



UKEO Awards 2026

Help us to celebrate excellence across the Earth Observation (EO) community at the 2026 UK Earth Observation conference in September. Our awards recognise the people and projects driving innovation, impact, collaboration, and engagement across the EO landscape.

Whether you're involved in cutting-edge research, delivering instruments or tech, inspiring the public, or supporting the next generation, there's a category for you.

UKEO Research Award

For outstanding scientific excellence in EO research

Open to researchers based at universities or research institutions, currently undertaking scientific research in EO related areas. This award recognises and celebrates those pushing the boundaries of EO science.

We're looking for nominations that meet the following criteria:

- National or international leading science, evidenced by a delivered project, peer-reviewed publication(s), technical report(s), mission contribution, dataset release, or equivalent output.
- Clear scientific innovation, originality, or advancement of the state-of-the-art in EO research.
- Demonstrated autonomy, initiative, and/or leadership in the conception, design, delivery, or dissemination of the work

UKEO Impact Award

For EO science making a real-world difference

This award recognises those translating EO research into meaningful impact across policy, operations, or decision-making.

We're looking for nominations for work that meets the following criteria:

- Impact extending beyond a single publication or project, with clear influence on policy, operational practice or decision-making.
- Successful translation of EO science into applied tools, services, guidance, or workflows, with evidence of uptake or measurable benefit.

- Likely includes but not necessarily required; effective collaboration across institutions or sectors.
 - Demonstrated autonomy, initiative, and/or leadership in the conception, design, delivery, or dissemination of the work.
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UKEO Business Collaboration Award

For powerful partnerships between research and industry

This award celebrates successful collaborations that bridge EO science and the private sector.

We're looking for projects that meet the following criteria:

- Meaningful partnership between research and private sector organisations, with clear shared objectives and joint contribution.
 - Co-development of innovative EO science, technology, or services with demonstrable commercial relevance.
 - Tangible outcomes delivering mutual scientific, economic, or societal benefit.
 - Demonstrated autonomy, initiative, and/or leadership in the conception, design, delivery, or dissemination of the work.
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UKEO Public Engagement Award

For inspiring and engaging audiences with EO

This award recognises engagement with any audience outside academia and industry through, for example, events, social media, podcasts, local / national / international news.

We are looking for nominations that include at least one of the following:

- An explanation of how the nominee / nominee's work is successful in terms of the type of engagement
 - A description of why the work is novel or/and stands out above others of a similar type
 - An evaluation of how the nominee / nominee's work helped raise public awareness / appreciation of EO
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UKEO Teaching and Mentoring Award

(No self-nominations)

For excellence in developing people and potential

This award celebrates individuals who go above and beyond to support learning and career development in EO.

Nominations for this award should include at least one of the following:

- Evidence of dedication to teaching excellence – this could be from someone receiving teaching or mentoring, or a colleague observing excellent teaching, or through having made a significant contribution to an institution's TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) Award. Examples may include someone with a high 'conversion rate' of taught/mentored courses into PhD or private-sector remote sensing work; or quality of programme / materials (novelty, comprehensive nature or continual updating).
- Evidence of substantial effort and support in guiding undergraduate or postgraduate projects, apprentices or new employees (long-term or short-term).

Postgraduate Conference Award

For exceptional postgraduate research

Recognising the next generation of EO leaders, this award highlights outstanding postgraduate contributions.

We're looking for research that:

- Is innovative and original
 - Makes a meaningful contribution to the field
 - Demonstrates strong, rigorous methodology
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The following awards will be voted on by delegates attending the conference and announced during the closing session.

Best Poster – UKEO 2026

Voted for by the community

Celebrate the most engaging and impactful poster presented at the conference.

- Award issued following the conference
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Best Presentation – UKEO 2026

Recognising standout conference presentations, voted for by the community

Awarded to the most compelling and high-quality presentation.