

Canadian High School Students Participate in the European Space Agency's CanSat Competition

IEEE Canada Foundation supports science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiative

BY JOE MUISE

In June 2019, a group of students from St. Thomas More Collegiate became the first Canadian team to take part in the European Space Agency's CanSat competition, thanks to an IEEE Canada Foundation Special Grant. The team of five students and their teacher, Joe Muise, travelled to Bologna, Italy, to compete against 19 other countries, demonstrating their technical skills in constructing a small probe that had to fit within the volume of a soda can (hence the name *CanSat*).

The probes were launched by rocket to an altitude of 1 km, and all teams had to collect and transmit temperature and pressure during descent. They also had to choose a secondary mission, and justify its scientific significance. The Burnaby students chose to create a topographical map from images collected during descent.

The students competed against teams from 18 other countries and were inspired to pursue careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. Two of the three graduating members of the team have already joined the CubeSat teams at their postsecondary institutions. The team is grateful for the support from IEEE Canada and the Canadian aerospace industry. ■

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The members of the St. Thomas More Collegiate CanSat team (from left): Victor Chen, Ryan Rizzo, Mike Wang, Ethan Rajkumar, and Philip Stachura.



The team members answer questions from the CanSat competition's judges.