117th Region 8 Committee Meeting, 6-7 November 2021

Message from IEEE Region 8 Director

*Antonio Luque,
Region 8 Director*

Dear IEEE members in Region 8,

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. When you read this letter, 2021 will be close to its end. It has been again a year dominated by the pandemic situation, and most IEEE activities have been conducted online; but as the year has progressed some hope has appeared to return to in-person events. Of course how and when to return will be vary dramatically among different areas of the Region.

The Region 8 Committee had its 117th meeting in hybrid format in November, with the physical part taking

...continued on page 4 ▶

Message from the Chair of IEEE Region 8 Publications & Communications Team

*Adeel Sultan,
Chair IEEE Region 8 PnC*

Dearest IEEE Region 8 Members,

Hope you and your families are doing well and keeping safe. Now that the world is opening up, we are cautiously hoping for life to get back to normal. With the same spirit, we recently had a very successful hybrid Region 8 Fall 2021 meeting in Frankfurt, Germany. It was certainly a great reliever after all those challenging months. In the interim, despite the hurdles, PnC team worked hard to keep you all abreast with the latest news and happenings within our region and beyond. In this regard, I would like to also thank you all for your patronage and excellent participation in supporting the region's

publication & communication efforts. We received numerous emails/enquiries from you after our initial call earlier this year, and also many submissions through our online form. This is evident, not only from the vast content of this newsletter & postings on our social-media platforms, but also from the exponential increase in traffic on all our online channels. Contribution/participation/feedback on all our SM platforms increased drastically too.

Moreover, to ensure continued seamless engagement even during such chaotic times, we continue to explore cheap and robust methods to implement hybrid meetings to accommodate all committee members efficiently. The region's website was also revamped to optimize your experience by providing you with the latest news in a simple and unified manner.

...continued on page 3 ▶

Message from the Editors

Catia Bandeiras,
Region 8 News Editor in Chief

As I am writing this message, I am attending remotely the 117th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting. Several other Region 8 Committee members are doing the same, while overall 100 other attendees managed to gather in person in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, for the first face to face meeting since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a very important milestone and a reflection on how different technological advancements brought us to a moment where travel and meeting restrictions came to a point where it was possible to meet safely in person again, while not leaving out those who, like me, could not travel.

The Region 8 Meeting is not the only event reported in this issue of Region 8 News conducted in a hybrid format. Plenty of Sections and Student Branches celebrated the IEEE Day 2021 is this way and a few flagship conferences of the Region and Sections started to finally adopt this format. And this reality may be here to stay for a long time.

We are also aware that the pandemic and the absence of in-person engagement posed challenges in the engagement of members and volunteers. However, there is plenty to celebrate in the Region, with several awards and recognitions given to the members and Sections showcasing the resilience of the members in providing continuous value and learnings about the STEM fields.

As this is the closing issue of 2021, I would like to wish you all a 2022 full of health and availing of the new hybrid possibilities as much as possible for your own professional growth.

Region 8 Committee 2021–2022

Operating Committee (OpCom)

Director
Antonio Luque (Spain)
director@ieeer8.org

Director-Elect
Vincenzo Piuri (Italy)
director.elect@ieeer8.org

Past-Director
Magdalena Salazar Palma (Spain)
past.director@ieeer8.org

Secretary
Ljupco Karadzinov (North Macedonia)
secretary@ieeer8.org

Treasurer
Adam Jastrzebski (UK & Ireland)
treasurer@ieeer8.org

Vice-Chair, Member Activities
Sara Barros (Benelux)
member.activities@ieeer8.org

Vice-Chair, Student Activities
Simay Akar (Turkey)
student.activities@ieeer8.org

Vice-Chair, Technical Activities
Peter Nagy (Hungary)
technical.activities@ieeer8.org

Appointed Members

Action for Industry
John Matogo (Kenya)

Region 8 News
Catia Bandeiras (UK & Ireland)

Awards & Recognition
Magdalena Salazar Palma (Spain)

Standards Coordinator
Tuncer Baykas (Turkey)

Chapters
Andrejs Romanovs (Latvia)

Strategic Planning
Magdalena Salazar Palma (Spain)

Conferences
Habib Kammoun (Tunisia)

Ad-hoc Members

Africa Council Chair
Vincent Kaabunga (Kenya)

New Student Contests Initiative
Lee Crudgington (UK & Ireland)

Careers New Initiative
Mohammed Amin (Egypt)

Publications and Communications
Adeel Sultan (United Arab Emirates)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Mona Ghassemian (UK & Ireland)

Electronic Communications
George Michael (Cyprus)

Region 8 Today
Hazar Oklah (Jordan)

Electronic Communications Assistant
Maria Efthymiou (Cyprus)

Region Vitality Coordinator
Matej Zajc (Slovenia)

Student Representative
Theodoros Chatzinikolaou (Greece)

Humanitarian Activities
Abdulateef Aliyu (Nigeria)

Women in Engineering
Maria Alexandra Paun (Switzerland)

Membership Development
Mike Hinchey (UK & Ireland)

Young Professionals
Almedin Kavaz (Germany)

Professional and Educational Activities
Conrad Attard (Malta)

Finance
Adam Jastrzebski (UK & Ireland)

Sections Congress Coordinator
Costas Stasopoulos (Cyprus)

History Activities
Martin Bastiaans (Benelux)

SYP Congress Coordinator
Barbara Vujkov (Serbia)

Life Members
Peter Magyar (Germany)

Social Media
Mohammad Hossein Babaee (Portugal)

New Industry Events Initiative
Vacant

Voluntary Contribution Fund
Andreas Koltes (Germany)

Message from the Chair R8 PnC ...

Accordingly, we saw amazing growth in our website traffic too. (as can be seen from the figure on the right). Friends, please remember that we as PnC are here to help you, in not only promoting your IEEE message but also in sharing your activities/stories/achievements with all our regional & global members. So, kindly continue to share and send your articles/reports for events and activities as we heavily rely on your participation and support. As a reminder, note that in order to facilitate our correspondence, we have two separate mechanisms through which you can reach us:

- Through editors@ieeer8.org email address: This is the dedicated email address and your request will go to all the EiC's, who will in turn review and action it and place the content in the relevant place, if deemed appropriate.
- Through online form (available at https://ieeer8.org/pnc/), that we have created for your convenience. Again, the request will go to all the EiC's, who will in turn review and action it and place the content in the relevant place, if deemed appropriate.

Furthermore, our teams from specific channels (R8EC, R8SM, R8T, R8N) will also be individually approaching their counterparts within the various OU's to solicit content, stories and information. Hence, liaise with your respective OU officers (within your section, society, chapter, student-branch, affinity-group etc.) and kindly collaborate with them, so we may be able to support you efficiently. For your reference, I am listing the direct links to all our PnC channels again:

- Region8 Social Media (R8SM)
- Region8 Website / Electronic Communications (R8EC)
- Region8 Today Online (R8T)
- Region8 News Publication (R8N)
- Region8 Latest News Online

Besides the above links, should you have any other questions, concerns, ideas, feedback etc, or would like to join our PnC team, please feel free to reach out to

Visitor statistics as seen in Google Analytics
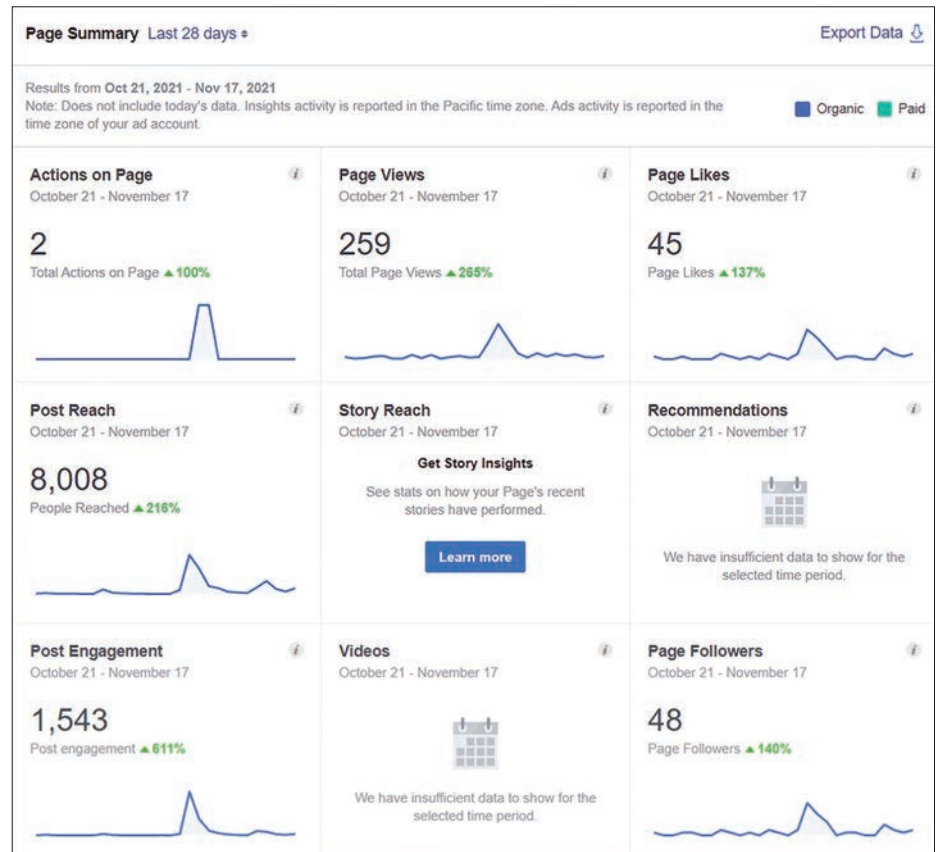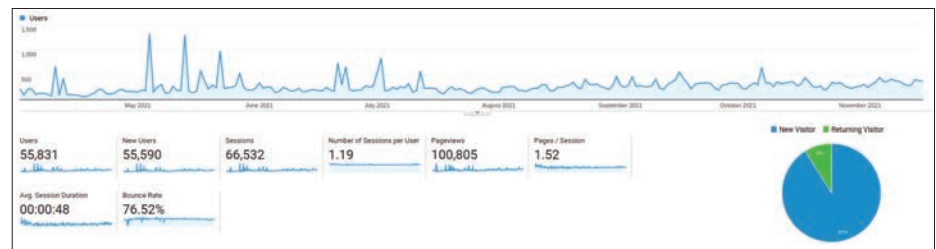
me directly at adeelsultan.ieee@gmail.com. You may also contact the entire PnC Subcommittee at pnc@ieeer8.org or you may visit us at our main website https://ieeer8.org/pnc/

