

## Region 8 AdHoc Committee on New Student Contests

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### Goals:

The IEEE Region 8 AdHoc Committee on New Student Contests has been tasked with identifying and developing new ideas for student contests in Region 8. The goals of the programme are as follows:

- Provide an activity for student members, which inspires learning, collaboration, the development of new skills and fosters technological innovation.
- Develop valuable experience which will enhance the job prospects of the participants, help to spread awareness of the importance of engineering skills and the positive impact that new technologies and engineers have on society.
- Enhances IEEE Student membership across Region 8 to ensure sustainability of student communities.

### Progress against goals since the last report:

- Ten fully completed projects submitted for evaluation, which have been judged by a team of 50+ IEEE Professional member volunteer judges across Region 8.
- Finalists are as follows:
  - First Place - **BitDuino** - (Spain Section)
  - Second Place - **Tech Sight** - (Egypt Section)
  - Third Place - **Invicta** - (Romania Section)
  - Honourable Mention - **crowdSOS** (Germany Section) and **SystemsGenesis** (Greece Section)
- It has been decided within the R8 SAC committee to additionally recognise two teams as an Honourable Mention, owing to the closeness of the final average scores and the overall excellent quality of all entries to the contest.
- Award funds are in the process of being distributed and award / participation certificates created for all participants, judges and ambassadors.
- Plans are in place to launch the IEEE Duino contest for the 2022 – 23 period. Proposed timeline is as follows:
  - Preparation and logistics, advertising, website and social media refresh – October 2022.
  - Recruitment and training of IEEE Duino ambassadors and section representatives. Finalisation of involvement of section chairs for hardware delivery – November 2022.
  - Recruitment and training of IEEE Duino judges – November / December 2022.
  - Design and ideas phase submissions to open - 1st February 2023.
  - Judging of design and ideas phase – March 2023.
  - Announcement of 'Phase 1' selected teams, Issuing of Arduino Nano hardware via section representatives - April 2023.
  - Build Phase Beginning - April 2023.
  - Submission of completed project designs and 'Phase 2' judging - May / June 2023
  - Finalisation of project scores and winner announcement - July 2023

The above schedule is approximate and has been curated with the academic year in mind, such as opening submission stages whilst exams are not planned in the majority of sections. A relaxed schedule is also proposed such that the diverse and wide variety of judges, ambassadors, section chairs / representatives and participants have sufficient time to complete their tasks adequately. This is of course subject to discussion and change as required.

### Subcommittee Specific Issues 1

The nature of the pilot programme necessitated us to restrict the entries to a subset of all Region 8, to avoid overwhelming the resources of the judging and administrative team. Going forward, if the programme is deemed successful, we aim to open this contest to all of Region 8 with ExCom support in future iterations of the contest.

### Proposals for improvements/Other Issues to report

Greater awareness and support from section chairs and/or section student activities representatives, in order to raise the profile of this contest in future.