

International recognition for S African stainless steel innovation

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The [Southern Africa Stainless Steel](#) Development Association ([Sassda](#)) was awarded the Bronze Award by the International [Stainless Steel](#) Forum (ISSF) in the category of Best New Applications [Featuring New Technology](#), for the development of municipal [water storage](#) tanks that were made from 3 chrome (CR)12 [stainless steel](#) to replace [concrete](#).

Continuing its well-established practice of awarding excellence for [projects](#) involving new applications for [stainless steel](#), the ISSF presented awards in May in two categories: Best New Application [Featuring New Technology](#) and Best New Application [Featuring New Market Development](#). The winning entries were selected from submissions from members or their customers and, in an effort to encourage more participation, the ISSF board agreed to name three winners in each category.

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Finnish [stainless steel](#) producer [Outokumpu](#) was awarded [gold](#) for Best New Application [Featuring New Technology](#) for the development of bionic lightweight structures for battery vehicles, while Japanese manufacturer [Nippon Yakin Kogyo](#) received the silver award in the same category for diffusion bonded compact heat exchangers made from modified 316L [grade stainless steel](#).

[Sassda](#) received the bronze award on behalf of one of its members – [steel](#) fabricator Skyhill Heavy [Engineering](#), part of the Hydra [Arc Group](#), based in [Secunda](#), Mpumalanga – which specified the use of 3CR12 for municipal [water storage](#) tanks in rural areas with an innovative [design](#), featuring an inverted bottom cone that allows drainage of sludge and [cleaning](#) without emptying the tanks.

Meanwhile, European [stainless steel](#) producer [Aperam](#) was awarded the [gold](#) award for Best New Application [Featuring New Market Developments](#) for the enclosure of the remains of the troubled [Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor](#), in the [Ukraine](#), which has been covered in a domed sheath of [stainless steel](#). “This is an outstanding example of how new applications for [stainless steel](#) can simultaneously benefit the [environment](#) and

imaginatively catch the attention of the public, and [mark stainless steel](#) as being something that does good things. That is vitally important for our public image,” says the ISSF.

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Owing to the very high standard of the submissions, the silver award was bestowed on two joint winners. Multinational [steel](#) manufacturer [ArcelorMittal](#) was recognised for the duplex material Tidal Sluice Gates at Mont Saint Michel, in [France](#). “This is also a very public [construction](#), as it is situated at a very prominent tourist destination in [France](#).”

The second silver award went to Japanese [steel](#) producer [Nippon Steel](#) and [Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation](#) for the alloy-saving duplex stainless steels that were produced for dam flood gates. “This is yet again a very useful public [service](#) contract, where its extended [service](#) life will save significant public funds.”

The bronze award was won by Spanish [stainless steel](#) producer Acerinox for a walkway suspension bridge that was completed in an [underground](#) railway station.

Safety in Steel

Alongside the awards for technical excellence, the ISSF also recognised companies that had shown an outstanding commitment to [safety](#) consciousness in their [operations](#) through its [Safety Awards](#).

These awards reiterate the importance of [safety](#), while also promoting advancement in the industry through the creation of a knowledge-sharing forum. The ISSF runs its [Safety Awards Programme](#) annually, inviting its members to submit ideas from their own [safety](#) programmes. These ideas are circulated among other members and the winning ideas have the benefit of achieving peer recognition, as well as a certificate which can be used in their own publications.

Everyone who submits an entry is recognised by having their entry included in the ISSF Annual [Safety Awards Report](#), which is circulated to all members and published on the ISSF extranet.

“The standard of entries remains very high. Having decided to introduce second and third placed winners to increase the incentive to submit entries for these awards, we awarded two joint winners in both second and third places, because the entry quality was so high.”

Spanish company [Acerinox Europe SAU](#) was selected for first place recognition for an innovative [design](#) for a new [lifting](#) device for the tundish, to avoid the risk of injuries to hands and fingers as well as the head or body. In joint second place were South African [stainless steel](#) producer [Columbus Stainless](#) and Belgian company [Aperam Genk](#), with both companies focusing on reducing accidents and damage to material and improving controls and [safety](#) in their [transport](#) fleets. Third place was shared by Japanese supplier [JFE Steel](#) and South Korean [steel](#) producer [Posco](#), who have both made innovative use of films and DVDs for [safety training](#). 🇳🇵