Finally, don't forget to get in touch with us and especially don't forget to "subscribe" to our social-media handles. Make use of this excellent facility to promote your IEEE stories, events, activities & achievements.

Look forward to continue engaging with all of you to create further success stories for our region.

Adeel Sultan
Chair, R8 PnC

The deadline for Content Submission for the March 2022 issue is
15 January 2022
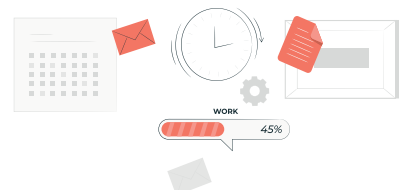
Message from IEEE Region 8 Director

place in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. It was wonderful to meet many Region volunteers in person again after almost two years. You can read more about that meeting in this issue. Thanks to the Germany Section for hosting the Region 8 Committee and for providing German hospitality.

Many other activities have happened across the Region, such as conferences, student contests, humanitarian projects. I hope that you enjoy reading about them.

None of these events, projects, or initiatives could happen without volunteers imagining, organizing, publicizing and managing them. Our volunteers do it because they want to contribute to IEEE's mission of advancing technology for humanity. But at the same time by volunteering they get the most from their IEEE membership, acquire new skills, network with other people, and advance their careers.

Anybody who is willing to help is welcome as a volunteer. Pick the areas or topics that are of your interest and contact the persons in charge (you can find a list in this issue). Another option is to find volunteer opportunities on the new IEEE Volunteering platform https://volunteer.ieee.org/

Any way you choose as a starting point, I'm sure that you will never forget the experience of becoming an IEEE volunteer.

Let me wish you a great year 2022 full of IEEE events, projects, information, knowledge, and, most importantly, of human contact between IEEE members.

Antonio Luque
Director, IEEE Region 8

117th R8C Meeting, 6-7 Nov 2021
Welcome Reception

IEEE News

IEEE European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) Public Policy Webinar on Artificial Intelligence

Massimo Pellegrino, European Public Policy Program Manager, IEEE Global Office Vienna

On 30 June (16:00 CEST), the IEEE's European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) hosted a public policy webinar exploring the EU approach to artificial intelligence, including possible roles and implications for the technology community in light of the European Commission's new legal framework for AI. Panelists explored opportunities to harmonize AI rules and highlight IEEE's efforts to promote AI standardization and certification activities and their European implications. Speakers included Prof. Cecilia Metra (Chair of the EPPC WG on ICT), Dr. Ansgar Koene (Global AI Ethics and Regulatory Leader at E&Y), and Mr. Salvatore Scalzo (Policy & Legal Officer at the European Commission).

The webinar recording can be watched, along with the speaker presentations, at https://www.ieee.org/about/ieee-europe/public-policy-webinars.html. To review the European Commission's proposals for harmonization of AI policy, go to: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-approach-artificial-intelligence

The IEEE European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) aims at expanding the dialogue between the European engineering community and European public authorities to enable technologists to more easily share their expertise and concerns and to enable European Union (EU) institutions and other policy stakeholders to more easily obtain technologists' input in matters relating to IEEE's fields of interest. For more information on IEEE fields of interest, please consult the IEEE entry in the European Transparency Register.

The 117th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting was Held in a Hybrid Format

The 117th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting was held in 6-7 November 2021. For the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, over 100 Region 8 Committee members met in person in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in an event co-organized with the IEEE Germany Section. For those who could not travel to attend the meeting in person, the meeting was held virtually as well in the WebEx platform. Additionally, the public sessions of the Meeting were live-streamed on Youtube and can be replayed in https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-3fWfmxZobI (Day 1) and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKY1OmHl5gE (Day 2).

The meeting started on Day 1 with the usual call to order, housekeeping items, roll call, and approval of the agenda. Then, Antonio Luque, IEEE Region 8 Director, addressed the audience by presenting the 2021 Region 8 priorities, membership evolution, events and awards attributed to Region 8 Members and OUs. Finally, he presented motions of remembrance to three IEEE Region 8 esteemed members who unfortunately passed away this year: Maurice Papo, Jacob Baal-Schem, and Uzia Galil, which were approved.

The morning session of Day 1 proceeded with a presentation by Stephen Welby, IEEE Executive Director & COO, where several IEEE initiatives for 2021 were presented, followed by the Financial Report by Adam Jastrzebski, IEEE Region 8 Treasurer. The presentation of the Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Committee was delivered by its Chair, Mona Ghassemian, and the proposal of the Women in Engineering pledge by Maria-Alexandra Paun, IEEE Region 8 Women in Engineering Subcommittee Chair, which was then approved. To end the morning, Simay Akar, (Vice-Chair, Student Activities) engaged the members on an exercise to brainstorm on how to improve Section Vitality, and Martin Baastians (IEEE Region 8 History Activities Coordinator) inspired the Sections to keep their history tracked and mentioned, among other initiatives, the compilation of IEEE Region 8 News issues, including the first issue, dated of December 1967. The repository can be found here: https://ieeer8.org/member-activities/history-activities/news-archive/old-issues-of-ieee-region-8-news/. Also, Matej Zajc, Region Vitality Coordinator presented guidance for the Sections and Subsections Elections, and the morning ended with the contribution of Tiziana Tambosso (IEEE Region 8 N&A Committee Member) and Vincenzo Piuri (IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect) on how to engage volunteers and growing opportunities.

After lunch, the new IEEE Region 8 Career Platform was presented for a soft launch and feedback from members by Mohamed Amin from the IEEE New Careers Initiative, followed by the presentation of local

best practices to inspire other sections by the IEEE Germany Section, with a final presentation on Industry Outreach by John Matogo (Action for Industry) and Rawan El Jamal (IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Initiative). The final presentations of the afternoon were from Eszter Lukacs (IEEE Client Services Manager Europe), the addresses from the 2021 IEEE President & CEO, Susan Kathy Land and the 2021 IEEE President-Elect, K.J Ray Liu, a presentation on Compliance and Conflict of Interest by John Walz (IEEE Audit Committee), and the Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) presentation by Maike Luiken (2021 IEEE Vice President MGA) and Cecelia Jankowski (IEEE Managing Director, MGA).

After the group photo including both the members in-person and in the virtual setting, the social program started, including a walking tour of Frankfurt and the gala dinner.

The Day 2 included the Vice-Chair presentations by Sara Barros (Vice-Chair, Member Activities), Peter Nagy (Vice-Chair, Technical Activities) and Simay Akar (Vice-Chair, Student Activities), as well as the 2021 Budget Update proposal by Adam Jastrzebski, which was approved. Also approved was the Memorandum of Understanding with the IEEE Italy Section and the IEEE Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry (RTSI) and RTSI will be added to the Region 8 Conference portfolio from 2022. After a break, the discussion moved to the Executive Session for the 2022 Vice-Chair Elections and the 2023-2024 Director-Elect presentations, open only to the Voting members. The Meeting ended with the presentation by Magdalena Salazar-Palma, IEEE Region 8 Past-Director and Antonio Luque on the proposal of changes to the IEEE Region 8 Bylaws and OpMan. The directors encouraged the members to provide feedback ahead of the 2022 Spring meeting, where the proposed changes will be subject to voting.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Director concluded by acknowledging the substantial effort from all members and the IEEE Germany Section in organizing an hybrid event under the current circumstances and the intention to conduct the 2022 IEEE Region 8 Spring Meeting in a similar format.

The resumption of in-person meetings is a milestone for the IEEE Region 8 after two years of exclusively online activities, with the hope for an enjoyable experience and discussion to all Committee members and safe travels.

