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Cypriot PhD student wins prestigious international award



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A UNIVERSITY of Cyprus (UCY) PhD student has won a prestigious international award for his research into improving the performance of power distribution systems and potentially lowering electricity costs for consumers.

Markos Asprou, a PhD student at UCY and researcher at the KIOS Research Centre for Intelligent Systems and Networks, was given the Graduate Fellowship Award by the Instrumentation and Measurement Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

According to a released statement, the selection process for the award is extremely competitive, with applications received from student members of the IEEE from around the world.

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This year, the award was given to three candidates only, with the other two winners hailing from universities in the USA.

The award comes in the form of a \$15,000 grant to undertake important research in the area of Instrumentation and Measurement.

"This is a significant recognition of the quality and level of research being undertaken by Markos Asprou at the KIOS Research Centre for Intelligent Systems and Networks and the University of Cyprus," said the statement.

In his research proposal, Asprou focused on the optimisation of electric power systems and the improvement of their performance through better monitoring systems.

More specifically, the award will support research to develop a concrete and robust methodology for identifying and estimating the erroneous transmission line parameters that are stored in the database of the control centres of electric utilities.

The errors in the line parameters may be due to obsolete databases, inaccurate data, or changes in the properties of the lines after repairs. Research in this area could potentially improve the effectiveness and efficiency of power distribution systems, avoiding unnecessary failures, as well as potentially reducing electricity costs for consumers.

Asprou obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree at UCY. His work is supervised by Professor Elias Kyriakides, assistant professor at the UCY Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and associate director of the KIOS Research Centre.

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