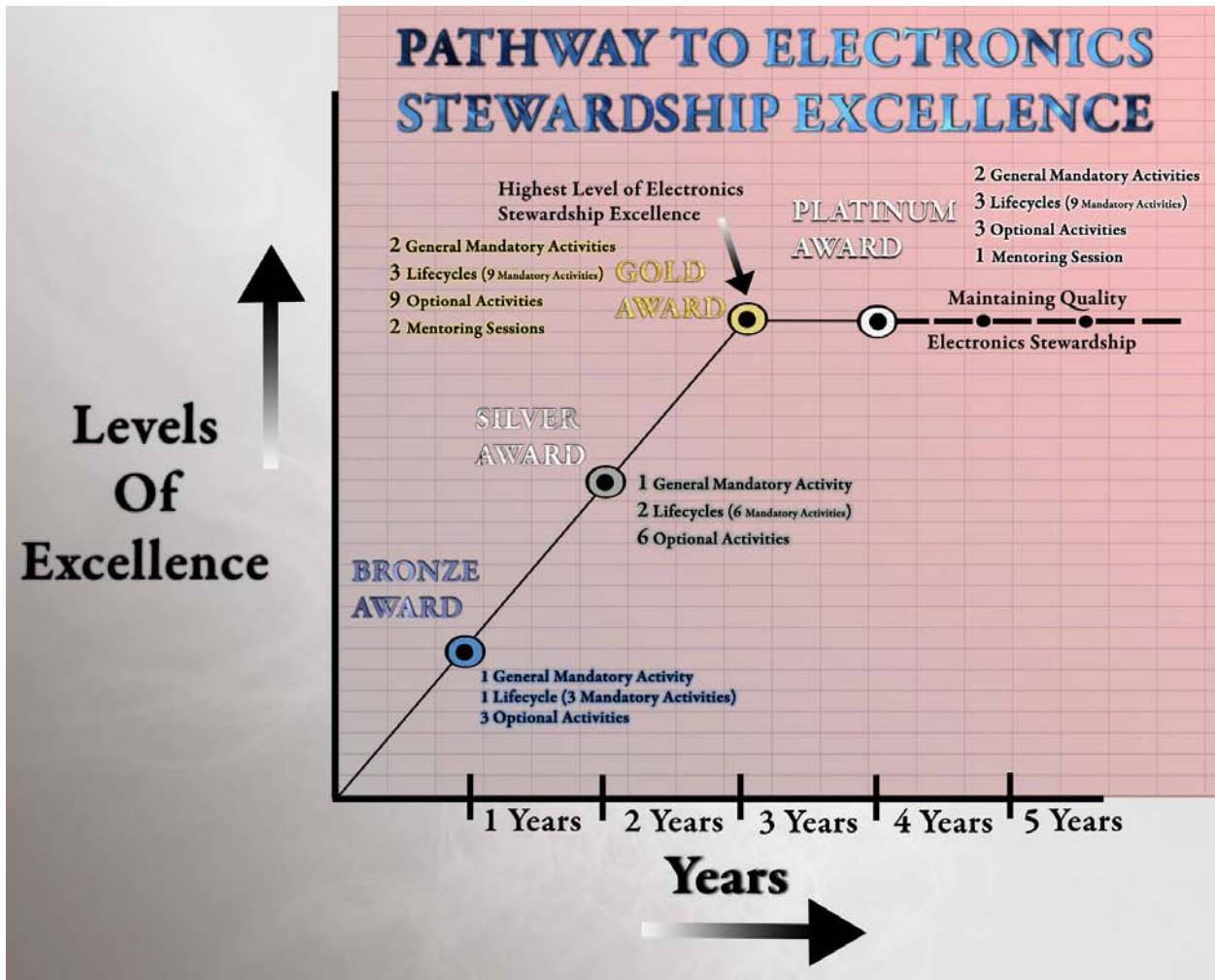


PURPOSE

To provide a one page summary of what it takes to achieve specific FEC award levels and how long to achieve the highest award, the Platinum Award.

FEC PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS STEWARDSHIP



AWARDS PROGRESSION

The four possible award levels are Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. There are general activities, mandatory activities, optional activities, and mentoring requirements spelled out to achieve each award level. These are listed on the Pathway to Excellence in Electronics



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FEC Award Application Case Study Updated: 11/17/2011

Stewardship. A facility cannot compete for the same award again once they have achieved it, except the Platinum award.

Although the optional activities and mentoring requirements are less for the Platinum Award than for the Gold Award, they are shown at the same level. Once a facility achieves the Gold Level, the Platinum award is an excellent way to maintain electronics stewardship achievements each year. A facility can achieve only one Gold Award but there is no limit on how many Platinum awards can be achieved. FEC Partners that wish to show this commitment to excellence in maintaining a high level of electronics stewardship may complete the Platinum award requirements every year.

USING THE PATHWAY

AOC (DEA's Aviation Operations Center) located in Fort Worth, Texas, started its FEC journey in 2006. To win a Bronze award was an objective of the Environmental Management System (EMS) Team for 2006. The team efforts did result in the facility achieving a Bronze award (the first FEC award received by a DEA Facility) for 2006.

For 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, AOC competed for and achieved a Silver Award. For the 2012 award year (recognizing activities completed in FY 2011), AOC is going for the Gold Award. Using the Pathway to Excellence, AOC achieved the Bronze Award for 2006, the Silver Award for 2007, and could have gone for the Gold Award in 2008. Why did we wait until 2012 to go for the Gold Award? There were several reasons.

The team felt achieving the Silver Award each year was a worthy effort. There was no restriction in 2008 that you could only win one Award level and then had to move to the next level until facility had achieved the Gold Award and then they could achieve as many Platinum Awards as desired. The EMS team felt the workload increase (one more general activity, three more mandatory activities, three more optional activities, and two mentoring sessions) to achieve the Gold Award would require a lot of additional workload for personnel already very busy.

Starting in 2011, the FEC only allows for one award level to be achieved by a facility; AOC was faced with either going for the Gold Award or no award for 2012. The EMS Team decided to go for the Gold Award for 2012. FEC had been very helpful in the past to the facility continually improving its electronics stewardship and its overall procurement, operations and maintenance, and end of life electronics performance.

CONCLUSION

The Pathway to Excellence provided not only a good overall picture of the FEC recognition, it also was good to talk from as a start for all award levels and then progress into the individual requirements for the general, mandatory, optional, and mentoring requirements.



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The team has found the Pathway to Excellence useful in briefings to other personnel, useful in mentoring since it shows the big picture and what is required for each level attainment, and a roadmap or pathway as to where the facility wants to be in the next few years in electronics stewardship.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need assistance with the Federal Electronics Challenge, please contact your Regional Champion. The list of FEC Regional Champions is available at <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/champions.htm>.

Partners may also request technical assistance via email to partner@electronicschallenge.net.

At AOC, please call Carl Dreessen at 817-837-2020 or email carl.f.dreessen@usdoj.gov.

FEDERAL ELECTRONICS CHALLENGE

Web site: <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/>
E-mail: info@electronicschallenge.net