117th R8C Meeting, 6-7 Nov 2021
Day 1 Meeting

Forty-four (44) Region 8 Sections Awarded 2021 Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance Awards, including 13 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance Awards

Ievgen Pichkalyov, IEEE Membership Recruitment and Recovery Committee and Mike Hinchey, IEEE Region 8 Membership Development Sub-committee Chair

Increased Section Membership Retention

Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance

Increased Section Membership Recruitment

The Section Membership Development Goals awards were announced on 10 September 2021. The awards were attributed based on achieving Section-level goals for both recruitment and retention, based on 4-5 years of Section performance tracked in the OU Analytics dashboard. Fifty-six (56) Sections worldwide won the Gold Award for Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance. Out of these, 13 Region 8 Sections were recognized: Bahrain, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Tunisia, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.
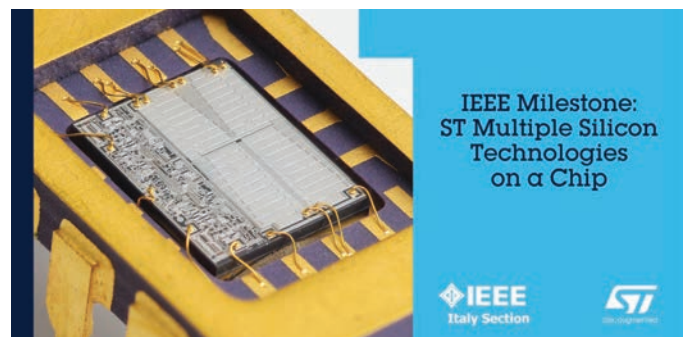
Twenty-one (21) Sections globally won the Silver Award for Increased Section Membership Recruitment. Seven of these Sections are from Region 8: Algeria, Egypt, Latvia, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine. 22.5% of Sections worldwide achieved their Recruitment Goals. 20 Region 8 Sections overall meet this goal, representing 33.9% of Region 8 Sections. Also, one hundred and ninety-eight (198) Sections won the Silver Award for Membership Retention, with twenty-four (24) Region 8 Sections achieving the Retention threshold: Austria, Benelux, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Poland, Russia Northwest, Russia Siberia, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Sweden, UK& Ireland, Western Saudi Arabia, and Zambia. A total of 37 Sections met the Retention goal, representing 62.7% of all Region 8 Sections. Most other sections are on target to meet their goals. Congratulations to all Sections.

IEEE Milestone: ST Multiple Silicon Technologies on a Chip Granted as the 52nd Milestone for Region 8

The IEEE Milestone on Multiple Silicon Technologies on a Chip was granted to recognize the pioneering work that enabled engineers to combine high-power components, precise analog functions, and the complex digital logic to control them onto a single piece of silicon, a capability that has now been sold in 40 billion chips. This was the 52nd milestone granted for Region 8. The Milestone "Multiple Silicon Technology on a Chip, 1985" has the following citation in its plaque:

"SGS (now STMicroelectronics) pioneered the super-integrated silicon-gate process combining Bipolar, CMOS, and DMOS (BCD) transistors in single chips for complex, power-demanding applications. The first BCD super-integrated circuit, named L6202, was capable of controlling up to 60V-5A at 300 kHz. Subsequent automotive, computer, and industrial applications extensively adopted this process technology, which enabled chip designers flexibly and reliably to combine power, analog, and digital signal processing."

The ceremony celebrating this milestone was held at the STMicroelectronics' plant in Agrate, Italy, on 18 May 2021. The historic event featured the award presentation and the plaque unveiling, accompanied by testimonials from key people behind the invention and development of the BIPOLAR-CMOS-DMOS (BCD) technology. IEEE President Kathy Land participated virtually in this hybrid ceremony. The replay of the ceremony can be found at: https://www.st.com/content/st_com/en/about/events/events.html/ieee-milestone-st-bcd.html

The IEEE Milestones in Electrical Engineering and Computing program honors significant technical achievements in all areas associated with IEEE. Milestones recognize the technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity found in unique products, services, seminal papers, and patents.

IEEE Special Citation in History awarded to the Heinz Nixdorf Museums Forum

Photo credit: Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum

One of the largest computer museums in the world, the Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum (HNF) presents 5,000 years of computing history from the emergence of numbers and lettering circa 3000 B.C.E. to the modern digital age. Through presentations, workshops, seminars, and exhibitions, the HNF provides the insights and perspectives required to navigate a world that is increasingly shaped by digital technology.

On 23 October 2021, the Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum (HNF) celebrated its 25th anniversary with a ceremony in Paderborn, Germany, that was also streamed online in German and English. On the ceremony, IEEE awarded the museum with an IEEE Special Citation in History plaque to the HNF to recognize the achievements of the museum in teaching a broad audience about the history of computers. This is the third IEEE Special Citation in History worldwide and the second in Region 8, after the Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade, Serbia was awarded this distinction in 2006. More information about the event can be found at https://www.ieee.de/event/25th-anniversary-of-the-heinz-nixdorf-museumsforum-with-videostream/

The IEEE Special Citations recognize events of institutions that have contributed to the professions in electrical, electronic, and computer engineering and the associated sciences. The IEEE Special Citation in History is administered similarly to the IEEE Milestones Program. The difference between a Milestone proposal and a Special Citation in History proposal is that a Milestone proposal recognizes a particular technical achievement; a Special Citation in History recognizes work that has been done preserving history.

IEEE Region 8 HAC partnered with the IEEE PES HAC Congress 2021

Abdullateef Aliyu, IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee Chair

The IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee partnered with the IEEE Power & Energy Society Humanitarian Activities Committee – PES HAC for the dissemination of the first PES HAC Congress 2021. The Congress took place online on 23-24 & 30-31 October 2021. The theme of the PES-HAC Congress is "Sustainable Energy for a Smart Future". This congress is designed to serve as an interactive platform for

the participants to enhance their knowledge on major topics of sustainable energy focusing on humanitarian technology and the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a smart future. The registration for the congress was free of charge.

Each day, there were different events scheduled to be held are as follows:

Training/ Case Study - 1 hour
Panel Discussion - 1 hour

Image credit: IEEE PES HAC

Pitch Session/ Quiz, etc. - 30 mins
Networking Beyond Border - 30 mins

Besides the support of the IEEE R8 HAC, the congress was also supported by IEEE PES CSAC (Chapters Student Activities Committee), IEEE R7 HIC (Humanitarian Initiatives Committee), the IEEE R9 HAC and the IEEE R10 HTAC (Humanitarian Technology Activities committee).

Replays of the live streams of the PES HAC Congress can be found on Facebook.

Three (3) Top Solutions to Tackle COVID-19 Emerged from the JEH21 Hackathon

Abdullateef Aliyu, IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee Chair

The second edition of the IEEE Region 8 SIGHT Hackathon, named

Jordan and Emirate Hackathon 2021 (JEH21) was organized by the SIGHT group of the IEEE American University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Branch - United Arab Emirates (UAE), the IEEE Al-Balqa Applied University (BAU) Student Branch - Jordan and supported by the IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities committee. The first edition of the hackathon was organized by the IEEE Egypt Section SIGHT group in April 2020. The hackathon that lasted 5 weeks from 7 April to 16 May 2021 welcomed participants from various countries around Region 8 that includes UAE, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Ukraine, Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya, Lebanon and Kyrgyzstan. Participants were required to come up with a technological idea (software or hardware) to solve the humanitarian problems caused by COVID-19 in the aspect of education, health care, poverty, social issues, and other pandemic related problems. Seven (7) teams qualified for the final after successfully passing through the conception stage and mentoring stages of the competition that uses virtual platforms such as Zoom, Discord and WhatsApp to interact with the various teams in the competition. The top 3 teams were COVID Band – UAE, Bloom – Egypt and The Anovators – UAE that emerged as first and second respectively. Other teams that participated in the final pitch are shown in the Table below:

Team	Name	Country	Title
Group 1	COVID Band	UAE	Covid Band
Group 2	CT Team	UAE	Computed Tomography (CT) scan
Group 3	Tunisian Ezwin	Tunisia	AID BRIDGE - web application for COVID-19 charity donations
Group 4	TechFood	Jordan	Tech food
Group 5	Bloom	Egypt	Bloom – Mobile App
Group 6	EcoWay	Syria	Organic fertilizer and fodder of biological origin
Group 7	The Anovators	UAE	Anova Unfolding Possibilities

The Covid-Band team that emerged as a winner developed a prototype wearable device to combat Covid-19. It has a temperature sensor to keep track of the body temperature of students throughout the day with capabilities of alerting school authorities in case of abnormal rise in temperature. In addition to temperature reading features, pulse measurements features were incorporated in the device to support such cases. Other key feature developed in the device is social distancing monitoring as the device vibrates if social distancing protocols rule is violated. Two prototype devices were built with costs below 200 USD.

The judges that participated in the final include:

- Engr. Abdullateef Aliyu, 2021 Chair of the IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee, who has over 16 years of experience working in an information and communication technology (ICT) industry;
- Mohamed Hatem, IEEE Egypt Section Student Representative (SSR), Member at IEEE Region 8 SAC and Co-founder & CMO at Spero LLC Dr. Reema Diab: An entrepreneur, AI expert, youth influencer, popular keynote speaker and Founder of Galaxy Orga-

nization to empower women in Technology.
- Fairouz Fattoum, SIGHT Student Branch Groups Coordinator at IEEE R8 SAC and IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities subcommittee member
- Walid Bin Habib, Corresponding Member of IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities Committee
- Rawan ElJamal: IEEE Region 8 Young Professionals Sub-Committee

Special appreciation goes to the IEEE Region 8 OPCom for supporting the R8 HAC and to all partners that ensured the JEH21 was a success as listed:

- IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities Committee
- IEEE R8 SAC
- IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship initiative
- Action for Industry (AFI)
- AIESEC - UAE (offered the Winning teams from UAE a 100% off on the global talent program)
- Shamal Start - Jordan (offered free space for winning teams in Jordan to develop their idea)
- IEEE SIGHT BAU Student Branch
- IEEE PES - Jordan (for advertising)
- IEEE Robotics and Automation Society - Jordan (for advertising)
- TKH Roboclub - Egypt (for advertising)
- IEEE CUSB - Egypt (for advertising).

