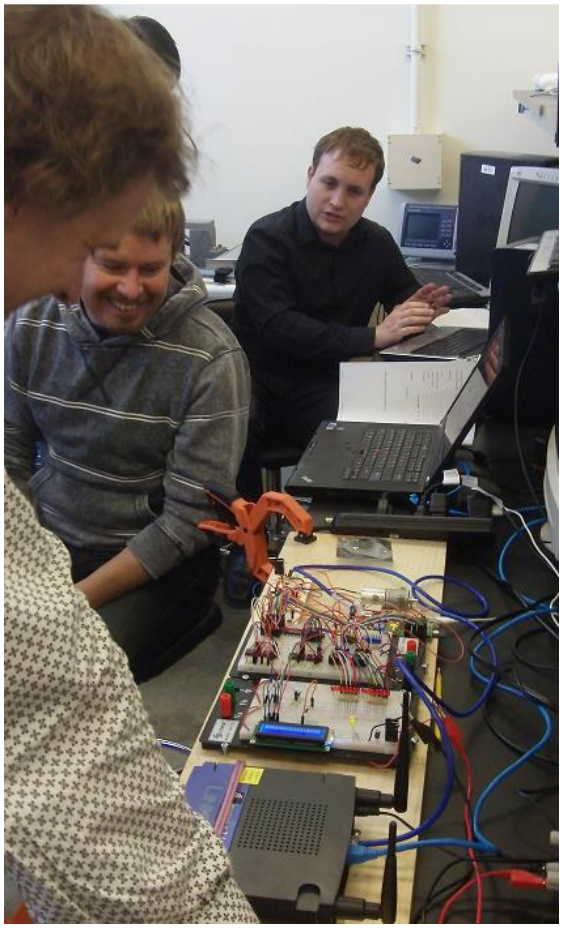
www.inist.org/challenge

The Solar Skyways Challenge (SSC) is
an international design competition for net-zero energy transportation. Each year, interdisciplinary student teams submit proposals outlining their visions for solar powered transportation systems and the components which comprise them. Students are encouraged to pick up where other teams have left off and the result is a program developing sustainable transportation while cultivating engineers for this budding industry.

Why Transportation?
According to the Energy Information Administration, transportation accounts for 29% of all energy consumed in the United States. In this era of dwindling fossil fuels a chance to save almost a third of our nation's energy represents an opportunity. The mounting financial pressure on existing conveyances is simply a reflection of a physical reality, we are running on empty. People will still desire to commute and travel; a window of opportunity exists to realize a new transportation paradigm while we still have the old one to facilitate its construction. This new and under-appreciated industry will grow, must grow, if we are to continue to live in the mobile world of today. Thus, sustainable transportation is not just an industry sectors with potential for growth, it is a necessity.



Students show some of their control hardware.

Past Projects

In its two years running, the Solar Skyways Challenge has included projects such as a computer animation which modeled the Swedish town of Uppsala and showed the construction of a new transportation system and the many side benefits it can bring, improving the quality of life in the city in many ways, both substantial and subtle. A group of over twenty students from San Jose State University created a 1/12th scale model of an automated transportation network, complete with control hardware and software. The system routes three vehicles around the track, navigating through a switch and merge to arrive at a designated station.

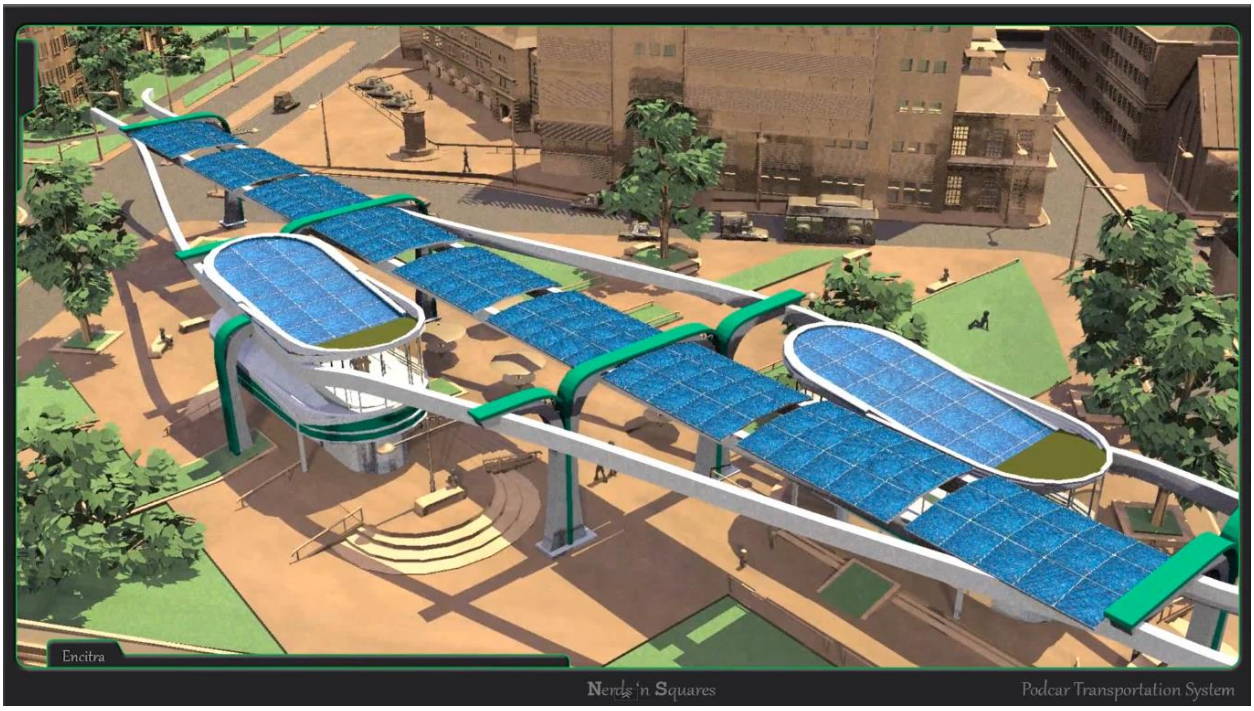


Image from an animated video showing the construction solar powered above grade transportation system and the many benefits it brings to the city of Uppsala, Sweden.

Sponsorship

The International Institute of Sustainable Transportation invites sponsorship from companies, organizations, and individuals with an opportunity to partner in support of sustainable transportation. As a sponsor of the Solar Skyways Challenge you're not only supporting this opportunity for interdisciplinary student teams to design and demonstrate transportation innovations, you're supporting green technology. If you are interested in publicity or having more interaction with the competition two key benefits are available to key sponsors. Logos can be featured in contest publications, banners at presentations and awards ceremonies, and our web sites. Additionally sponsors can request to receive the contestant applications and reports, creating a pipeline for the recruitment of talent from many fields. INIST is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and all donations can be made tax deductible.

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