



IEEE Region 3 Projects Funding Proposal

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A “Thank You” to the Projects Committee Members

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Projects Committee Charter

- ▶ The Region 3 Projects Committee is tasked with encouraging **collaboration** and **engagement** among our members and the public by assisting with funding for projects that foster IEEE's goal of "**Advancing Technology for Humanity.**"
- ▶ After discussions with Eric Grigorian at Sections Congress, we are proposing several changes from previous years.



Major Changes from Previous Years

We propose to model the 2024 round of project funding on the programs from previous years with the following main types of changes:

- ▶ Broadening our previous theme of solving humanitarian problems related to Climate Change to solving humanitarian problems related to any of IEEE's Future Directions Initiatives (which includes Climate Change).
- ▶ Advertising the grants more broadly than in the past to attract more applicants.
- ▶ Allowing Sections to receive more than one grant and, with sufficient justification, receive grants larger than \$1000.
- ▶ In addition, we plan on emphasizing to applicants that their application should
 - start with a humanitarian problem and then identify how technology could be used to address that problem
 - rather than starting with a technology and implying a humanitarian problem that it will address.

Broadening the Focus - IEEE's Future Directions Initiatives

<https://www.ieee.org/about/technologies.html>

- ▶ Digital Privacy
- ▶ 5G/6G
- ▶ Low-Earth-Orbit Satellites & Systems (SatS)
- ▶ Metaverse
- ▶ Public Safety Technology
- ▶ Quantum
- ▶ Smart Lighting
- ▶ SusTech (formerly Climate Change Sustainability)
- ▶ Telepresence
- ▶ Wireless Power Technologies



Advertising More Widely

- ▶ Previously, we had depended upon Section Chairs to get the word out to their members.
 - The only applications we received last year were from the Richmond Section.
 - When I talked with SoutheastCon attendees during the breaks and meals, only one group had heard anything about this past year's funding opportunity.
- ▶ We propose to advertise the funding through multiple channels.
 - Outreach to all Section, Chapter, and Affinity Group Chairs
 - Outreach to all Student Branch Chairs and Student Branch Counselors
 - Inclusion in the monthly Region 3 email blast that announces meetings to all R3 IEEE members
 - Article in the Region 3 newsletter
 - A session at SoutheastCon 2024 where:
 - a member or members of the magnetocaloric heat pump team could show the project that they have been working on and
 - new teams could get immediate feedback and possibly approval on their proposals.

Changing Number of Grants/Section and \$/Grant

- ▶ Previously, we have limited grants to one grant per Section and \$1000 per grant out of concerns that a few Sections might use all the available funds before other Sections could apply.
- ▶ This concern has proven to be unfounded. We have had too few applications rather than too many.
- ▶ The restrictions as originally defined have also made it more difficult to execute some of the more successful projects.

Changing Number of Grants/Section and \$/Grant

Examples of Impediments Created by Previous Restrictions

- ▶ The desk shield project in the Jamaica Section helped students at Denham Town High School in Kingston, Jamaica return to in-class learning and received the attention of the Ministry of Education and the national press.
 - But it was only possible because an exception was made to the one grant per Section restriction.
- ▶ The Pandemic Challenge project in the Richmond Section involved almost three dozen students, IEEE members, and members of the community.
 - But it was only possible because the Richmond Section and the Magnetics/EMB Joint Chapter added ~\$1500 to the \$1000 that Region 3 provided.
- ▶ The one group at SoutheastCon 2023 that had heard about this past year's funding decided not to do a project because \$1000 would not have covered their costs.



Emphasizing the Humanitarian Problems in the Applications

- ▶ A problem that the R3 Projects Committee has often encountered on applications is the tendency of groups to focus their application on the technologies that they want to use without first clearly identifying the humanitarian problem that they are trying to address.
- ▶ We plan to emphasize to future applicants that they should start with the problem that needs addressing, *then* get into the technologies that they will use to address that problem.

