

2027 Awards of Excellence Program

How to Prepare a Winning Submission

September 2, 2026





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2027 EXCLUSIVE
AWARDS SPONSOR



Awards Team



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Key Dates



September 14, 2026

★ *Program Opens*

October 29, 2026

★ *Program Closes*

February 2027

★ *Winners Notified*

June 6-9, 2027

★ *Recognition at*



Conference & Expo
2027 | ORLANDO

Entry Fee/Awards of Excellence



MEMBERS

\$425.00

Per entry, per category

NON-MEMBERS

\$625.00

Per entry, per category

Why Submit?



Why Submit?



1. **Industry Recognition:** Gain visibility and credibility from peers, partners, and stakeholders.

- Award recipients will be recognized on stage at the 2027 IPMI Conference & Expo in Orlando
- Winning projects, programs, organizations, and people in the Awards of Excellence and Professional Recognition Awards programs will be documented in the July/August/September issue of *Parking & Mobility*



Why Submit?



2. **Showcase Innovation:** Highlight your team's creativity, leadership, and forward-thinking solutions.
3. **Boost Team Morale:** Celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of your staff, collaborators, and clients.
4. **Strengthen Reputation:** Build trust and authority with clients, customers, community members, and decision-makers.
5. **Attract Talent and Partnerships:** Awards help position your organization as an industry leader.

Awards Entry Platform



Login to Complete an Application or to Access Judging Panel

Email Address *

Password *

☐ remember me [lost password?](#)

Login

Don't have an account yet? [Create a user login.](#)

IPMI's annual awards and recognition programs celebrate individuals and organizations in the parking, transportation, and mobility industry. Winners in the Awards of Excellence and Professional Recognition Awards programs exemplify industry excellence.

Questions? Email awards@parking-mobility.org

Logging In: Please note that your login for the awards site is different than your login for the IPMI site. If you have never created an account for our awards, you will have to do that before you can enter a submission

Click on the red navigation bar above to access criteria, categories, and more.

Click the hyperlinked text below to start your entry. When you click these links, you will be prompted to create a login or register for a new login.

Program Name	Opens	Closes
Awards of Excellence	September 14, 2026	October 29, 2026
Professional Recognition Awards	September 14, 2026	October 29, 2026

The 2027 IPMI Awards are brought to you with our heartfelt thanks to Walter P Moore for their exclusive program sponsorship. Click the banner below to learn more about them.

Awards Entry Platform

[Parking & Mobility Magazine](#) | [Forum Online Community](#) | [Login to Member Database](#) | [Conference & Expo 2026](#) | [eLearning Login](#) | [Subscribe to IPMI's E-Newsletter](#)



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Awards of Excellence

Overview and Best Practices



Awards of Excellence



Eligibility

Projects and programs implemented and/or completed from September 14, 2024, through September 14, 2026, are eligible.

Categories

- Architectural Design
- Facility Design: Mixed-Use
- Facility Design: Stand-Alone
- Facility Design: Surface Parking
- Restoration: Structured Parking
- Restoration: Surface Parking
- Sustainable Design
- **Innovation: Technology**
- **Innovation: Social Impact**
- Marketing and Communications

Awards of Excellence



Tools

(Click [HERE](#) to download the Project Team template)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
Awards Role	Role	Engaged on Project?	Full Company Name	Primary Contact Salutation	Contact First Name	Contact Last Name	Suffix and/or Credentials	Primary Contact Title	Email
Submitter		Yes							
Team Member	Owner	Yes							
Team Member	Operator (if different from Owner)								
Team Member	Architect of Record								
Team Member	Consulting Architect								
Team Member	Engineer of Record								
Team Member	Structural Engineer								
Team Member	Civil Engineer								
Team Member	MEP Engineer								
Team Member	Lighting Designer								
Team Member	Planner								
Team Member	Landscape Architect								
Team Member	Consultant, Parking								
Team Member	Consultant, Other								
Team Member	Hardware Supplier								
Team Member	Software Supplier								
Team Member	Construction Manager								
Team Member	General Contractor								
Team Member	Precast/Concrete/Steel Supplier								

Instructions

COMPLETE - Team List

DO NOT EDIT data validation

Awards of Excellence

Tools

(Click [HERE](#) to view and download the Submission Guide)



