

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), EPICS Purdue inks a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Trichy

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), EPICS Purdue inks a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Trichy, for building upon their shared interests and experience, to work together to encourage students to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of technology and its uses in improving their local communities by way of establishing a curriculum. Specific goals for the collaboration are:

- To develop a 3-5 year plan to include the EPICS framework into their curriculum.
- To review submitted proposals for the EPICS in IEEE collaboration and promote the project by providing needed resources and guidance.

The MoU signing was conducted in the presence of Prof Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT Trichy and Prof.S.K.Ramesh, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering and Computer Science, California State University, Northridge in his capacity as Vice President, IEEE Educational Activities and President, IEEE-HKN (the Electrical Engineering Honor Society).



Exchange of MoU by Prof. Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli and Prof. S.K. Ramesh, Vice President, IEEE Educational Activities- 2017, President, IEEE-HKN (2016)

Speaking on the occasion, Prof.Ramesh, who also happens to be an alumnus of NIT Trichy, said “EPICS in IEEE is an IEEE Foundation Signature Program that helps advance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning by providing real-world learning experiences that attract young people to the engineering profession. This new collaboration with India is part of a pilot program spearheaded by EPICS in IEEE and Purdue University. As part of the EPICS in IEEE curricula, students from partner institutions will team up with local non-profit organizations and apply technical knowledge to solve engineering-based problems that will improve the lives of their communities in India. EPICS in IEEE leaders will provide oversight for the implementation of the new curricula and ultimately provide guidance for the development of new pedagogies to enhance student learning in engineering”.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Mini Thomas said, “EPICS is a classic case of empowering students and impacting communities. It is twin occasion of MoU with EPICS and also inauguration of the activities of the IEEE student branch for 2018. It is a proud moment that both these activities are happening in the presence of our alumnus who is representing IEEE, EPICS. Students and staff are already engaged in community service in many ways. This MoU with IEEE, EPICS will give a great push to these activities in terms of engaging students in developing grass root level technology to cater to the community needs. Unlike metro cities, the community around this Institute is quite rural and backward and hence lot of scope for intervention. Across the road, there is whole lot of SME community that could be impacted” she said

About NIT Trichy: National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, commonly referred to as NIT Trichy, is an Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, established to provide instruction and research in various branches of engineering and technology for the advancement of learning and dissemination of knowledge in such branches. NIT Trichy is ranked the best among NITs (NIRF 11 among technical Institutions) and runs 10 under graduate and 28 post graduate and Ph D programs.

About IEEE: The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated ("IEEE"), was founded in 1884 with Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison among its charter members. IEEE, a not-for-profit corporation with its corporate headquarters at New York, is the world's largest engineering organization, with over 420,000 members in more than 160 countries, focusing on advancing the theory and practice of electrical technologies, electronics, power engineering, robotics and automation, computer engineering, computer science, and other related technologies, and advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

About IEEE, Student Branch: At present, IEEE SB of NIT-T has about 50 active student members from both Engineering and Science disciplines. Starting from its inception, the SB of NIT-T is very active in organizing various technical activities like seminars, short-term courses, workshops, etc., for the benefit of students to stay abreast of current technology and networking.

About Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS): EPICS Program was initiated at Purdue University in 1995 to fulfill the complementary needs of engineering undergraduates and the community. Under this program undergraduate students earn academic credit for their contributions to long-term team-based design projects that deliver technology-based solutions to problems identified by non-profit organizations in the community. Key features of the EPICS model include the following attributes: community partners, long term student participation, variable credit hours, multidisciplinary teams, start-to-finish design experience. (<https://engineering.purdue.edu/EPICS>)

Purdue University was founded in 1869. The West Lafayette campus offers more than 200 majors for undergraduates over 70 masters and doctoral programs. Purdue enrolls the fourth largest international student population of any university in the United States.