

Student Design Teams Sought for 2004 CSIDC

Students from universities and colleges worldwide are invited to participate in the 2004 IEEE Computer Society International Design Competition. The CSIDC is an annual challenge that allows teams of undergraduate engineering students the opportunity to design, from inception to prototype, a special-purpose computer-based device to solve a real-world problem. The competition has a \$25,000 first prize.

The 2003 CSIDC challenge, which began in December 2002, recently concluded with a live World Finals event featuring multimedia presentations from the top 10 contestant teams. More than ever before, this year's competition fulfilled a recruitment goal of wide international representation.

Each year, the CSIDC begins with proposals submitted by prospective teams, chosen both on technical merit and to represent all corners of the world. Selected teams then work at their home institutions over the course of five months to complete a working prototype of a marketable device. Only the 10 most-promising devices, based on lengthy written reports, are presented in a live head-to-head competition.

In 2002, a change in CSIDC rules allowed the number of teams accepted into the competition to increase from 80 to 300. Rather than providing student teams with standardized kits, as had been the case in the past, organizers instead required teams to provide their own standard PCs, and imposed a \$400 limit on spending for peripherals. In another change to the CSIDC process, organizers also broadened the theme away from a specific realm to a simple mandate that teams produce applications with a demonstrable social benefit.

In 2004, the idea of social responsibility is targeted in the theme "Making the World a Safer Place." Examples of devices that might follow this theme include GPS technologies that could help aircraft avoid collisions, environmental monitoring systems, or devices that track patients who experience dementia.

Application materials are due by 1 November. Teams will be selected by 14 November.

Send completed registration forms by fax to +1 202 728 0884 or by mail to IEEE Computer Society—CSIDC, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036-1992.

URL 1: <http://www.computer.org/computer/homepage/0803/CSIDC/sidebar.htm>

URL 2: <http://newton.computer.org/csidc.nsf/application?openform>