2026 IPMI AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE	
Page: Primary Contact Information: Owner/Operator/Agency	
Entry Category: * Download the Awards of Excellence Eligibility and Criteria for reference throughout your submission. Select one Category ☐ Architectural Design ☐ Facility Design: Mixed-Use ☐ Facility Design: Stand-Alone ☐ Facility Design: Surface Parking ☐ Restoration: Structured Parking Facility ☐ Restoration: Surface Parking Facility ☐ Sustainable Design ☐ Innovation in a Mobility, Transportation, or Parking Program ☐ Marketing and Communications	
Project, Program, or Operation Name: *	
Owner * Provide the complete name of the owning agency, jurisdiction, institution, corporation, or organization name as you would like it to appear in communications and on your award, if selected. (Examples: City of Denver, Simon Property Group, University of Delaware)	
Permission to Submit * Do you have the permission of the project or program owner to submit it for an IPMI Award of Excellence? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Organization Name *	
Project Role * Example: Owner, Operator, Architect, Engineer, Construction Firm, Parking Consultant, Technology Vendor, etc.	
Please provide a primary contact for the entry. This individual will be contacted if further information is required for the entry.	
First Name*	
Last Name*	
Job Title*	
Address*	

2026 IPMI AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
Provide complete mailing/shipping address information for the applicant organization. This address will be used for communication and shipping of awards, if your entry is selected for an award.
Street:
Line 2:
City:
State:
Zip:
Country Code:
Phone Number *
Email Address *
Are you a member of IPMI? * This determines whether you will pay the member entry fee or the non-member fee. Select one option ☐ Yes ☐ No
Click "Save & Next" to continue to the second page of the entry form where you will be required to provide additional entry information.
Page: Project Team and Contact Information
You are required to include all major team members in your submission, using the provided Excel spreadsheet. Click HERE to download. Team members should represent all relevant aspects of design and construction, including but not limited to: • Owner • Operator (if different than Owner) • Planner • Architect of Record (primary) • Consulting Architect • Engineer of Record (primary) • Civil Engineer • MEP Engineer • Structural Engineer • Parking Consultant • Parking Hardware Supplier • Parking Software Supplier • Contractor (GC/CM) • Landscape Architect • Lighting Designer • Any other relevant team member.

Awards of Excellence

Submission Guide TOC

- About the Awards of Excellence
- Eligibility
- Evaluations and Judging
- Recognition
- Entry Fees
- Awards of Excellence Categories Overview
- Requirements by Category
- FAQs



Awards of Excellence



Best Practices

- ✓ Obtain **owner approval** before you begin a submission
- ✓ Make sure the **contact person** is someone who will respond to questions from IPMI quickly
- ✓ Enter your company name **exactly how you want it printed** on the award.
- ✓ Enter a **concise and correct project name**.
- ✓ Include **proof of project or program completion**
- ✓ Complete the **team form**
- ✓ Include **5 to 10 images** that are **between 1 MB and 5 MB**.
- ✓ **Pay for your entries** at the time of submission!



Awards of Excellence

Best Practices



Awards of Excellence



Frequently Asked Questions

1. If my entry is the only one in a category, will I win by default?
2. Can I resubmit a previous entry?
3. Can I submit two projects in the same category?
4. Could there be more than one project or program awarded in each category?
5. What do the “Judging Criteria and Requirements” percentages mean?
6. Does project cost factor into judging a submission?
7. Is any team member permitted to submit a project?

Awards Prep Resource



(Click [HERE](#) to access the article)

THE BUSINESS OF PARKING

Marketing & Business Development



Award Programs

The Art and Science of Winning

By Dorothy Verdon, CPSM

ALMOST EVERY PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION has an awards program, either recognizing individual achievements or showcasing outstanding projects or initiatives. IPMI has both: the *Awards of Excellence* and *Professional Recognition Awards*. These programs share many similarities with those of other organizations, in that submissions require form-based text and visual content and are judged by industry peers. With IPMI's Awards of Excellence program call for submissions on the horizon, this article provides helpful tips on how to impress a jury, earn a high score, and win an Apex or Honorable Mention Award.

The best thing about winning an award is the validation you get from a jury of your peers who recognize the value of a plan, a design, a program, or a product and its successful implementation. That kind of third-party endorsement affirms what your team already believes: You've done something excellent. A survey I conducted about professional award programs revealed that recognition among clients and peers was the top reason for submitting; external publicity was second, credibility was third, and boosting employee and team morale was fourth.

