	Score
CEBA Member Participation	15	
Project Complexity	20	
Innovation	25	
Project Management	15	
Sustainability Consideration	15	
Contribution to larger society or supply chain	5	
Video Submission	5	
Total	100	



## Winning the Award

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The finalist teams will be notified in early September and announced officially in late September/ early October. The finalists are required to present at the [CEBA Conference & Expo](#), taking place 3-5 November 2025 in Las Vegas, NV, USA. Representatives from the **contractor/design-build firm must participate in the presentation. Ideally the customer (warehouse/3PL/food processor/ end-user company) is also able to attend and participate as well.**

While the presentation is the responsibility of the submitting company, CEBA staff are available to provide guidance and answer questions for finalist teams ahead of the conference.



## Submission Form

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Applicant/General Contractor Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/General Contractor Contact's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

End User/Customer Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

End User/Customer Company Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Thermal/Low-Temp Contractor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Thermal/Low-Temp Contractor Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of CEBA? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was your Low-Temp Contractor a CEBA Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you give CEBA permission to use your submission materials in marketing and communications of the program and its participants? ☐ Yes ☐ No

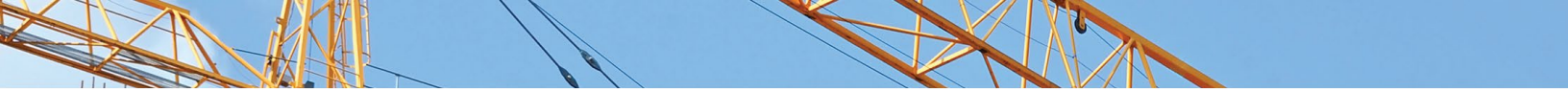
### Submitting Project for which Built By The Best Category?

☐ Controlled Environment, Cold Storage & Distribution Warehouses

☐ Processing/Manufacturing Facilities

☐ Special Works Projects

Candidates must complete the [submission process](#) outlined in the document which includes the completed application and PowerPoint deck which includes your video and images. Email the completed application packet and slide deck to Holly Coughlan ([hcoughlan@gcca.org](mailto:hcoughlan@gcca.org)). Files can alternatively be shared via Dropbox, WeTransfer or other similar file-sharing system.



## **Filling out the Application Form**

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Please edit this document by typing in your answers below in each section.

## **Summary Overview of Project & Highlights**

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## 1.CEBA Member Participation (15 Points)

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List the CEBA members involved in the project – sub-contractors and suppliers apply. *Contact Holly Coughlan at [hcoughlan@gcca.org](mailto:hcoughlan@gcca.org) for a current roster of CEBA Members.* Participation by CEBA members in addition to the contractor/design-build firm will be noted and verified by GCCA staff upon submission.

- ✓ Of all the subcontractors working on this project, what percentage are CEBA members?
- ✓ Please list by company name.



## 2. Project Complexity (20 Points)

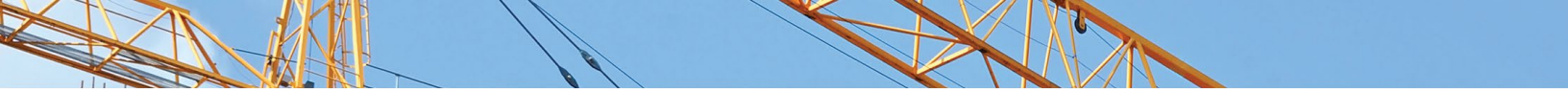
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Explain in detail the level of complexity and scope of the project. Below is some guidance to help you formulate your answer.

