



DON HEIRMAN AWARD PROGRAM

ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY (EMC): HOW EMC AFFECTS OUR DAILY LIVES

The USNC Don Heirman Award Program gives students and young professionals the opportunity to compete in an annual paper competition on the topic of Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) for a **\$1,000 cash prize!**

All entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, June 5, 2026 to usnc@ansi.org, and must adhere to the following requirements:

- Answer the prompt, “How does EMC impact our daily lives?” **either through a 2–5 minute video clip or a 2,000 word or less essay.** Please use the subject line “USNC Don Heirman Award Program Submission.”
- Be developed and submitted electronically by an **emerging professional** (8 years or less of related experience) at a U.S. organization or **student** (enrolled full- or part-time in associate, undergraduate, or graduate programs during the period of September 2024 to June 2025 in U.S. higher education institutions)
- USNC staff is familiar with the style of generative-AI content; winning entries will demonstrate creativity and voice beyond what an LLM will generate.
- Examples of possible prompts: “From pacemakers to planes: How EMC saves lives.” (Highlight critical sectors like healthcare and aviation where EMC compliance is non-negotiable). “Green energy meets EMC: Why renewable systems need compatibility.” (Explore EMC considerations in solar, wind, and smart grids).

Submissions will be reviewed by the selection panel, including EMC experts and USNC ANSI staff. All entries will receive a certificate from ANSI recognizing the submission of the paper.

Winning qualified entrants will receive a cash prize of \$1,000, a certificate, their video or essay published in the USNC Current, and recognition on the USNC webpage. [View last year's winning entry.](#)



ABOUT DON HEIRMAN

Donald N. Heirman was one of the most prominent experts in the field of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC). Don chaired the international Special Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR) inside the IEC and was also at the head of the IEC Advisory Committee on EMC (ACEC). He was also an Honorary Life Member of the Technical Management Committee (TMC) of the USNC, as well as a key contributor to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). In November 2008, he was presented with the prestigious IEC Lord Kelvin award at the IEC General Meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

ABOUT USNC

As the U.S. representative to the IEC and many related regional standardization bodies, the USNC serves as a conduit to the global standards-setting community for technical and policy positions arising in the U.S. and brings issues from the global arena to the U.S. for review, consideration, and response. The USNC is a totally integrated committee of ANSI.