

IEEE Pandemic Response Challenge

Global Challenges. Novel Solutions.

The IEEE, a non-profit organization of engineering professionals, is sponsoring a competition to find solutions to real-life problems related to the coronavirus and COVID-19. The Challenge will have self-forming Teams consisting mainly of high school students, university students, and young professionals working with more senior Mentors to solve problems that have been identified by Problem Owners from a variety of public and private sectors.

How can I get involved?

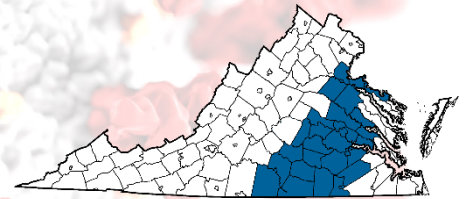
We are looking for:

- Problem Solvers – High school students, university students, and early career professionals who will team up to solve the problems.
- Mentors – Domain experts and experienced professionals who will help Problem Solvers understand how engineers solve real-world problems.
- Problem Owners – People or organizations that have real-world pandemic-related problems that need to be solved.
- Co-Sponsors – Companies or organizations that are willing to donate funds or services that can be used by teams working on the Challenge.

Please register your interest at <https://r3.ieee.org/richmond/covid>.

What geographic area is the challenge open to?

Participation in the challenge is open to all, but financial assistance can only be provided to teams in the shaded area shown in the map on the right.



When will the challenge start? How long will it run?

The actual Challenge will start in early Spring, but interested parties should register as soon as possible. The first phase of the Challenge will run for eight weeks. Teams will present their solutions in a virtual symposium at the end of the eight weeks. The IEEE Richmond Section will consider supporting qualified teams in a phase two portion that will run through the summer and into fall.

What are the basic rules?

At the beginning of the challenge, various Problem Owners will present real world, COVID-19 related problems that they need solved and that could have an engineering solution. Self-forming Teams will pick a project and begin working on a viable solution with the assistance of Mentors. The IEEE Richmond Section will provide some online training to Teams to help them understand how engineers solve problems. The Richmond Section will also provide limited financial assistance to Teams by reimbursing them for expenses. Financial assistance to Teams is available on a first registered, first served basis. Most Teams will mainly work together virtually. All teams must comply with current local health mandates at all times. Current Virginia health mandates can be found at <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/executive-actions/>. Teams that include minors must also comply with the IEEE Guidelines for Working with Children. See the FAQ at <https://r3.ieee.org/richmond/covid> for details.

Join the Challenge!



This challenge is sponsored by the Richmond Section of IEEE. IEEE is a non-profit, global organization of over 400,000 professionals in the fields of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Computer Sciences and Information Technology, and related fields of Physical Sciences, Biological and Medical Sciences, Mathematics, Technical Communications, Education, Management, and Law and Policy. <https://www.ieee.org/> richmond_covid@ieee.org
2/3/2021