IEEE EMEA Blockchain Seminar Held as the First Joint Event of the IEEE Blockchain Regional Groups in Europe and Africa

Catarina Reis, IEEE Blockchain Initiative & IEEE Portugal Section Blockchain Working Group

IEEE Europe & Africa Blockchain Local Groups

IEEE EMEA Blockchain Seminar
Join us for this special virtual event on 8 September 2021 at 3 -7 pm CET

REGISTER TODAY

A collective effort of the IEEE Blockchain Regional Groups in Europe and Africa, under the IEEE Blockchain Initiative, has already given rise to a first joint event: the IEEE EMEA Blockchain Seminar, that was held on 8 September 2021.

The event had three sessions from invited speakers, appointed by the 12 EMEA regional groups. Besides the geographical distribution of the speakers and their distinct backgrounds that ranged from academia to the industry, the topics were also diversified: from standardization to industry case studies. A final panel session promoted the discussion of the legal and regulatory framework in Europe regarding Blockchain.

This strong program alignment was probably the main reason for the high number of participants (approximately 150) and for the audience engagement throughout the event. This almost 5-hour-long online event was extremely informative, and the feedback received from the audience was very positive.

Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies are a hot topic that provides an immense number of opportunities to apply for and to build from, and the audience is eager to learn more about it.

Since September, the IEEE Blockchain Initiative also joined the Americas Regional Groups and the Asia Pacific Regional Groups for other two events. This worldwide cooperation that we are now experiencing will be on the verge of some interesting partnerships that, in the future, will promote and strengthen the IEEE volunteers' work.

Stay tuned for on-demand availability of some of the sessions, coming soon! https://blockchain.ieee.org/conferences/emea-event

Six Region 8 Projects Awarded 2021 IEEE Pre-University STEM Portal Grants

TryEngineering

TryEngineering is an initiative from IEEE aiming to empower educators to foster the next generation of technology innovators. It provides educators and students with resources, lesson plans, and activities that engage and inspire. TryEngineering.org launched a new IEEE Pre-University Volunteer STEM Portal in January 2021 to support IEEE volunteers in their STEM outreach initiatives as well as building local STEM communities. To further support volunteers efforts, IEEE STEM Outreach grants are now being offered.

The Volunteer STEM Portal Grant Program received 83 applications for the 2021 call. The applications were received with a wide array of program types showing the enthusiasm and creativity of our IEEE Volunteer community. Eighteen programs were awarded across Regions 1,7,8,9, and 10, with funding totaling US $35,500. The grant funding is for the implementation of an IEEE pre-university STEM outreach program. All programs will be implemented by the end of 2021 and

will be added to the Volunteer STEM Portal so that others can benefit from their experience and possibly replicate the program in their local community. Together we are empowering the next generation of technology innovators!

From the 18 awarded programs, 6 originated from Sections and Affinity Groups of the Region 8. The programs from within the Region are:

- Emvepi Refugee Settlement Camp IEEE Pre-University Teacher 2021 Workshop - IEEE Uganda Section
- Enhancing the participation of girls of Bule Hora in STEM courses of Bule Hora University - IEEE Student Branch Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, Ethiopia
- Kenya STEM Camp 2021 - IEEE Kenya Section YP Affinity Group
- Pre-University Student Workshop and Competition on Embedded Systems 2021 (EMBED'21) - IEEE Nigeria Section Technical Chapter
- Promoting out-of-school STEM learning at Home - IEEE Uganda Section
- STEM visits IEEESTEC conference - IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section Technical Chapter

The full list of grant recipients can be found at the Volunteer STEM Portal Grant Program page at TryEngineering. Congratulations to all.

Fifteen Region 8 Members Selected as 2021 IEEE STEM Ambassadors

TryEngineering

The IEEE STEM Ambassador Program was developed to recognize IEEE volunteers, like you, for their contributions to pre-university STEM education. The Program resides under TryEngineering.org and works in partnership with the Volunteer STEM Portal. All active IEEE Members are invited to submit an application to be considered as an IEEE STEM Ambassador.

IEEE STEM Ambassadors must conduct a minimum of one (1) pre-university STEM outreach event between 1 September and 28 March 2022, share event results by 28 March 2022, and submit a STEM outreach program or event to the Volunteer STEM Portal by 28 March 2022.

Applications for the 2021 were accepted through 20 August 2021. The selected 2021 IEEE STEM Ambassadors were announced in late September 2021, with 46 IEEE Members selected as STEM Ambassadors out of an overwhelming number of applications. These volunteers are helping IEEE empower the next generation of technology innovators through their efforts in providing STEM outreach in their local communities. The full list of 2021 IEEE STEM Ambassadors can be found in the Volunteer STEM Portal.

Of the 46 2021 IEEE STEM Ambassadors, 15 are from Region 8: Adeyemi Abel Ajibesin, Francisco Bellas, Nana Dikhaminjia, Stamatis Dragoumanos, Wael Jaballah, Víctor P. Gil Jiménez, Dudu Emly Mathe, Kseniia Minakova, Mistura Muibi-Tijani, Kithinji Muriungi, Tamer Nassef, Nizar Rokbani, Heba Shaban, Tatyana Surovtsova, and Shabana Urooj.

Congratulations to all.

Recipients of the 2021 IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society C. J. Reddy Travel Grant for Graduate Students Announced Including Two Region 8 Winners

Michael Deering, Senior Development Officer, IEEE Foundation

David Rodriguez-Duarte

IEEE Foundation

Abel Zandamela

The IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S) C. J. Reddy Travel Grant for Graduate Students aims to help graduate students attend the annual IEEE International Symposium on Antennas and Propagation and further their research work in the field of antennas and propagation.

This year for the IEEE AP-S/URSI 2021 in Singapore, we are pleased to announce that the recipients have been selected by the IEEE AP-S Ed-

ucation Committee (coordinated by Eng. Leong Tan). Overall, six candidates were awarded this grant, with two Graduate Students from Region 8:

- David Rodriguez-Duarte has been awarded the grant to further his research and to present his paper entitled "Hybrid Resolvent Kernel Calibration Technique for Microwave Imaging Systems". He is currently pursuing his degree with his advisor Jorge Alberto Tobon Vasquez at Politecnico di Torino, Italy.
- Abel Zandamela has been awarded the grant to further his research and to present his paper entitled "Stacked-Patch MIMO Antenna for Dual-Plane Beamsteering". He is currently pursuing his degree with his advisor Adam Narbudowicz at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

This dedicated award fund administered by IEEE Foundation was made possible through a charitable donation by Dr. C.J. Reddy. The full list of awardees can be found at: https://www.ieeeaps.org/633

Short Region 8 Highlights

- IEEE Standards Association (IEEE SA) responded to the European Commission's open call for input on the European Standardization Framework that is addressing challenges facing the European Standardization System and that recognizes the relevance of standardization. IEEE SA provided input on the global standards development ecosystem and the role and impact of the market-driven standards development paradigm.

- The IEEE European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) and IEEE SA submitted a joint response to the European Commission's public consultation on the European health data space.

- A study published in the IEEE Journal of Electromagnetics, RF and Microwaves in Medicine and Biology on a new microwave sterilization technique that can be used in ambulances and hospitals was featured in The Independent, a leading British online newspaper that reaches nearly 50 million unique visitors per month.

- IEEE Senior Member Simay Akar shared her insights on the importance of transitioning to cleaner transportation systems in a recent IEEE Transmitter article. The article discussed the work that the IEEE Transportation Electrification Community is doing to support these efforts.

- Season 2 of the IEEE Re-Think Health podcast series has been published, with a theme of Global Perspectives on Cybersecurity for Connected Healthcare with experts from Latin America, North America, Australia, and Europe.

- The Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT) of Rwanda has joined the IEEE SA Government Engagement in Standards Program (GEPS). MINICT is mandated to monitor and evaluate the implementation of national policies, strategies, and programs to promote technology and communication of ICT and innovation. This is the sixth government body to join GEPS in 2021, for a total number of GEPS representatives of 33.

- The IEEE SA Rural Connectivity Video Series was published on the IEEE SA YouTube channel, featuring interviews of representatives from Africa, India, Indonesia, and Mexico, and focused on raising awareness of challenges the world is facing from different regions to drive participation in SA's Rural Communications activities and to build an ecosystem of interested stakeholders.

- IEEE co-hosted a panel at the EuroDig conference on "Data Sovereignty and Trusted Online Identity – COVID-19 Vaccination Data," with the participation of Pēteris Zilgalvis (Head of Unit, European Commission); Nishan Chelvachandran (Chair, Trustworthy Technical Implementations of Children's Online/Offline Experiences Industry Connections Programme, IEEE Standards Association) and Cecilia Alvarez (EMEA Privacy Policy Director, Facebook).

- The Zambia Information & Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) joined the IEEE SA Government Engagement in Standards Program (GEPS), the tenth government body to join GEPS win 2021, which brings the total number of GEPS representatives to 37.

