

the PELS members and technology enthusiasts into one platform to collaborate, learn, listen, interact, share ideas, and participate in different tracks/panel discussions focusing on technical and non-technical areas. The technical activities will provide the opportunity to learn about emerging technologies and share knowledge with experienced technological leaders. The non-technical activities will set the foundation for the participants to succeed as a leader in the power electronics field.

The leaders of the PELS Student Branch Chapters' (SBCs) will also meet during the symposium to present their respective chapters' activities and discuss best practices and methodologies. An important part of

the event will be the training of the SBCs volunteers. Besides the learning opportunities, the PELS SYPS will be a unique event to connect and network globally with peers and distinguished members of the power electronics community. The event will have a virtual job fair to connect attendees with industry and academia representatives to explore job opportunities in the field of power electronics within their companies and universities.

The full potential of society will only be reached when women and men collectively use their capacities for the benefit of humanity. One of the key goals of the IEEE PELS Strategic Plan 2021 ~ 2025 is to grow the diversity and inclusion of the membership base. The PELS SYPS is aligned with

this goal and will include events targeting young women working in the field of power electronics. Efforts are also being made toward gender-diversified tracks/panels, which will highlight the contributions of young women and make them feel more represented. The organizing committee also reflects the diversity of the PELS members, with the collaboration of students and YPs from several countries. Awards will be given to the best presentations and to the outstanding volunteers/chapters at the SYPS-2021.

The event will be free of charge for all PELS members. Do not miss this opportunity to enhance your career and future at IEEE PELS. Go to the PELS SYPS website and register: <https://attend.ieee.org/syps-2021/>

by Harish Sarma Krishnamoorthy

IEEE PELS Day 2021— Save the Date!

On 20th June 1987, the Power Electronics Society (PELS) became a full-fledged society within the IEEE and this day is commemorated by the annual 'IEEE PELS Day' celebrations by the PELS members and chapters across the globe. The first annual PELS Day celebrations were held during June 2019, in which over 44 PELS chapters enthusiastically participated by getting together with colleagues for technical discussions, conducting seminar talks, industry visits, organizing networking and socializing events, or simply cutting a PELS Day Cake. A photo contest was also conducted by PELS, which attracted votes from tens of thousands of



people around the world. PELS awarded the top three chapters, and this became a wonderful opportunity for PELS chapters to showcase their activities. COVID-19 limited the extent of the annual celebrations in 2020, but PELS is determined to make the celebrations even grander for PELS Day 2021!

In fact, PELS Day is your event. The PELS and the technologies it represents can be celebrated in coordinate multiple ways. PELS encourages local chapters, student branch chapters, regional chapters as well as

other groups to get together and organize their own events around 20 June, 2021. This is a great opportunity for the chapters to coorganize events, or even conduct virtual activities as interconnected 'satellite' groups. PELS highly encourages other innovative ideas as well by chapters to expand their engagement. For example, the chapters can showcase interesting power electronics research demonstrations for members, either in-person or virtually.

On the society level, PELS is planning to continue the photo contest in 2021, which has turned out to be a great success. There will also be a few webinar presentations by renowned experts, touching on our day-to-day advancements in the ever flourishing area of power electronics. So, stay tuned and start planning your activity

for PELS Day 2021 to make it a success! For further information, please visit the PELS Day website: <<https://www.ieee-pels.org/membership/pels-day>>.

About the Author

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He is the Chair of the IEEE PELS' Students and Young Professionals' committee and the Chair of the IEEE PELS Day 2021 steering committee.

by Mads Graungaard Taul and Huai Wang

IFEC 2020 Winners Announced

Organized by Aalborg University, Denmark, the 13th IEEE International Future Energy Challenge (IFEC) 2020 announced awards for the student project competition on power supplies for nanosatellites, a fast-growing satellite industry segment. In 2020, the student teams were challenged to design and build a power supply for nanosatellites with specific requirements for efficiency, power density, weight, and dynamic performance. The competition included a preliminary proposal (November 2019), two virtual technical workshops (April and August 2020), and a final competition with prototypes sent to and tested at Aalborg University in November 2020. A total of 26 project proposals were received from 13 countries and regions. Initially, 17 teams were shortlisted for the first workshop, and 10 teams were later invited for the second

workshop. The final competition involved prototype testing of four finalist teams listed below. These tests were conducted locally at Aalborg University, where Chroma ATE Inc. sponsored the testing system. The winners are as follows:

- The Grand Prize (\$10,000) - Zhejiang University
- The Outstanding Performance Award (\$5,000) - National Ilan University
- The Outstanding Performance Award (\$5,000) - University of Belgrade
- The Ingenuity Award (\$1,000) - India Institute of Technology Kanpur.

The following teams received the Certificate of Excellence:

- Leibniz University Hannover
- Technische Hochschule Köln
- University of Alberta
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Initiated in 2001, the IFEC is sponsored by IEEE Power Electronics Society, Power & Energy Society, Industry Application Society, and

Power Sources Manufacturers Association. In all, the IFEC 2020 was a big success, despite the challenges associated with COVID-19 and the contingency plans for the technical workshops and final competition. All participating teams and, in particular, the finalists showed excellent skills in team working and solving technical problems. Congratulations to all the teams on their remarkable work and innovation. We look forward to future IFECs, more importantly, to see more brilliant students disseminate and share knowledge across continents and institutions.

More information can be found on IFEC 2020 website:



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