

The logo for MHA+ features the letters 'MHA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized white asterisk or starburst symbol. The background of the logo is a dark teal color.The text 'Best Use of Innovation Awards' is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. It is positioned inside a white, rounded rectangular shape that has a slight shadow, giving it a 3D effect. The background behind the text is a blurred image of a city street at night with blue and white light trails.The text 'MHA+ Annual Event and Awards' is written in a white, sans-serif font. It is positioned below the 'Best Use of Innovation Awards' text, also within the white rounded rectangular shape. The background is the same blurred city street at night.The text 'Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough. LE11 3GR www.mhaplus.org.uk/events/annual-event-2026/' is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. It is located at the bottom of the banner image.

MHA+ Annual Awards 2026

Celebrating Innovation Across the MHA+ Community

The MHA+ Annual Awards recognise and celebrate the best in innovation from across our community. They are an opportunity to showcase outstanding work delivered through MHA+ frameworks, share best practice and inspire continuous improvement across the sector.

Award Categories

Best Use of Innovation to Build Resilience

This award recognises best practice in adapting infrastructure to the challenges of today and tomorrow. We are looking for examples of adapting infrastructure to extreme weather, climate change modelling, aligning resilience initiatives with carbon reduction strategies, ensuring long-term maintenance of existing assets, and integrating digital technology for better network management.

Best Use of Innovation in Local Transport

This award celebrates innovation that is improving how people and goods move. We are looking for examples of increasing digitalisation and connectivity, reducing constraints on growth in transport, and the use of connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV).

Best Use of Innovation in Construction of Local Infrastructure

This award celebrates innovation in how we build and maintain the infrastructure our communities depend on. We are looking for examples of resilient and proactive network maintenance, future-proofing highway infrastructure, modern methods of construction (MMC), AI-enabled asset management and integrated planning that ensures infrastructure supports and connects new developments.

Key Dates

- Submission deadline (extended): **29 June 2026**
- Shortlisted entries announced: **July 2026**
- Winners announced: **23 September 2026** at the MHA+ Annual Event, Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough

Rules and Eligibility

Who can enter

This competition is open to all MHA+ organisations, including:

- All MHA+ member authorities
- All MHA+ framework contractors and designers
- Supply chain partners of an MHA+ organisation, where that organisation was involved in the initiative and supports the submission

Submissions should relate to the types of work commonly delivered by MHA+ member authorities. Entries for highways works delivered outside of the MHA+ framework are admissible, although the final decision on whether an entry is appropriate rests with the MHA+ Manager, Karen Notman.

How entries are assessed

All entries will be assessed by the MHA+ Awards judging panel. The panel will evaluate each entry on two key criteria: how novel or challenging the innovation was, and how much benefit was derived from it.

The top three ranked entries in each category will be shortlisted. Shortlisted entrants will be invited to give a five-minute presentation at the MHA+ Annual Event on the afternoon of 23 September 2026. The winner of each category will then be decided by a vote of attendees at that session.

Submitting your entry

Please submit your entry using the nomination form linked below.

To help the judges better understand your submission, you are encouraged to include supporting materials such as documents, images, PowerPoint presentations or videos. Please note, supporting files should not exceed 10MB in total - or as open hyperlinks - and aim to ensure that your full submission can be reviewed within ten minutes.

Please note:

- An initiative may only be entered in one category
- The awards panel reserves the right to reassign an entry to a different category if appropriate
- The awards panel may request additional information or evidence to clarify an entry
- No personally sensitive information (as defined under GDPR) or commercially sensitive information should be included in any submission.

Contact us

For any queries, questions or comments, please contact [Kay Smith](#).

Submit your nomination: [👉 Nomination form – MHA+ Annual Awards 2026](#)

Additional documents to support explanation of the entry may be submitted by including hyperlinks to them within the nomination form.

Read more on the [MHA+ Annual Event page](#).