- ✓ Facility built to store/process specific challenging products (highly regulated, high risk of spoilage, new concept in processing or distribution, etc.
- ✓ Multi-temperature areas needed and/or extremely rigid and narrow temperature change tolerances
- ✓ Extraordinary cleanliness/hygiene requirements
- ✓ Difficulties encountered with regulatory agencies, during permit process or other unique “very high risk” conditions, please explain.
- ✓ Sample “complexity” factors to consider, including:
  - Projects with a high interdependency or interaction between the parts
  - Projects that are continually changing/evolving
  - Impact of environment or location on project
  - Projects involving a high degree of diverse tasks
  - Projects with a great deal of intricacy
  - Projects with a large number of parts

**Answers are limited to 2,500 characters. Please fill out response on the next page.**

**Please fill out response on the next page** 





### 3. Innovation (25 Points)

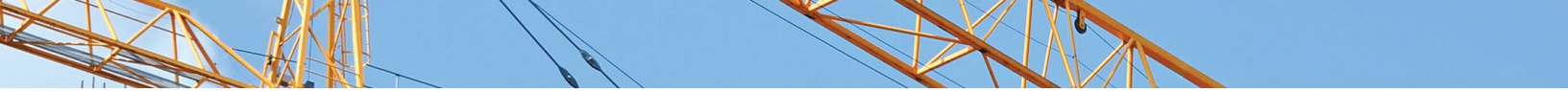
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Describe innovative features that were used in the project, including but not limited to:

- ✓ New technologies, materials and methodologies used
- ✓ Unique design features not used in other buildings
- ✓ Solutions to existing industry challenges addressed by the client
- ✓ Unique solutions used to combat challenges
- ✓ Does the project address specific, common industry issues?
- ✓ Utilization of digital twins and Building Information Modelling (BIM)
- ✓ Addressing current environmental factors, such as, but not limited to: labor shortages, rising material costs, infrastructure improvements, addressing increasing complex project scopes and expanded value-added services offered by client and/or new business vertices, e.g. direct to consumer, last mile, consolidation programs

**Answers are limited to 2,500 characters. Please fill out response on the next page.**

**Please fill out response on the next page** 





#### 4. Project Management (15 Points)

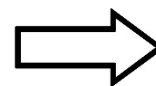
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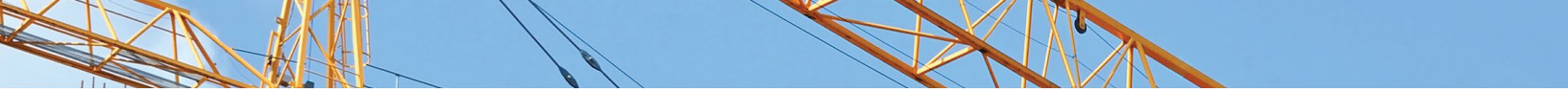
Provide concrete examples of project management particulars, including:

- ✓ How did the team create solutions to ensure the project exceeded expectations?
- ✓ Did the project meet the timeline, budget, and goals?
- ✓ Explain the collaborative approach and customer service provided throughout the project.

**Answers are limited to 2,500 characters. Please fill out response on the next page.**

**Please fill out response on the next page**







## 5. Sustainability Consideration (15 Points)

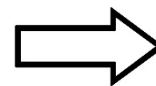
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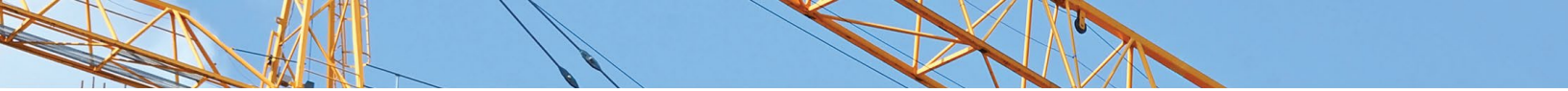
Explain the “green” or ESG elements of the project including, but not limited to:

- ✓ LEED points awarded
- ✓ Energy savings or reducing overall energy consumption of facility to make a more energy efficient building
- ✓ Environmentally focused components of project, e.g. water reclamation/conservation
- ✓ Implementation of renewable technologies
- ✓ Other notable considerations or sustainable recognition such as; waste reduction, sustainable building materials, sustainable design, durability of project

