Arizona Semiconductor Ecosystem to Receive $100 Million Investment

Governor Doug Ducey recently announced an historic $100 million investment in Arizona’s fast-growing semiconductor industry to spur greater growth in a critical sector of the state’s economy, according to a news release.

The funding will be managed by the Arizona Commerce Authority to further enhance Arizona’s semiconductor infrastructure, workforce, and research capabilities. In addition, it will help maximize the state's competitive position for research and development opportunities under the CHIPS Act while spurring additional private sector investment.

Passage of the CHIPS Act earlier this year catalyzed unique opportunities for the US to attract and grow private sector investments in semiconductor equipment and materials, design, manufacturing, advanced packaging, and cutting-edge research. Read more.

State in Talks with Mexico About Potential Desalination Plant

The AMC Water and Environment Committee has begun talks with Mexico to build a desalination plant, offering Arizona more options for water resources, according to Chamber Business News.

"Without a relationship with Mexico, our only reasonable option for desalination would be the western coast of the US, but now we have a whole host of other potential options working with neighbors to the south; we can collaborate on the art of the possible," said Jessica Pacheco, president of the Arizona-Mexico Commission and founder of Arizona-based public affairs firm, Horizon Strategies.

This is part of a greater trend of Arizona attracting foreign technology companies because of the state’s welcoming environment to all incomers. Experts say that
having more efficient regionalized supply chains will help the health of the state's economy.

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**Arizona Has Unusually High Rate of Women in Construction**

More women work in construction in Arizona than anywhere else in the country except for the District of Columbia, *The Washington Post* reports. In total, 15.6% of people working in construction in the state are women.

This percentage has increased nationwide since 2015, and Hispanic women make up the majority of that growth. In 2021, 32.3% of Arizona residents were Hispanic or Latino (of any race), according to the US Census Bureau. *The Post* cites an aging construction workforce leaving job vacancies as one reason for the increased number of women in the field, which includes management and office jobs. Also, labor groups have worked in recent years to increase the number of skilled tradeswomen and to improve support for women on jobsites. [Read more.]

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**Licensing Board Meeting**

The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, December 6**. Access the meeting information [here](#). Please review the meeting agenda prior to requesting a Google Meet invite to the meeting.

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NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

**Featured Job**

**System Innovation & Development Engineer**

Phoenix, AZ
Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

NSPE Stays Focused on Sustainability and Resilience

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) kicked off in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt last week. As the conference takes place, NSPE will provide conference highlights of interest to professional engineers.

NSPE believes licensed PEs should be good stewards of the environment to preserve and protect our world for future generations. The Society recognizes that attention to sustainable and resilient design practices is critical to the health of the planet and is an integral part of the practice of engineering. PEs are uniquely positioned to be a positive and driving influence in creating, maintaining, and renewing sustainable communities.

In early 2022, the NSPE Board of Directors endorsed “The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change.” The statement was prepared with input from a working group of 16 organizations, including NSPE, and facilitated by ECL-USA. It is intended to unite, energize, and motivate people within and across organizations, and to fulfill their desires for meaning and purpose in their professional lives.

The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change:
Climate change is real – the impacts are serious, and they are accelerating. There is an urgent imperative for the Engineering Community to take informed and intentional actions now to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. It is our duty and purpose to contribute our skills and knowledge of human-centered technologies and of the natural world to lead humanity out of the climate crisis with a focus on sustainable, resilient, equitable, and innovative approaches. Learn more.

Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The NSPE Honor Awards promote the professional engineer’s contributions to society and recognize the achievements of the profession’s very best. The deadline for award submissions is January 31, 2023.

NSPE Award
The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an
individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. **Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChe**, received the award in 2022. He is the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, and has been a tireless advocate for the engineering profession.

**New Professional of the Year Award**
This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the Engineering Profession and the community during the early years of one’s career. **Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM**, and **Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA**, received the award in 2022. Holly Ahumada specializes in stormwater and floodplain management at Freese and Nichols in Fort Worth, Texas. Dylan Ward is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky.

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**Upcoming Webinar: Election Recap**
Join your colleagues for the next Workability Wednesdays webinar: **Election Recap: How Can PEs Prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session** (November 30).

Register now for these FREE webinars for NSPE members and earn PDHs before the end of the year. If you missed any recent webinars? No problem.... **check out the recordings** .

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