

# News Release

Phoenix Contact USA, Inc.  
586 Fulling Mill Road  
Middletown, PA 17057  
Phone: 717-944-1300, ext. 3721  
Email: [mmcgowan@phoenixcontact.com](mailto:mmcgowan@phoenixcontact.com)

**Molly McGowan, APR**  
Media Services Specialist

**For release:** May 30, 2024

## **Fourth-graders race solar cars Phoenix Contact wraps up year-long STEM program at Foose Elementary School**

**Middletown, Pa. –** Fourth-grade students at Foose Elementary School in Harrisburg put the power of the sun to the test today, as they raced solar cars down a ramp. The event was the finale of the 2023-24 Think BIG program, a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum developed by engineers at Phoenix Contact.

Each month, from November through May, Phoenix Contact employees volunteered in the classroom to teach hands-on science lessons. The curriculum uses engineering methods to solve problems in the context of clean energy. Over the course of the year, the students learned about wind power and solar energy as they designed and built windmills and the solar cars they raced today.

“Building the solar cars was a new addition to the curriculum this year, and they are a fun way to show the students the power of the sun,” said Patricia Marrero, vice president of organizational development and talent acquisition at Phoenix Contact. “The students, teachers, and Phoenix Contact employees always have a great time during the Think BIG lessons, and we’re excited that even more students will get to participate in the program during the 2024-25 school year.”

Phoenix Contact developed the Think BIG program in 2017 in partnership with Foose Elementary. In October 2023, Phoenix Contact announced an expansion of the program through the Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU) 15. CAIU will use a \$565,000 donation from Phoenix Contact to formalize and expand the curriculum to an additional 15 to 20 schools in Central Pennsylvania.

### **About Phoenix Contact**

Phoenix Contact is a global market leader based in Germany. Since 1923, Phoenix Contact has created products to connect, distribute, and control power and data flows. Our products are found in nearly all industrial settings, but we have a strong focus on the energy, infrastructure, process, factory automation, and e-mobility markets. Sustainability and responsibility guide every action we take, and we’re proud to work with our customers to empower a smart and sustainable world for future generations. Our global network includes 22,000 employees in 100+ countries. Phoenix Contact USA has headquarters near Harrisburg, Pa., and employs more than 1,100 people across the U.S.

For more information about Phoenix Contact or its products, visit [www.phoenixcontact.com](http://www.phoenixcontact.com), call technical service at 800-322-3225, or email [info@phoenixcontact.com](mailto:info@phoenixcontact.com).

###