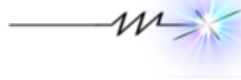# Audio Engineering Society
STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

RULES AND POLICIES
Effective February 2014

Introduction

The AES Student Design Competition is an opportunity for aspiring hardware and software engineers to participate in a worldwide contest and gain recognition for their hard work and technical creativity. This invaluable career-building event is a rare opportunity for students to have their projects reviewed by the best minds in the business.

Students from both audio and non-audio backgrounds are encouraged to submit entries. Few restrictions are placed on the nature of the projects, but designs must be for use with audio. Examples include loudspeaker design, DSP plug-ins, analog hardware, signal analysis tools, mobile applications, sound synthesis devices, and workflow solutions. Products should represent new, original ideas implemented in working-model prototypes.

Competition Process

Submitted project descriptions are forwarded to the Student Delegate Assembly about one month prior to the convention. Over the following weeks, SDA officers will screen the entries and approve them for presentation at the convention. In the event that the project design is deemed insufficient, an SDA officer will contact the entrant and may give the opportunity to make additions or edits before the convention.

All approved entries will be asked to present their product designs in a poster session. Judges will visit each student to ask questions, critique the projects, give feedback, and ultimately pick winners for each category. Entrants are required to bring a poster board, and any equipment necessary to conduct their demonstrations.

Projects will be judged on the basis of originality, creativity, usability and interface design, and context within currently available technology. Make sure your design is new, exciting, and practical!

Poster Session

All entrants are required to prepare a poster as part of their presentation. Tri-fold posters are recommended, and should reasonably large.

A poster should be able to stand alone, that is, be understandable even if the product designers are not present to explain, discuss, or answer questions. Content might include, but is not limited to:

1. Heading (design name, designer(s), field of importance)
2. Short description, significance
3. Assumptions, key terms, and important limitations
4. Background information, summary of prior work, theoretical foundation
5. Construction documentation, block diagrams, sketches, photos
6. Results, supporting data, graphs, tables, etc. (self-contained figure captions are essential!)

As a part of the display, entrants are also required to exhibit or demonstrate their design along with their poster. Please bring any equipment necessary for your presentation. Convention Wifi and electricity is subject to availability, so please plan accordingly. Please contact the Student Delegate Assembly if you have any extra requirements, and we will accommodate to the best of our abilities.

This event will be open to all convention attendees holding a full-program badge, allowing students, educators, and industry professionals to learn about every Design Competition submission. Potential employers may be browsing the floor, searching for the next generation of product engineers! Posters outlining the design process are highly encouraged.

Eligibility

All entrants must be currently enrolled as graduate or undergraduate students at educational institutions or must have graduated within the past year. All submitted designs must have been completed while the entrant was a student. Submissions may include for-credit "capstone" projects and designs that have moved into commercial production.

Entrants MUST be current AES members. Entrants MUST register as a student for the full Convention technical program and be in attendance at the first meeting of the Student Delegate Assembly (SDA-1), to be held on the first day of the Convention. Non-members may join the society at aes.org/join. Convention registration is made available at aes.org/events.

There are currently **NO** restrictions on number of entrants per institution. Students may **NOT** submit a project that has been entered in a previous AES Student Design Competition. Each student may submit exactly **ONE** entry per category. A graduate student may submit an undergraduate project if and only if the project was completed during the duration of his or her undergraduate education **AND** his or her undergraduate degree was conferred within one year prior to the competition.

Categories
1) Undergraduate Level (For students pursuing a Bachelor's Degree or Associate's Degree)
2) Graduate Level (For student pursuing a Master's Degree or a PhD/Doctorate)

Submission Procedures

1) Project Description In five (5) pages or less, communicate your design to the judges. You may use any combination of diagrams, schematics, code blocks, and text. Please attach a cover page that indicates only your AES Student ID number, the Design Competition category you wish to enter, and the title of your project. Save your file as "*membernumber_category*.pdf". For example. "12345_undergraduate.pdf". Double-column IEEE format is encouraged but not required. Templates are available at www.ieee.org. **Please do not include your name anywhere in this document. Eliminate all clues to your geographic location or university affiliation so to keep your entry completely anonymous.**

2) Registration & File Upload Visit https://secure.aes.org/events/competitions/. Select the appropriate competition, select the appropriate category, and enter the required information. After submitting the entry form, use the online file upload tool to submit your project description**.**

Submission Screening

All entries are subject to screening by the officers of the AES Student Delegate Assembly prior to judge evaluations. The AES Education Committee reserves the right to disqualify entries that do not meet all requirements outlined in the official Rules and Policies.

Awards

Judges may recognize outstanding projects by conferring merit awards of Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Honorable Mention. Any combination of awards is permitted, as long as it does not exceed four awards per category. Awards will be presented to the finalists at the second meeting of the Student Delegate Assembly (SDA-2) on the final day of the convention.

Prizes

Prizes may be presented to competition awardees upon or following the receipt of achievement certificates. The selection of these items will vary based on the generosity and intentions of competition sponsors. Students should not expect to receive prizes in addition to their honorary certificates, which represent an extraordinary accomplishment of which awardees should be extremely proud.

Prize distribution shall occur at the discretion of the AES Education Committee, which reserves the right to assign prizes to individuals or their respective institutions based on the number and value of available items, the intentions of the donating sponsors, the number of competition awardees, the number of participants per entry, and the levels of recognition received.

Please direct all questions, comments, and concerns to Steven Van Dyne at steven@aes-sda.org