- IEEE SA hosted a two-part global webinar series in October on rural connectivity, "Accelerating Rural Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide," to increase the global awareness of the rural connectivity program and gain insight into the issues and challenges seen by the global community to provide reliable, affordable, and secure communication links. Part one focused on Asia, Africa, and Europe, while part two focused on North and South America.

- The inaugural IEEE International Mediterranean Conference on Communications and Networking (MeditCom) Conference launched as a hybrid conference with the in-person component held in Athens, Greece. There were 200 registrants with more than 30 registered to attend in person.

Region 8 Section and Chapter News

IEEE Day Egypt Celebration

Ahmed Madian, IEEE Egypt Section Treasurer & Secretary

Image credits: IEEE Egypt Section

IEEE Day is an annual event where all IEEE members from different organizational units can share ideas, challenges, solutions, and recent trends in technology. This Year was special as the COVID-19 pandemic prevented a lot of physical gathering events all over the world. The IEEE Egypt Section and its Student Branches accepted the challenge of planning for an event that could gather Student Branches all over Egypt in a large open area taking all health precautions into consideration.

The IEEE Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AAST) in Alexandria hosted the event in their campus. The logistics team started to plan for transportation from different places to the AASTMT campus using sponsored buses. More than 150 members were picked up from different locations all over Egypt.

After arrival, the IEEE Egypt Section welcomed all members and the event started with a "circle of confidence" game to build bonds between different members. Then, sports game time started, with all members divided into small groups and distributed to different fields. When the photo time came, all teams started to wear their IEEE Day celebration T-shirt in orange color. After the photo, the lunch break sponsored by AASTMT was provided. Then, a competition with IEEE Egypt Section trivia was conducted with small gifts from IEEE Egypt Section awarded to the winners.

Finally, the day came to an end with a lot of good memories and experience shared with members from different branches.

IEEE Day 2021 Celebration in Spain

Roberto Alvaro Hermana, IEEE Spain Section Communications Coordinator

Photo credit: IEEE Spain Section

IEEE Day was celebrated in Spain on Friday, 22 October 2021 in Madrid, at the UNED's Education Faculty. The event was conducted in a hybrid format, with participants attending in-person and virtually.

Enrique Romero, President of the Spain Section, inaugurated the meeting with a brief description of the Section's current situation. Jesús Fraile, former President, honored the memory of Julia Merino, Section treasurer who passed away this year. The program continued with a global presentation of IEEE by Antonio Luque, current Region 8 Director, who highlighted the social impact of IEEE's activities. Then, Manuel Castro presented the case of IEEE-HKN (Eta Kappa Nu), the IEEE Excellence and Honor Society, of which a Chapter had been formed in UNED in 2020.

The traditional Technical Section of the Spanish IEEE Day was given by Agustín Delgado, Director of Innovation and Sustainability at Iberdrola, and Rafael Estévez, Head of Industry Sectors - Utilities & Industry at Telefónica TECH. The main topic discussed by the speakers was the relationship between the energy transition and digitalization, two of the main transformations in current society.

The awards ceremony took place before the break. The Distinction to the Institution 2021 was awarded to the UNED in recognition of its constant cooperation with IEEE in the last 20 years. The Best Chapter award was given to the Spanish Power and Energy Society (PES) for the high number and high-quality activities fostered by the chapter in the last two years. The awards ceremony concluded with the presentation of the medals for the members with 50, 40, 30, 20 and 10 years in IEEE.

After the break, José Antonio Gómez presented SIGHT (Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology), a program launched in 2011 by IEEE HAC (Humanitarian Activities Committee) for fostering development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities within IEEE. To conclude, Patricia Rodríguez, Student branches representative, summarize their current situation and presented a plan for increasing the presence of IEEE at the universities in the context of a higher number of presential activities in the university, whose reduction impacted negatively in the last academic year.

More information about the event can be found in https://ieeespain.org/celebracion-del-evento-del-ieeeday/

The Largest Technical University in Baltic Celebrates IEEE Day with Workshop on Microwave Theory and Techniques in Wireless Communications (MTTW'21) and Series of Keynotes and Invited Speeches

Anna Litvinenko, IEEE Latvia Section Membership Development Chair

Photo credit: Anna Litvinenko

For the third year consecutively, IEEE Day is celebrated in the largest Technical University in the Baltic states – Riga Technical University (RTU) with a series of scientific, promotional, and technical events. The core of celebration is the free-of-charge IEEE Workshop on Microwave Theory and Techniques in Wireless communications (MTTW'21), organized by IEEE Latvia Section COM/MTT/AP Joint Societies Chapter and IEEE Latvia Section, with technical support of RTU and other European universities.

The 2021 IEEE Day celebration was organized in a hybrid format on 7 - 8 October 2021, with the involvement of prominent international and Latvian experts. This year, Professor Nadezda Kunicina, Chair of the IEEE Latvia Section, delivered a keynote address as part of the ceremonial events. She spoke about RTU's wide range of research opportunities and emphasized the IEEE's support for inter-university collaboration. The following celebration keynote speeches were delivered by experts from Europe. Prof. Oscar Quevedo Teruel from the KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden) gave a speech on "Geodesic Lens Antennas for 5G/6G and Satellite Communications", while Gavle University (Sweden) was presented by Yuri Shestopalov with the lecture "Complex Waves and Resonances. A Review on Recent Advances". In turn, young researcher Marek Götten from University of Applied Sciences Wismar (Germany) announced the latest developments on "Fiber optical sensor networks." At the end of the first day, presentations of the Latvian participants of the IEEE Workshop MTTW'2021 took place in-person and were broadcasted to remote participants.

On 8 October 2021, the event also took place both in-person and remotely. The second day began with the opening of the MTTW'2021 remote sessions and the hybrid lecture "Hyper-Performing Cities with Human Artificial Intelligence." The speech was delivered by Professor Agnis Stibe, a Latvian scientist who currently works at the EM Normandie Business School in France. The celebration program continued with a lecture on "Sorting Algorithms for Large Data Sets" by Shahriar Shirvani Moghaddam, Associate Professor at Shahid Rajaee Teacher Training University in Iran. After that, the young researcher Andzej Borel from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University presented the latest findings on "Power Amplifier Linearization Methods for upcoming 5G networks". In the afternoon, a remote part of IEEE Workshop MTTW'21 was organized in six thematic sessions: Beyond 5G technologies, Antennas, Microwave electronics, Internet of Things (IoT), Sensor and other Networks, Optical communications and photonics, and Signal processing for communications systems.

The workshop was attended by participants from 30 countries: Latvia, Germany, Turkey, Ukraine, Algeria, Greece, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Czech Republic, Russia, Brazil, Morocco, Ecuador, Canada, Croatia, New Zealand, Libya, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania, Spain, Iran, Pakistan, Tunisia, Great Britain, Vietnam, China, and Finland. Each day of the event was attended by more than 100 people who saw the broadcast translation or participated in the event in person. The photo gallery of IEEE Day celebration in RTU can be found in http://mttw.org/gallery/new/.

Special thanks for contributing to the organization of the celebration of IEEE Day at the Riga Technical University should be expressed to Assoc. Prof. Arturas Aboltins - Head of the IEEE Latvia Section COM/MTT/AP Joint Societies Chapter, and Assoc. Prof. Anna Litvinenko - Membership Development Chair of the IEEE Latvia Section.

IEEE Italy Section Celebrated the 2021 IEEE Day by Organizing an Online Award Ceremony to Recognize the Outstanding Achievements and Service of Our Members

Sergio Rapuano, IEEE Italy Section Chair

The IEEE Italy Section celebrated the 2021 IEEE Day with a remote event on 5 October 2021. The event started with the announcement of the Section Awards as follows:

- Best Chapter Award 2021: Women in Engineering (WiE) Affinity Group, chaired by Dajana Cassioli, for outstanding performance in serving its members and the technical community
- Exemplary Student Branch Award 2021: Politecnico di Torino (STB06971) chaired by Yuri Ardesi.
- Distinguished Service Awards 2021: Tiziana Tambosso, for exceptional contributions and service for the benefit and advancement of the IEEE Italy Section
- Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award 2021: Riccardo Lama (ENEL SpA), for recognizing IEEE Italy Section distinguished member of industry who is an excellent speaker and have made high quality technical contributions on advanced topics that are of primary importance to the industry and to IEEE Italy Section community

The Honorary Award 2021 winner was Prof. Alberto Sangiovanni-Vincentelli. The award recognized the Ground-breaking contributions and pioneering innovation in electronic design automation that have enabled the design of modern integrated circuits and their industrial implementation. Prof. Alberto Sangiovanni-Vincentelli delivered then a keynote presentation on the IEEE Day celebration, titled "From Transistors to Systems: The Evolution of Design Methods and Tools in the last 40 Years".

The winners of the best PhD and MS thesis awards presented their research work to the Section. The prizes were sponsored by ABB. The competition rewards the best MSc and PhD thesis on new technological challenges in energy and industry. Forty-six (46) candidates entered the selection, with 19 MSc theses and 27 PhD thesis. In total, 15 Italian universities were represented, with with works on a wide range of topics: electric cars, renewable energy, smart grids, smart energy, robotics, industrial applications of artificial intelligence, and others.

