

IEEE PES/PELS Joint Chapter Compete in Solar Splash

Solar Splash is an inter-collegiate competition where teams compete with their solar-powered electric boats in on-water events such as sprint heats, endurance heats, and slalom competitions. This event allows teams to get hands-on experience with solar photovoltaic system design, battery energy management, electric propulsion drives, hull design, propeller design, logistics, and technical writing.

Since 2016, the IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES)/Power Electronics Society (PELS) Albuquerque Joint Chapter at the University of New Mexico (UNM) have helped their Solar Splash team with monetary support, mentorship, and sponsorship of capstone course projects. The chapter's team first competed in the competition during 2016, where they were placed fourth overall and defied the expectations of most rookie teams. Because of the pandemic, the chapter's team was unable to compete in 2020.



FIG 1 (from left to right) Brandon Kirkpatrick, Felicia Brimigion, Peter Vorobieff, Jennifer Restrepo, Matthew Aragon, Emilio Martinez

At the 2021 Solar Splash competition from 8 June to 12 June 2021 in Springfield, Ohio, USA, the IEEE PES/PELS Albuquerque Joint Chapter at UNM's Solar Splash team, led by faculty advisor Prof. Peter Vorobieff, placed third overall, which is the team's best result to date. This year's Solar Splash team (Figure 1) made improvements to their boat's hull, drive train, and solar system. The new hull was made from quarter-inch plywood, coated in fiberglass, and followed an ultralow-drag wavesplitter design. The team also

acquired a more powerful motor to improve sprint times and received high-performance solar cells from SolAero Technologies. Prof. Vorobieff, who has aided the team since 2016, says that the team members deserve all of the credit since they had to design, build, and compete under the many challenges that were the result of the pandemic.

The IEEE PES/PELS Albuquerque Joint Chapter at UNM is proud of the results at the Solar Splash competition this year and looks forward to competing at this event in the future.

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IEEE PELS SBC Organizes Two-Day Workshop

On 22 and 24 May 2021, the IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS) Student

Branch Chapter (SBC) at St. Joseph's College of Engineering in India hosted a virtual two-part workshop in collaboration with the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS).

For the first day, Mr. Gokul Krishna and Mr. Dheetaj Ranka, both from the Business Development at The Solar Labs, gave a presentation with the theme "Overview of Solar PV System Design". Mr. Ranka's

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