Planning and Strategic Decision Making

Some projects are destined to grab a jury's attention immediately and win multiple awards. But even piles of dirt can win if you tell a good story and illustrate it effectively! Case in point: an engineering client approached me about submitting a clean soil stockpile project in Brooklyn to the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) New York. At first, I was skeptical. However, through research, interviews, and new drone photography, I became convinced of the story's strength. After careful category selection, the project earned a 2024 ACEC New York Gold Award.

It takes time to prepare a viable entry to most consequential award programs, so think about what the ROI will be before jumping in. Will a win reinforce your company's or organization's reputation in a specific market or project type, and does it align with your business goals or mission? Resist a scattershot approach

and submit selectively, using go/no go criteria such as budget, level of effort, odds of winning, target audience, and internal and/or external value. Also, assess your project's "winnability" quotient. Be honest and rigorous in evaluating how your entry compares to past winners in the same category. Most associations archive previous winners online—study those to benchmark your entry.

Giving Judges What They Crave

Assuming all systems are "go"—and for consultants, this means that you have obtained permission from the project owner to proceed—you are now ready to start filling in the submission form. IPMI's has over 60 possible fields for text content alone, and the several key fields requiring the most detailed information are tailored to the different entry categories.

IPMI's jury is composed of approximately 20 volunteers from member organizations across the parking and mobility spectrum. Faced with several dozen entries and the need to cull them, their first pass is when your entry will be eliminated if it is technically unresponsive due to missing information, an inadequate narrative or presentation of facts, or images that are substandard or do not support the narrative.

I recently asked judges and staff from professional organizations, including IPMI, for their feedback on several key questions about the award program. Their answers, summarized below, offer valuable tips on how to submit a winning entry in the 2026 *Awards of Excellence* program.

1. What are the most common mistakes you have found that submitters make with their entries?

Failing to carefully read and follow instructions, not directly addressing the specific questions and criteria, and providing incomplete or vague responses were the most significant flaws. Strong entries are clearly aligned with judging criteria, well-written, and detailed. Think like a judge: make it easy for them to find and evaluate your information. One IPMI judge noted, "The devil is in the details, and wordsmithing is critical to putting your best foot forward."

2. Which sections of the entry form seem to give submitters the most trouble responding to adequately?

The media section is challenging for some applicants. Photos, can convey the scope and uniqueness of a project more vividly than mere words. Overall, judges noted that it's not just one section that trips up applicants, but rather a combination of incomplete or missing information across the submission that can weaken its effectiveness.

3. What do each year's winners seem to have in common?

Winners clearly described how their project or program integrated seamlessly with their operations and was thoughtfully designed with the end user in mind. Winning entries stand out for their innovation, energy, and ability to clearly demonstrate impact. These submissions are complete, engaging, and visually dynamic, featuring compelling narratives, striking visuals, and metrics that illustrate how data was utilized in the project decision-making process and applied to achieve objectives.

4. What is the best advice you can give submitters?

- Be responsive to judging criteria and don't be afraid to state why you think the project deserves an award.
- Answer every question thoroughly. Don't skip required details, especially numbers or specifics, and avoid repeating the same points.
- Write concisely, but don't forget to tell the story. Jurors want to know what business decision inspired the program or project, what obstacles you overcame and how, who was involved, how it was implemented, and what benefits your organization or client derived from the overall effort. If your entry is a unicorn that sets new standards for the parking and mobility industry, please state so and provide supporting evidence.

- Describe how you innovated and were resourceful with the planning, design, or construction process.
- Use high-quality photos and videos to elevate the submission.
- Enlist objective third parties to review and provide feedback about your entry before submission.

You're a Winner, Now What?

Milk it for all it's worth! Attend the awards ceremony, invite your clients and teammates, announce it on social media and your website, issue a news release, and hold an in-house celebration, because, like designing a project or program, submitting one for an award is always a team effort.