The winners for the PhD thesis category were:

- Camilo Orozco Corredor (Università di Bologna) "Scheduling of Resources in Renewable Energy Communities"
- Marta Lorenzini (Politecnico di Milano) "A framework for the evaluation and improvement of human ergonomics in human-robot collaboration"

For the MSc thesis category, this year the commission decided to assign one of the two ex-aequo prizes between two participants. The winners are:

- Davide Coraci (Politecnico di Torino): "Adaptive Control Strategies for Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Comfort in Buildings"
- (ex-aequo): Claudia Di Lodovico (Università degli Studi dell'Aquila)

"Axial Flux Permanent Magnet Motors for Electric Vehicles: Electromagnetic, Vibroacoustic and Thermal Analyzes" and Giulia Tresca (Politecnico di Bari) "Intelligent Bin Packing Systems for Logistics 4.0 "
Congratulations to all winners. More details on the event can be found in: https://italy.ieeer8.org/ieee-day-2021-celebrations-on-the-5th-of-october/

IEEE Poland Section Organized the Local 2021 IEEE Day Remotely in Collaboration with Industry Representatives

Adam Dąbrowski, IEEE Poland Section Chair

The Industry Section of the IEEE Poland Section, represented by Dr. Marcin Ziółek, Dr. Marek Zmuda, and Dr. Henryk Hałas organized remotely the local 2021 IEEE Day Celebration in cooperation with: Intel, Samsung, Cisco, Roche, Netcompany, QWED, Opegieka, Billon, Solaris, and 3mdeb. All companies delivered presentations in the following areas: artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, blockchain, and big data. The honorary guest of the IEEE Day in Poland was Prof. Ljiljana Trajkovic, who gave a fabulous speech titled "Data Mining and Machine Learning for Analysis of Network Traffic". The best students in IEEE Poland Section Thesis Contest 2021 were awarded during the gala. The whole event was a great success. More information available here (in Polish): https://ieee.pl/?q=node/218

IEEE Portugal Section Awards Outstanding M.Sc. Theses and Best Ph.D. Theses

Rodolfo Oliveira, IEEE Portugal Section Vice-Chair

This year the IEEE Portugal Section is promoting the second edition of the IEEE Outstanding M.Sc. Award and has launched a similar initiative to distinguish Ph.D. theses concluded in 2019 and 2020. The Awards will be announced during the 2021 IEEE Engineering Day, which will be held in an hybrid format in Porto and remotely on WebEx on 26 November 2021.

Last year the IEEE Portugal Section launched the IEEE Outstanding

M.Sc. Award to distinguish exceptional M.Sc. theses developed by students enrolled in Portuguese Higher Education Institutions covering the technical and scientific areas of the IEEE.

In the 2020 edition, the IEEE Portugal Section received 58 applications and distinguished 7 theses in different technical areas. The theses were evaluated by 42 academics and researchers and the Awards were announced during the IEEE Engineering Day, an event promoted by the IEEE Portugal Section that was conducted remotely exceptionally on 27 November 2020.

This year the IEEE Portugal Section is promoting the second edition of the IEEE Outstanding M.Sc. Award and has launched a similar initiative to distinguish Ph.D. theses concluded in 2019 and 2020. The Awards will be announced during the 2021 IEEE Engineering Day, which will be held in an hybrid format in Porto and remotely on WebEx on 26 November 2021.

IEEE Women in Engineering Portugal and Turkey Affinity Groups Co-organized Webinars in 2021

IEEE Women in Engineering Portugal Affinity Group

Among the initiatives carried out during the year 2021, we can highlight a Series of Webinars organized by IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Portugal and Turkey Affinity Groups. The focus of these Webinars was to discuss well-being and positive thinking, targeting who could benefit from new and different perspectives to practice mental health.

We had 5 speakers from the USA, Croatia, Portugal, and Turkey. Each of them gave us a different perspective on how to lead with our emotional issues, exploring several themes, like performance and joy in the workplace, Self-care, Sustainable Career, Positive Thinking, and others.

As future initiatives, we can highlight the award of the Extraordinary man - Behind a Successful Woman as part of the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the WiE. The purpose is to nominate a man who supported the advancement of women, supporting their development and career growth of women. We are looking for men who actively changed the rules in the educational or working environment to promote inclusion.

As an ongoing initiative, we are seeking to maintain a closer relationship and collaboration with our WiE Student Branches. Moreover, we already organized our first global meeting inviting all Portuguese WiE members in order to create new synergies between all the community. We plan to have a meeting on an annual basis.

IEEE Iran Section Held the Local Awards Ceremony

Mojgan Azizi, IEEE Iran Section Webmaster

Photo credits: IEEE Iran Section

The award ceremony was held virtually with the presence of Prof. Vincenzo Piuri, 2021-2022 IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect, electrical and electronics prestigious professors from all over Iran, industry entrepreneurs, and deans, counselors, and student branches.
The ceremony had 480 registrants and 270 unique participants in the call, in addition to more than 50 live Instagram users on the IEEE Iran Section Instagram page. In the beginning, the host welcomed all prestigious guests around the world and started the session officially. IEEE Iran Section 2019-2020 board of directors was introduced to the audience by a video clip.

Congratulations to all the winners. For more information, please check ieee.org.ir/committees/awards-and-recognition/awards-recipients/

ELIMUSAFE COVID-19 IEEE HAC/SIGHT Project in Kenya

Kithinji Muriungi, (Corresponding Member, IEEE R8 Action for Industry Sub-Committee|| IEEE Photonics Society Global Strategy Rep (Africa), Globalization & YPAC || Chair, IEEE YP, Kenya Section))

IEEE HAC/SIGHT COVID-19 project, ElimuSafe project was approved under IEEE Kenya Section courtesy of the lead applicant Sally Musonye. The project name is from two words "Elimu" meaning Education and "Safe" whose main goal is to promote a safe learning environment for the students. The project was to be implemented in partnership with IEEE Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture
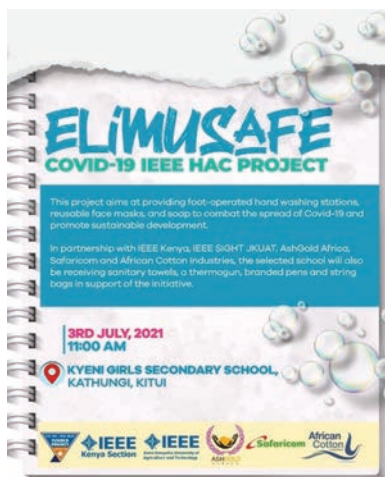
and Technology (JKUAT) SIGHT chapter. The implementation took longer than expected due to COVID-19 restrictions from the Government of Kenya especially when guests are supposed to visit schools. After the ban was lifted, the volunteers finally got the opportunity to implement the project as planned. The funding was supposed to facilitate implementation of foot-operated hand washing stations, reusable face masks and soap. The implementing team decided to partner with other organizations such as AshGold Africa, Safaricom PLC, and African Cotton Industries to implement the project in Kyeni Girls Secondary School in Kitui County, Kenya.

Kyeni Girls was started in the year 2015 with 3 students. It was later renamed from Kathungu Girls Secondary School to Kyeni Girls Secondary School due to communal reservations. The school has a capacity of 157 students. It has a total of 120 currently with an exception of form four who left in March 2021. Form one class is expected to join in August 2021. It has a total of 10 teachers, and 5 non-teaching staff. Kyeni Girls is situated in Kathungu village, Kathungu location, Mulango ward, Katulani sub-county and Kitui county. The school occupies 4.5 acre of land. It has one administration block, five classrooms, one science laboratory, one dormitory, and one dining hall. So far it has done KCSE three times since 2018 to date. The current mean dropped to 3.2 out of 12 points but the school's target for 2021 is 4.5. Most of the students are boarders but a few cases who are dayscholar. The school has graduated 95 students since its inception.

On the D-Day, the team arrived in the afternoon after almost 4 hours of driving from Nairobi. The team of 13 volunteers and mentors were welcomed in the school by the school principal, teachers, and students. The team had a briefing session with the school administration which also involved going round the school to view their facilities and infrastructures. Later, everyone in the school was gathered in the dining hall where students showcased their talents through poems and songs which were very insightful and informative. Finally, volunteers and mentors had a chance to share their motivational and inspirational journey to the students. The session lasted for almost 2 hours.

Through IEEE and other partners, the school received 6 IEEE-branded foot-operated hand-washing stations, 200 IEEE-branded reusable face masks, soap making chemical ingredients and containers for 100 liters liquid soap, 100 Safaricom-branded string bags and pens, 1000 pieces of sanitary towels and Queenengineers magazines highlighting inspirational women engineers from Kenya.

Volunteers left the school at around 6:30 pm and the last person was reported to arrive safely at home at around 11pm due to evening traffic jams in Nairobi. All went on well and the team got great feedback from the teachers and students regarding the impact created by the IEEE and partners. The following are some of the feedback received:

"The whole idea was innovative,and to the student,a game changer!It was so thoughtful of you to think about the Kyeni fraternity,we are immensely grateful!" - Madam Mutegi (HOD Boarding)

"I sincerely appreciate the whole IEEE team for a humble visitation. As Kyeni Girls' we feel humbled for stretching a generous hand and touching the hearts of this dear ones,your input was so handy and I believe it will impact many towards their academic performance and devotion to service in the society.may the good God grant you providentially to be a blessing to other souls." - Nyabuto Godfrey - HOD (Guidance and Counseling)

"The event was nice and it will go a long way in impacting the students' academic work positively." - Mr Mwanthi

Special thanks to IEEE HAC/SIGHT committee, IEEE Kenya Section, IEEE JKUAT SIGHT Chapter, Safaricom PLC, AshGold Africa, African Cotton Industries, Kyeni Girls, and all volunteers and mentors for making this project, event, and activities of the day a success.

