



## **Si Se Puede Foundation**

To bridge the STEM divide in underserved populations

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Salt River Project Donates to Si Se Puede Foundation's Desert WAVE Team**

**Chandler, Arizona** — 1-7-25 — Salt River Project (SRP), a community-based not-for-profit water and energy company, has donated funding to the Si Se Puede Foundation's Desert WAVE autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) team. This generous contribution will support the team's ongoing efforts to advance STEM education and innovation while competing on an international stage.

Desert WAVE (Women in Autonomous Vehicle Engineering) is an autonomous underwater robotics team founded by the Si Se Puede Foundation. Composed primarily of minority students from Arizona State University, the team builds and programs AUVs to compete in prestigious robotics competitions such as International RoboSub competition. These competitions challenge participants to solve complex underwater tasks, fostering critical skills in engineering, computer programming, and teamwork.

SRP's donation will provide Desert WAVE with crucial resources, including advanced technology, manufacturing materials, and competition travel expenses. These investments will enhance the team's ability to innovate and inspire young women and underrepresented students in STEM fields.

"We are deeply grateful to SRP for their unwavering support of our mission to bridge the STEM divide in underserved communities," said Faridodin Lajvardi, CEO of the Si Se Puede Foundation. "This partnership will empower the next generation of engineers and innovators, demonstrating the incredible impact that can be achieved when businesses invest in education and opportunity."

SRP's commitment to community enrichment and sustainability aligns closely with the mission of the Si Se Puede Foundation, which is dedicated to preparing underserved populations for the 21st-century workforce. By investing in programs like Desert WAVE, SRP continues to champion initiatives that drive economic and educational advancement in Arizona.

Desert WAVE has earned accolades for its groundbreaking achievements, including high rankings at international competitions having never been beaten by any American University and winning the world title this past August. Beyond its technical successes, the team serves as a role model for young women and underrepresented groups, demonstrating the transformative power of STEM education.

For more information about Desert WAVE or to learn how you can support the Si Se Puede Foundation's initiatives, visit [sisepuedefoundation.org](http://sisepuedefoundation.org) or contact Fredi Lajvardi, at [fredi.lajvardi@sisepuedefoundation.org](mailto:fredi.lajvardi@sisepuedefoundation.org), 480-266-9929.