***Aero Design Competitions***

Each year SAE International organizes the global aero design competitions namely SAE INTERNATIONAL AERO DESIGN SERIES, EAST and WEST. Aero Modelling teams from all over the world fly to USA for this prestigious competition and compete. Only 75 teams per competition are allowed. The teams have to prepare a complete Design Report and a 2 D Drawing of their designed and fabricated RC plane. At the competition, a technical presentation is conducted followed by a series of flight rounds. The competition has 3 classes to participate in according to the criterion of planes, the classes being Advanced Class, Regular Class and Micro Class.

SAE India Southern Section (SAEISS) also organises a yearly aero design competition named SAEISS Aero Design Challenge. Aero Modelling teams from length and breadth of India, come here and compete. 100 teams are allowed per competition. The competition is somewhat similar to the one conducted by SAE International. The teams have to prepare a complete Design Report and a 2 D Drawing of their designed and fabricated RC plane. At the competition, a technical presentation is conducted followed by a series of flight rounds. This competition has 2 classes to participate in according to the criterion of planes, the classes being Regular Class and Micro Class.

The aero modelling team from AISSMS College of Engineering, Pune; ‘Team Garudashwa’ participates in both these prestigious competitions. The team works whole year and designs and fabricates the plane in the college itself. The team has several students from different departments, united by a single interest, ie aeronautics. At SAE International Aero Design Series 2017, the team participated in Advanced class and Regular Class. The team came 14th globally in advanced class and 26th globally in Regular Class. At SAEISS Aero Design Challenge 2018, the team participated in Regular Class and secured outstanding results and came 1st all over the country to become the national champions! At SAE International Aero Design Series 2018, the team participated in Advanced Class and secured 18th position globally. At SAEISS Aero Design Challenge, the team bagged the third position for Best Design Report in the Regular Class.

Aeronautics and Aero modelling have immense potential in the future for all those becoming engineers. Not just the theoretical knowledge, but such competitions also provide a platform to judge the practical application abilities and management skills.