



## **Communications Engineering Competition – Rules**

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### **Category Description and Objectives**

The goal of the Engineering Communications category is to encourage undergraduate engineering students to present a technical topic, expressing a viewpoint on its social, economic, and/or environmental impact. Engineers are often required to investigate an issue, form an opinion, and then convince their audience of the validity of that opinion while explaining the technical process or issue to people with different educational backgrounds such as management, other professionals, or the general public. In this category, competitors must identify a technological process or issue, form an opinion about it, thoroughly and clearly explain the process or issue to an audience not specializing in their field, and present strong arguments to support their viewpoint. Winning entries will combine thorough research, a convincing viewpoint, and a dynamic presentation.

### **Notes regarding the Disclosure of Submissions**

Materials submitted to OEC as part of Engineering Communications remain the property of their respective submitter. However, OEC reserves the right to publish any materials collected, including project summaries, within their publications. Publications include but are not limited to the OEC web site, participant handbooks, and final publication.

Competitors that do not wish to disclose their materials in this way will have to apply to the OEC Organizing Committee in writing prior to submission of any materials.

### **Presentation Policies**

#### **Submission of the Final Presentation**

Each team's presentation is to be submitted to the category official via CD or USB key at the beginning of the competition briefing at 8:30 on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Disks or USB keys are to be labeled with the presenters' names and school (in the case of a USB key please put it in a labeled envelope). Presentations must be in PowerPoint 2003 or Adobe pdf formats only. Presentations and/or revisions will not be accepted after the due date.

Hard copies of the presentation abstracts will be printed by the organizing committee for the judges to make notes.



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### **Presentation Timing**

Presentations are to be a maximum of 30 minutes in duration with penalizations for misuse of time. Teams will be penalized at –5 points/minute for under-use of time greater than 3 minutes or –10 points/minute for any time exceeding 30 minutes.

The time will be shown by the event timekeeper at the 20 minute, 10 minute, 5 minute and 1 minute remaining marks during the presentation, with a visual countdown for the last 30 seconds of the presentation.

### **Set-Ups and Late Arrivals**

Each team will have a maximum of five (5) minutes to setup prior to their presentation. If a team arrives late for their setup time, without a valid reason, their preparation time will be reduced by the amount of time they are late. If they arrive more than ten (10) minutes after the scheduled starting time of their presentation, without a valid reason, they will lose their opportunity to present. Late set-up can be penalized by up to 10 points.

Presentations are not to start ahead of schedule.

### **Question Period**

A ten (10) minute question period will follow the presentation during which the judges and the general public will be allowed to ask questions, with priority given to the judges' questions.

### **Judging**

The most important aspects of evaluation in this category are depth of understanding of the topic, delivery of a complete and clear technical explanation, formation and delivery of a convincing viewpoint, effective communication, and the quality of the presentation. The depth of the team's understanding of the topic will be assessed during the question period.

Judges' deliberation will be conducted privately and the results will not be released until the final banquet. Feedback from the judges will be compiled for each team and delivered to the teams individually.



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## Scoring

<b>Presentation Content</b> .....	<b>/40</b>
Explanation of Concept.....	/20
o Were the facts presented correct and complete?	
o Did the team give the audience a clear explanation of the topic?	
o Did the team give the audience a complete explanation of the topic?	
o Did the team cover sufficient material beyond the general knowledge of persons not specializing in their field?	
o Were any complex technical terms or concepts left undefined?	
Delivery of Viewpoint .....	/20
o Did the topic have a sociological impact and was the editorial issue clearly stated?	
o Was the team's stance on the issue clearly apparent and were they consistent in their opinion?	
o Were the arguments convincing and well supported?	
<b>Selection of Topic</b> .....	<b>/30</b>
Research Depth and Accuracy .....	/10
o Were the facts presented correct and complete?	
o Were all areas of the topic sufficiently covered?	
o Did all members of the team display a strong understanding of the topic?	
Complexity .....	/10
o Was the topic of sufficient technical complexity?	
o Was the team appropriately challenged by the subject matter?	
Interest Generated .....	/10
o Did the seminar create and maintain audience interest?	
<b>Presentation Mechanics</b> .....	<b>/30</b>
Speaker Quality .....	/10
o Was the presenter expressive and engaging?	
Organization .....	/10
o Was emphasis given to appropriate areas?	
o Was there a clear introduction and conclusion?	
o Did the seminar flow naturally from point to point?	
o Was time used appropriately?	
o Did both team members participate equally in the presentation?	
Visual Aids .....	/10
o Were the audio-visual aids used appropriately?	
o Did they help illustrate key points?	
o Were the slides or overheads clear and easy to read?	
o Were any special or unique audio-visual aids used?	
<b>Penalties</b>	
Misuse of time – under-use by more than 3 minutes .....	-5/minute
Misuse of time – over-use .....	-10/minute
Late setting up.....	Up to -10