



This November, Podcar City 9 in Mountain View, Silicon Valley, California, is hosting a series of special activities to encourage young people to take an active role in shaping the future — their future — in transportation. Please read here about the opportunities.

PODCAR CITY CONFERENCES — and youth moving Podcars/PRT/ATN ahead!

Podcar City is the annual international conference on automated transportation network innovation, bringing together major stakeholders developing solutions for transportation issues at all levels. The conference series was initiated by the Swedish Institute for Sustainable Transportation (IST) in cooperation with the USA-based International Institute of Sustainable Transportation (INIST), the Advanced Transit Association (ATRA), and the KOMPASS network of cities.

The aim is to have an open and creative debate on what Podcars (Personal and Group Rapid Transit) can achieve, what technologies are available, and what communities want. Podcar City addresses the role of podcars, PRT, and automated transportation networks in multimodal shared mobility; and the interplay between mobility, energy, cityscape and livability.

A key objective of Podcar City is to bring professionals together. In like fashion, the primary goal of the Youth Program at PCC9 is to bring together students working in the areas of engineering and environmental technologies, among others, to brainstorm and collaborate on developing solutions to the challenges of transportation. There will be several portions of the conference designed to engage students in the design process and facilitate collaboration in the field. Among these will be a design charrette and a poster session.

PCC9 Design Charrette:

There will be an all day student design charrette on November 4, before the conference's opening reception that evening. This will be an opportunity for the students to break into small groups, brainstorm and collaborate on project ideas. They will spend the day developing their ideas that they will then share during the main conference sessions and carry forward collaboratively after the conference.

PCC9 Lightning Talks and Poster Sessions:

During the PCC9 conference there will be a student "lightning talk" session, as well as student posters in the lobby. For example, there will be posters by students at Southern Illinois University (SIU) of an integrated podcar and bus metro station. Students will be available to discuss their ideas and answer questions as attendees view the posters.

2015 Silicon Valley Summer Internships:

In addition to the activities at the conference itself, there will be a summer internship program in Silicon Valley with students from around the world. These students will be working over the summer at the Podcar Design Center in Silicon Valley to develop and refine the Solar Podcar (ATN) technology being developed by the Spartan Superway team at San José State University. They will be managed, assisted, and mentored by SJSU faculty, INIST personnel, and industry professionals. Collectively, they will be laying the critical groundwork for the construction of a Full Scale Test Track.



Spartan Superway's Solar Podcar at Intersolar
July 2014

The summer team includes students from Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the USA. Students will begin arriving in mid-May. Limited space remains available to student interns arriving in June for the June/July/August timeframe.

Silicon Valley Podcar Test Track:

The logical next step for the Spartan Superway team, their mentors, and strategic sponsoring companies will be to create a modest technology demonstration and development track to prototype a fully operational Solar ATN. A full scale track will enable the team to generate, test, and demonstrate actual hardware and software that could subsequently be deployed. This proving ground is envisioned to serve as a test bed for ATN on the pathway forward to full implementation. Interested parties will gather at Podcar City 9 to develop collaboration in this initiative.

Next Steps:

Please set your calendars for Podcar City 9, November 4-6, 2015, at the Performing Arts Center in Mountain View, California.

To learn more about participating in the Podcar City student activities and the Silicon Valley summer internship programs, please contact:

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Thank you very much for your kind attention!