IEEE JKUAT SIGHT Chapter Volunteers: Tony Ngugi (Chair), Ruth Waithera (Vice Chair), Dorcas Litunya (Treasurer), Vivianne Kendi (Secretary), George Kamundia (Webmaster), and Mr Simon Njeru Manegene (Advisor)

　Mentors: Vannessa Kawira, Joe Kuria, Winfred Mutinda, and Miriam Woki

Hüseyin Yapıcı, Secretary & Activities Committee Chair of IEEE CS Turkey Section Chapter was Awarded to Upsilon Pi Epsilon Award

IEEE Computer Society Turkey Section Chapter
Hüseyin Yapıcı, Secretary and Activities Committee Chair of IEEE Computer Society Turkey Chapter has awarded Upsilon Pi Epsilon award, the most prestigious student award of the IEEE Computer Society worldwide, for his academic achievement, leadership, contributions with giving back to society through computer science and engineering at local and global wide. With this award, he is also first Turkish winner of this award since 1999 when it was given in the history of the IEEE Computer Society. As the IEEE Turkey family, we congratulate him and wish him continued success.

Congratulations
IEEE Computer Society Upsilon Pi Epsilon was awarded to Hüseyin Yapıcı. We congratulate him and wish you continued success.

IEEE COMPUTER SOCIETY
Turkey Chapter

Student Activities and Young Professionals News

IEEE Xtreme 15.0 Happened on 23 October 2021 with Close to 13,000 Participants Worldwide

IEEE Xtreme is a global challenge in which teams of IEEE Student members – advised and proctored by an IEEE member, and often supported by an IEEE Student Branch – compete in a 24-hour time span against each other to solve a set of programming problems.

IEEE Xtreme 15.0 took place for 24 hours worldwide from 23 October 2021 00:00:00 UTC to 23:59:59 UTC. At the time of the event, there were 12,946 registered participants, 62 countries represented, and 5570 teams from 630 Student Branches. Essential to the success of the challenge awareness are the Ambassadors, who were over 750 for this edition, including 184 ambassadors from Region 8. The lead ambassador for Region 8 was Hassan El Shenawy. The IEEEXtreme 15.0 Executive Committee had Region 8 member representation through George Michael (Commitee Vice Chair), Omar Bishtawi (Webmaster), Dimitrios Lyras (Advisory Member) and Dr. Heba Hassan (Observing Member). Judges from Region 8 included Dr. Nikolaos S. Papaspyrou, Vicky Kontoura and Prof. Oded Margalit.

The prizes for the top 100 teams were very appealing:

- The First-Place team wins a trip to an IEEE Conference of choice, anywhere in the world, with travel, conference and accommodation fees included;
- The Second-Place team receives a US$400 cash award for each team member.
- The Third-Place team receives a US$300 cash award for each team member.
- The 4th through 10th place teams receive an Xtreme merchandise bundle, special software gifts from competition sponsors, and an Xtreme hoodie.
- All members of teams that place in the top 100 receive a merchandise bundle and special software gifts from competition sponsors.

The final results of IEEE Xtreme 15.0 will be announced soon.
The previous edition was IEEE Xtreme 14.0 and took place in October 2020. The Region 8 was soundly represented there by 660 teams, with excellent overall results.　The winning team of the 2020 event, Aurora, came from Princess Sumaya University for Technology in Jordan. Along with the overall winner, the Region 8 was represented in the top 10 by other 3 teams: TURandomizedAlgos from University of Tartu, Estonia (4th place), MaxFlowWhiteBeard from Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan (7th place) and CalmBoyfriendOwner from the American University-Beirut, Lebanon (9th place). A total of 28 Region 8 teams were placed in the top 100.

IEEE University of Porto Student Branch celebrated the 2021 IEEE Day

IEEE University of Porto Student Branch, Portugal

*Photo Credit: IEEE University of Porto Student Branch*

As COVID-19 restrictions got lifted in Portugal, the IEEE University of Porto Student Branch members got together to celebrate IEEE Day with a small picnic and some activities! After a year of fully online work, it sure felt good to be near each other again.

It was a very fun afternoon where future engineers prepared for a new semester and discussed some of today's problems and challenges. These kinds of activities make us a more cohesive group, with better teamwork and stronger bonds. After all, at the end of the day, we are all students trying to have fun and leave our mark on society. Of course, not all members could be present, so the evening was reserved for a game night for the whole student branch. Everyone joined the Discord server to chat, play and have a laugh. What a great way to end an amazing IEEE Day.

IEEE Instituto Superior Tecnico Computer Society Student Chapter Launches CS Essentials, a Platform to Learn about Essential Computer Science Tools

IEEE Instituto Superior Tecnico Student Branch, Portugal

During the degrees in computer engineering and others as well, students need to learn to use numerous tools, such as Git, GDB, and
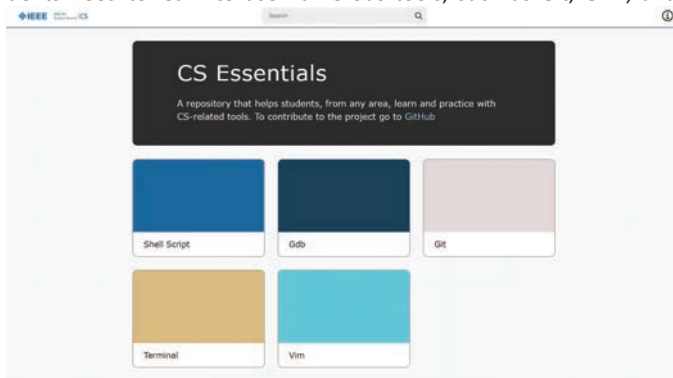
Terminal Bash. However, teaching these tools is often not part of the curriculum, leaving many students using them inefficiently, which can end up weighing heavily on the total time spent on projects. It was with this issue in mind that we decided to create CS Essentials, a website where students can learn more about the tools or use as a companion during projects. We currently have content on GDB, Terminal, Bash Script, Git, and Vim, and we want to keep adding more content on these tools and others. The content goes from a simple introduction to more advanced topics and tables with commands. The project is open-source, so anyone interested in contributing or correcting some incorrect information can do so on the project's Github page at cs-ieee-ist.github.io/cs-essentials

Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2021 Results

Vera Marković, Region 8 Student Paper Contest Coordinator

From left to right: Damjan Denić, Igor Vucković, Vera Marković, Predrag Aleksov, Eva Bones, Paul Micaleff, Olivier Leblanc, Milos Marjanovic, and Theodoros Chatzinikolaou. Photo credit: Vera Marković

The IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest (SPC), running for more than 50 years, is one of the most significant student activities in the Region. IEEE Student Members or Graduate Student members who have not yet started their Ph.D. can submit their technical papers for this contest. With this contest, IEEE R8 encourages and supports students in their first steps towards the exciting world of scientific research.

The final part of the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest (Oral Finals) was held within the frame of the TELSIKS 2021 conference, at the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Niš, Serbia on 21 October 2021. The format of the Oral Finals was hybrid, and we managed in this difficult time of the pandemic to gather most of the finalists and jury members to participate in person. On the other hand, the hybrid format allowed those who could not travel to participate in the event online.

Members of the international jury who assessed the oral presentations were Prof. Paul Micallef from Malta, Prof. Mike Hinchey from Ireland, and Prof. Vera Marković from Serbia. Prof. Giambattista Gruosso from Italy, the fourth jury member, contributed to the first evaluation phase. Theodoros Chatzinikolaou, R8 Regional Student Representative attended the Oral Finals in person, and the R8 Chair, Student Activities Committee, and R8 Vice-Chair, Student Activities , Simay Akar, participated online.

The FIRST PRIZE and award of US$ 800 went to Olivier Leblanc from UC Louvain SB (Belgium) and his co-authors for the paper "An affordable pedagogical setup for wave-particle duality and applications to chaotic stadium cavity". In addition, the student branch of the win-

ner, UC Louvain SB, got an award of US$ 250. Eva Boneš from the University of Ljubljana SB (Slovenia) was awarded SECOND PRIZE and US$ 500, and Yazan Alnajjar from University of Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai SB (UAE) with THIRD PRIZE and award of US$ 200. The first authors of papers placed in fourth and fifth place are Damjan Denić from the University of Niš SB (Serbia) and Salma Moufid from Ecole Mohammadia d'Ingenieurs SB (Morocco), respectively. All finalists' papers are included in the conference proceedings and IEEEXplore digital library. Congratulations to the winners and other finalists!

This hybrid event provided an opportunity for students to get together and to feel the atmosphere of an international conference. In addition to the conference organizers, the local student branch (SB Niš, chaired by Milos Marjanovic) was co-hosting finalists and the Regional Student Representative during their stay. They got acquainted with the activities of the SB Niš and spent pleasant moments together with SB Nis representatives during their free time. The RSR also had the opportunity to discuss with local SB members about their local SPC contest and their activities, and to attend a STEM event along with other side activities.