Parting Thoughts

A successful award submission isn't just about checking boxes. It's about crafting a compelling, evidence-based story that resonates with a jury and aligns with the goals of the award program. By approaching the process strategically and presenting your best work, you will significantly increase your chances of being recognized as one of the best in the parking and mobility industry. ♦

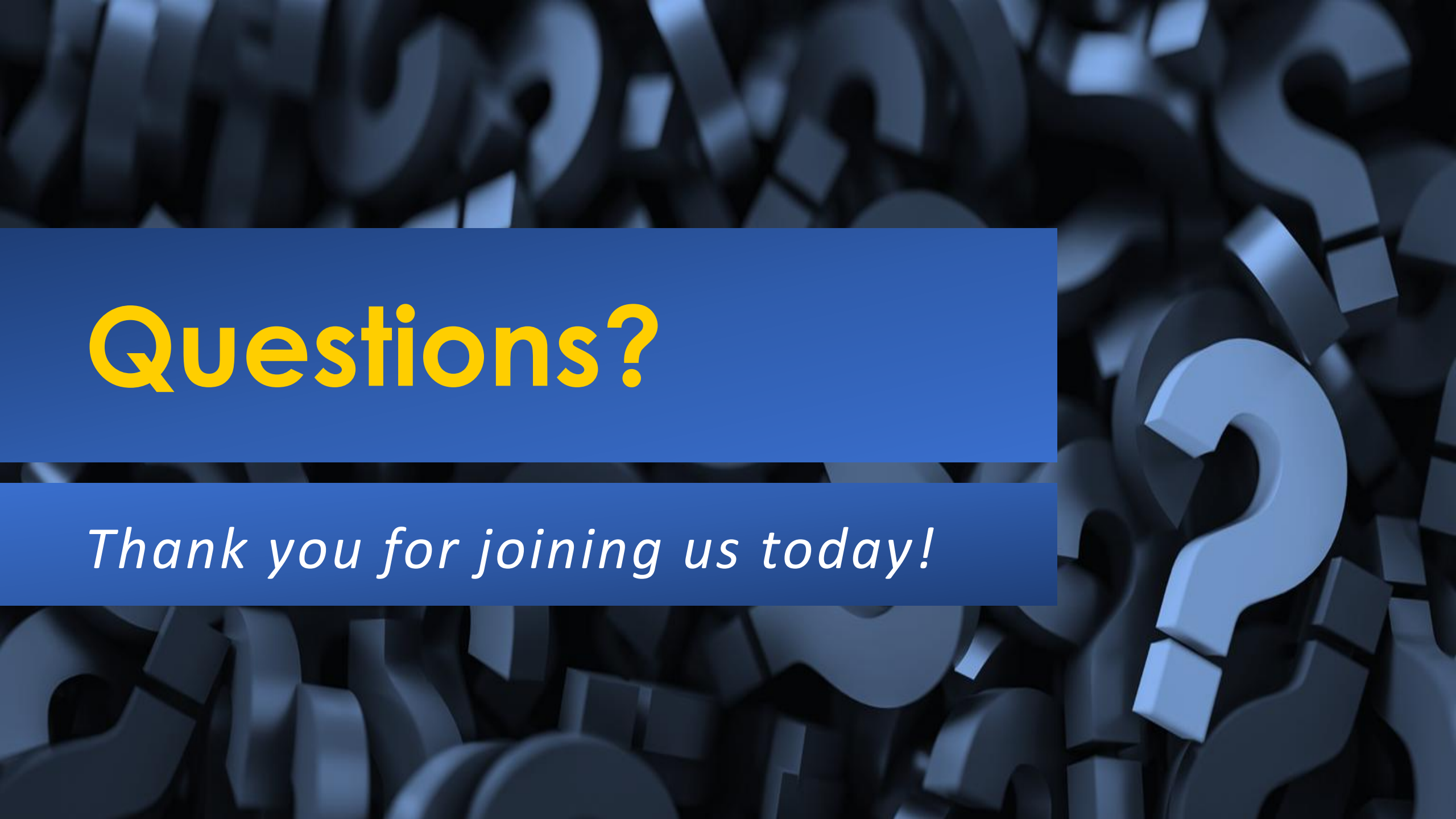


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The background of the slide is a dark blue field filled with numerous 3D question marks. The question marks are rendered in a lighter blue color with a metallic or glossy finish, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. They are scattered across the entire background, with some appearing more prominent than others due to their position and lighting. Two horizontal blue bars are overlaid on the image: a darker blue bar at the top and a lighter blue bar at the bottom, both containing text.

Questions?

Thank you for joining us today!