

State News for NSPE Members

Innovation Hub Coming to WV with \$700M Investment

LG Electronics announced a plan to create an LG NOVA innovation center in West Virginia, promising 275 new jobs and \$700 million in investments to grow businesses in the state over the next five years. The plan was announced by LG leadership and Governor Jim Justice, [The Center Square](#) reports.

The LG Nova plan involves growing new businesses to advance technological development in renewable energy, health care and industries of the future. Sokwoo Rhee, the head of LG Nova, said that the company would bring innovation to health care along with using artificial intelligence in a smart way to advance technologies that improve the quality of life better for residents. [Read more.](#)

Mon Power Announces Completion of 80-Acre Solar Site

[WDTV reports](#) that Fort Martin Power Station in Maidsville, West Virginia, has completed its solar site, the first of five solar sites Mon Power and its sister company Potomac Edison have planned to help bolster and diversify the region's energy mix.

Officials say nearly 50,000 solar panels are now generating renewable energy at the approximately 80-acre Fort Martin site, which can produce up to 18.9 megawatts (MW) of solar energy per hour. One MW of solar energy powers a national average of 173 homes, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Mon Power hired more than 100 local union workers, primarily from the Morgantown and Parkersburg areas, to complete the work at the Fort Martin solar site. Additionally, the solar panels, racking systems and supporting electrical equipment were made in the United States.

Jim Myers, President of West Virginia Operations: "We're proud to have achieved our goal of completing this solar site using local union workers. It is important to

have this voluntary option available to customers, as renewable energy is a large economic driver in both attracting new industry to West Virginia and keeping existing companies that now require a portion of their electricity to come from renewable sources.” [Read more.](#)

WVU Unveils Undergraduate Degree Program in Robotics

[West Virginia University has announced](#) a new four-year degree program to prepare students for the burgeoning job sector for robotics engineers. Offered by the mechanical and aerospace engineering department, the program is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to excel in the engineering design and production of robotics and autonomous systems solutions and create mechanical, electrical and computer engineering systems to integrate and devise robotics solutions.

As one of less than two dozen undergraduate programs offered in the United States, the robotics engineering degree is a 124-credit interdisciplinary course of study created from partnering efforts of the MAE department and the Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. To form a solid foundation, students will take courses equally distributed from both departments, followed by a group of core courses specifically on robotics and a robotics capstone design experience.

“Robotics is interdisciplinary by nature, so this provides an option where students can get the best of both worlds,” said Jason Gross, chair of the mechanical and aerospace engineering department. “We have a track record where our students and faculty have already had success in robotics for over a decade and we’ve already established a strong group of faculty in this area.” [Read more.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Help Guide the Future of NICET’s SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

[Take the Survey](#)

Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

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. The nomination deadline is March 1.

New Professional 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. The nomination deadline is March 1.

Engineering Education Excellence Award : This award recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#) .

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**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**