The social program included a sightseeing tour and a nice conference dinner with live music. During the dinner, an award ceremony for SPC finalists was held.

SPC finalists gained good impressions from this event.

Olivier Leblanc: "The SPC Oral Finals are a wonderful opportunity to discover a new city, especially a new university with different habits and ways to work and teach scientific matter. We can enjoy sharing our work with foreign colleagues, as well as being evaluated by internationally known professors all around the R8"

Eva Boneš: "The SPC Oral Finals were my first encounter with the world of conferences. It was a great experience, from learning to prepare a paper for publishing to the actual presentation, and it gave me the confidence for all future challenges. The whole trip, especially the social part of it, was a very sweet cherry on top".

The start of a new cycle of the Student Paper Contest is ahead of us. The deadline to send papers to SPC 2022 is 1 December 2021. For more information, please visit https://ieeer8.org/student-activities/news-student-activities/student-paper-contest-2022/

IEEE Future University in Egypt (FUE) Student Branch organized a Future Computing Platforms Webinar

Ahmed Sayed, IEEE – FUE SB Counselor

In collaboration with IEEE Egypt Section, IEEE-FUE Student Branch organized a [h>100] Series event. Prof. Onur Mutlu was their guest, and he gave a frontier lecture about Future Computing Architectures, which covered some key problems that are critical to solve in current and future computing platforms. Onur Mutlu is a Professor of Computer Science at ETH Zurich. He is also a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University. He started the Computer Architecture Group at Microsoft Research, and held various product and research positions at Intel, AMD, VMware, and Google. He is an ACM Fellow, IEEE Fellow, and an elected member of the Academy of Europe. This seminar was conducted virtually.

PES Day 2021 Webinar: Towards a Sustainable Energy Future

IEEE PES Student Branch Chapter, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

An IEEE PES Day webinar was hosted by the IEEE PES Student Branch Chapter at the University of Manchester (UoM) and Women in Power in UK&I, titled: PES Day 2021 Webinar: Towards a Sustainable Energy Future. This seminar was held online on 22 April 2021.

The local Student Chapter had the pleasure to host three female leaders in the power and energy field, sharing their views on sustainability and the importance of societies such as the IEEE Power and Energy Society.

The first talk was about the PES Women in Power Initiative by Dr Jessica Bian, President-Elect of the IEEE Power & Energy Society and Vice President of Grid Services at Grid-X Partners. The presentation provided an overview of the IEEE/PES Women in Power (WIP) initiative. WIP fosters diverse leadership by supporting the career advancement, networking and education of women in the energy industry. The goal is not to simply increase the number of women in the industry but to promote women into leadership positions as well.

The second talk related to IEEE PES & Education, given by Prof. Edvina Uzunovic (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA). Prof. Uzunovic talked about IEEE PES history and the current PES organizational structure. It is important to know how PES operates, the important committees and how it is structured, such that one can find an interest/benefit for herself/himself. In addition, Edvina talked about the PES internet sites, PES University and PES Resource Center, and material that one can find there.

The third talk introduced Sustainable power grids. This presentation provided a general discussion about the developments of the electric power system for a sustainable society. It also highlighted recent events including power capacity shortages in Sweden and the power loss incident in Texas. The speaker was Prof Lina Bertling Tjernberg (KTH – Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, IEEE Senior Member and IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer).

IEEE IHTC 2021

2021 IEEE International Humanitarian Technology Conference (IHTC 2021)

02-04 December 2021/Virtual Conference

The IEEE International Humanitarian Technology Conference (IEEE IHTC) is an interdisciplinary conference showcasing challenges, success stories, lessons learnt, case studies and technological innovation related to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ICT4D and the application of Humanitarian Technologies (including Disaster Relief and Disaster Recovery) and facilitating engagement by stakeholders from the public, private, education and research and societal sectors around the world.

IEEE IHTC 2021 takes place in R8 as a Virtual Conference this year, organised by Volunteers from IEEE UK and Ireland Section (UK and Ireland SIGHT, UK and Ireland SSIT, SSIT IST-Africa SIGHT) as well as Region 8, Region 7, Region 9, SMC and Systems Council Chapters, and Technical Co-Sponsored by IEEE Africa Council.

More information on https://www.ihtc21.org.uk/

The IEEE IHTC 2021 Program incorporates a mix of plenary presentations, thematic sessions and workshops.

Plenary Presentations focus on sharing insights into ICT4D and Humanitarian Technology related Activities currently being supported across IEEE and in particular Regions 7, 8 and 9.

Thematic sessions focus on sharing results related to the appropriate use of technology in the areas of Agriculture, Disaster Mitigation, Energy, Education, Healthcare, Supporting Integration of Refugees and Water and Sanitation.

IEEE Member Discounts Expand Globally

The IEEE Member Discount portfolio adds value to IEEE membership by making third-party products and services available to members at negotiated rates. Member Discounts of this type are considered personal benefits and do not compete with IEEE's own technical or educational products. Recently, IEEE identified suppliers who will provide attractive advantages to members around the world or in countries where we have substantial numbers of members.

New Discounts Around the World

IWG Companies
In recognition of the evolution of flexible work and the growing variety of workspace needs that members may have, IEEE now offers a Member Discount with IWG, the worldwide office space provider. IWG offers a track record of over 30 years of delivering real estate solutions for business. IWG's portfolio of brands (Regus, Spaces, Signature and more) provides diverse solutions for millions of people around the globe.

Vilidiana Abou, Group Head of Partnerships & Events at IWG, asserts that, " With our locations in practically every country, city, town and transport hub and options ranging from an hour's coworking to multi-year leases, IWG enables people and businesses to work where, when, and how they want." Interested members should follow the IWG links to the IWG landing page for more details of how to receive a 10% discount* on selected memberships, meeting room bookings and virtual office services. *Terms and conditions apply.

Dell Small Business
The IEEE discount for Dell technology products began in 2012 in the

USA and it evolved into the current Dell Small Business discount. This is a very popular member benefit that offers a daily discount on high-performance equipment including servers, and periodic, additional, product discounts. Within the past year, Dell advised IEEE that it was establishing its Small Business discount program for association members in other markets and invited IEEE to participate, beginning with the UK and Northern Ireland. Members who wish to access the discounts should go to IEEE Member Discounts and click on the Dell link for UK/Ireland for additional details. There is also a Dell Member Purchase Program link for Canadian members. IEEE will continue to work with Dell as their Small Business discount program expands to determine eligibility in other countries.

Wolfram Research

In 2020 IEEE welcomed software company Wolfram Research to the discount portfolio. Wolfram offers an integrated suite of technologies for multidomain modeling, simulation, and computation across all areas of technical computing—neural networks, machine learning, image processing, data science, and more. IEEE members worldwide qualify for a 20% discount on Mathematica, System Modeler, and Wolfram|One. The discount is applicable to student members and professional members alike.

To be sure, IEEE does not incur any expenses in order to offer Member Discounts. All brand marketing is supported by the suppliers themselves, and their advertising fees and royalties comprise a source of non-dues revenue to IEEE. When members utilize Member Discounts they save money while supporting the mission of the IEEE.

The suppliers admitted to the Member Discounts portfolio are reviewed and recommended by the MGA Member Benefits Portfolio Assessment Committee (MBPAC). The 2021 members of the MBPAC are Chair Mark Karol (Region 1), Anil Roy (R10), Redwan Ferdous (R10), Andreas Koltes (R8), Vera Marković (R8), Mark Torres (R3), and Adeel Sultan (R8). Each supplier also meets IEEE's legal review and compliance process.

Members may contact these vendors with questions about their offerings, as indicated on their respective IEEE member discount landing pages. Please send your general Member Discount questions to l.koblin@ieee.org. Lynn Koblin is the IEEE Senior Manager for Member Group Insurance and Alliance Programs and Staff Secretary to the MBPAC.

Congratulate 2022 IEEE Technical Field Award and 2022 Herz Award Recipients on New Kudoboard

We are pleased to announce the 2022 IEEE Technical Field Awards and 2021 IEEE Eric Herz Outstanding Staff Member Award recipients at: https://corporate-awards.ieee.org/recipients/current-recipients/#technical-field-awards. Please feel free to publicize the recipients and post your own notes of congratulations on the new Kudoboard on the Awards website at: https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/6LUJtSOa.

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Call for Nominations: IEEE Technical Field Awards and Eric Herz Staff Award

Nominations are open for the IEEE Technical Field Awards (TFA) and the IEEE Eric Herz Outstanding Staff Member Award.

Nomination guidelines, award-specific criteria, and components of a nomination form for TFAs and the Herz Award can be downloaded from https://ieee.secure-platform.com/a/page/ieeemedals_recognitions_tech-fieldawards/ieee_technical_field_awards and http://www.ieee.org/about/awards/recognitions/recognitions_herz.html. Nominations are due *15 January 2022. All nominations must be submitted through the online nomination portal*.

Since 1917, the IEEE Awards Program has paid tribute to technical professionals whose exceptional achievements and contributions have made a lasting impact on technology, society, the engineering profession, and humanity. By this means, the image and prestige of the organization, its members, and the profession are all enhanced.

For more information about IEEE Awards, visit https://corporate-awards.ieee.org/corporate-awards/ or e-mail awards@ieee.org.

The deadline for Content Submission for the March 2022 issue is
15 January 2022