**Answers are limited to 2,500 characters. Please fill out response on the next page.**

**Please fill out response on the next page**







## 6. Contribution to larger society and temperature-controlled supply chain (5 Points)

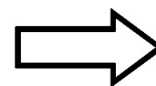
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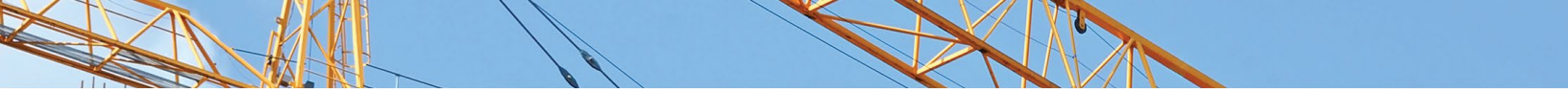
What kind of impact does the project have on the world at-large and/or the global cold chain?

- ✓ Will the facility provide safe, high-quality food, beverage, and/or pharmaceutical products?
- ✓ Will the building provide life sciences services?
- ✓ Does the project create jobs or trade opportunities?
- ✓ Will the project provide significant impact to the cold chain, such as developing cold storage/processing opportunities in areas where no such treatment existed?

**Answers are limited to 2,500 characters. Please fill out response on the next page.**

**Please fill out response on the next page**







## 7. Project Summary Video (5 Points)

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A video submission summarizing the project is required to help judges evaluate the project. The video may be comprised of content from the actual build, finished project, or can simply be a recap of why the project should be considered for the Built By The Best Award. Points will not be awarded for production quality. The purpose of the video is to provide judges with additional context around highlights and other considerable challenges that added to the complexity of the project.

Videos should be submitted via email or [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com) to Holly Coughlan at [hcoughlan@gcca.org](mailto:hcoughlan@gcca.org), along with project photos (see below).

**Download the slide deck template [here](#)**

**Videos are limited to 5 minutes of content**

## 8. Photographs and Testimonials

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### Photographs

Photos are required as part of the award submission process and are to be submitted with the project summary video in the Built By The Best PowerPoint template. **Photos are limited to 3 photos in each category of the Award, which are as follows:**

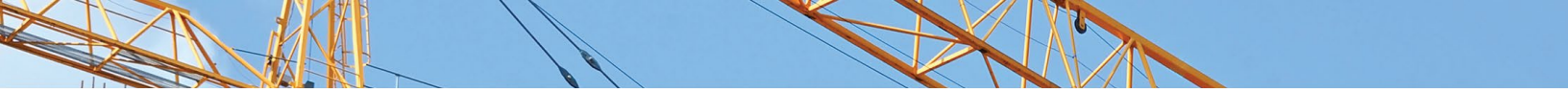
- Project Complexity
- Innovation
- Project Management
- Sustainability Consideration
- Contribution to larger society or supply chain

**Download the slide deck template [here](#) (same as above)**

The PowerPoint slide deck of photos should be submitted via email or [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com) to Holly Coughlan at [hcoughlan@gcca.org](mailto:hcoughlan@gcca.org).

### Testimonials

Testimonials provide the greatest example of a job well-done. You can provide customer testimonials below (no word limit) or in your video submission. ***Please fill out on next page:***





## Applicant Signature

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ am submitting this award on behalf of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and certify that my company qualifies for all the  
following criteria to qualify for consideration for the Built By The Best Award.

- ✓ Contractor or Design-Build company must be a CEBA member. Processor/End User/Warehouse/Third-Party Logistics company does not need to be a member.
- ✓ Building must maintain a controlled environment.
- ✓ Projects must be completed within the timeframe of 1 January 2024 through to 31 March 2025.
- ✓ Submission must be received by the submission deadline of 31 July 2025 by COB to hcoughlan@gcca.org. Late applications will not be accepted.
- ✓ Project must have been completed on or ahead of schedule.
- ✓ Approval received from customer/end user to apply for the award.

Award Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please include draft of quote in the event you win.**

Award-winners will have the opportunity to review quotes prior to any release. 500 character limit.