The Message That We Plan to Deliver

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▶ IEEE Region 3 is offering grants to Region 3 Sections and their Chapters, Affinity Groups, and Student Branches to work on projects that address problems impacting humanity and that involve one or more of IEEE's Future Directions Initiatives in the proposed solution. These initiatives are:

- Digital Privacy
- 5G/6G
- Low-Earth-Orbit Satellites & Systems (SatS)
- Metaverse
- Public Safety Technology
- Quantum
- Smart Lighting
- SusTech (formerly Climate Technologies Sustainability)
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▶ (More details on these initiatives can be found at <https://www.ieee.org/about/technologies.html>.)

The Message That We Plan to Deliver

- ▶ The world is faced with many complex problems and technical challenges. Identify a problem in your local community. Evaluate the Future Direction technology areas, and select a technology area to explore that could resolve or impact the identified problem.
- ▶ Since projects funded by Region 3 are meant to encourage collaboration and engagement, your team must include at least three IEEE members of your Section and, if possible, should include local Chapters, Affinity Groups, Student Branches and local businesses. If your project involves working with minors, be sure to follow the IEEE rules for working with children. These can be found at <https://www.ieee.org/about/volunteers/risk-insurance/ieee-activities-with-children.html>.
- ▶ If you wish, you can work together with other Sections on a project, but each Section must submit an application to receive funding.

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Applying for Funding

- ▶ Applications for funding should be in the form of a PDF of five pages or less and must include the following information:
 - Team Name
 - Section Name
 - Contact person
 - Description of the humanitarian problem that you are addressing
 - Description of how your project incorporates one or more of the technologies included in the IEEE Future Directions Initiatives to address the problem.
 - Names and IEEE member numbers of at least three IEEE members from your Section who will be working on the project. (You may add others to your team after the project begins.)
 - Expected outcome

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Applying for Funding

- Expected costs (Region 3 will normally cover up to \$1000, but larger grants are possible if you show that your proposed solution will have a major impact on the problem and/or will engage a large number of IEEE members.)
- The endorsement of the Section Chair, indicating that the Section agrees to be responsible for the financial management of the funds, including responsibility for tracking, receipts and reporting as required by IEEE Finance. If you are not sure how to contact your Section Chair, you can find their contact information by going to <https://rosters.ieee.org> (login using your IEEE username and password required). Under “IEEE Geographic Units,” expand “Southeastern USA - Region 3,” then “Sections - Subsections,” then the name of your Section. If, after following these steps, you still need assistance getting the Section Chair endorsement, please contact r3-projects@ieee.org.

► **Applications must be emailed by the Section Chair to the Region 3 Project Coordinator, r3-projects@ieee.org.**

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- ▶ Each application will be reviewed by a review board for compliance with these guidelines. They will not be judged to decide whether one Section's submission is "better" than another's. If approved, the funds will be transferred to the Section's NextGen banking account and the Section will then assume responsibility for management of the funds.
- ▶ Each Section project team is required to send a monthly status update to the Region 3 Project Coordinator, r3-projects@ieee.org. This update should include progress on the approved project and how the funds are being spent. A summary of this information will be posted on a Region web site to track and publicize all projects. Submission of pictures is encouraged but must comply with IEEE requirements and restrictions and include an IEEE Photo Release.

The Message That We Plan to Deliver

▶ Deadlines

- Applications for funding must be submitted by November 1, 2024. All projects must be completed by May 15, 2025. Unused funds must be returned by the Section to Region 3 no later than November 1, 2025.
- ▶ You can find more information and updates under the “Region 3 Projects” category of the IEEE Region 3 Knowledgebase (<https://kb.ieee.org/r3/>). If you still have unanswered questions or want to discuss your project ideas, please feel free to contact the Region 3 Project Coordinator, r3-projects@ieee.org.

The Formal Proposal from the SSC

- ▶ The SSC moves that funds from the 2024 Initiatives Budget be used to support the Region 3 Project initiative as described. Region 3 will fund accepted proposals through grants transferred to the group's Section NextGen Banking Account upon acceptance by the Project Review Committee and the Region 3 Director's concurrence. Funded groups are required to produce monthly reports and expected to participate in publicity efforts.