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IEEE'S NEWEST ENTITY FOCUSES ON SOLVING TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS WORLDWIDE

For some engineers, 1999 New Year's Day activities include celebrating the birth of a new entity dedicated to studying intelligent transportation systems (ITS). The Technical Activities Board (TAB) of the 320,000-member Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) voted to transform the TAB Ad Hoc Committee on ITS into a permanent entity, the new Intelligent Transportation Systems Council (ITS Council), which begins activities January 1, 1999.

The ITS Council joins the ranks of 37 other societies and councils within IEEE. The purpose of the Council is to advance and coordinate scientific, literary and educational work in the field of ITS throughout IEEE and the larger ITS community. The ITS Council's field of interest includes the theoretical, experimental and operational aspects of electrical and electronics engineering and information technologies as applied to all intelligent transportation efforts.

Membership

Eighteen societies with interests in the field of ITS are already members of the ITS Council. That's more than half the total number of IEEE Societies. The ITS Council's founding members include the following:

- Aerospace & Electronic Systems
- Antennas & Propagation
- Communications
- Computer
- Consumer Electronics
- Control Systems
- Electromagnetic Compatibility
- Electron Devices
- Industrial Electronics
- Instrumentation & Measurement
- Microwave Theory & Techniques

- Power Electronics
- Professional Communication
- Reliability
- Robotics & Automation
- Signal Processing
- Systems, Man & Cybernetics
- Vehicular Technology

Each member society names two representatives to the Council. The society representatives bring a broad spectrum of backgrounds from large corporations, consulting firms, academia, and trade associations.

Conferences

The Council continues a series of IEEE ITS conferences that was launched with ITSC'97. Held November 1997 in Boston, the first conference drew close to 500 engineers from corporations and governments around the world. The focus of this and future ITSC conferences is on cutting-edge electronics technologies and their applications for ITS. Tokyo is the site of the next ITSC conference in October 1999. Plans for ITSC 2000 in Detroit are also well along.

The ITS Council will be governed by a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer elected annually. In the transitional year (1999), the officers are:

- President: Dr. Umit Ozguner, Ohio State University
- Vice President: Dr. Ichiro Masaki
- Secretary: Ms. Emily Sopensky, The Iris Company
- Treasurer: Dr. Richard Klafter, Temple University

Publications

The first issue of the ITS Council's quarterly journal, *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, is scheduled for March 2000. Dr. Chelsea C. White, III, Director of the ITS Research Center of Excellence at the University of Michigan, is slated to become Editor of the Transactions. White was the first chair of the predecessor IEEE ITS Ad Hoc Committee when it was organized in 1993. A call for papers will be posted at the Council's website www.ieee.org/its.

An electronic newsletter for the TAB ITS Council is planned to start by the end of 1998 with Dr. Alberto Broggi (University of Pavia, Italy) as editor.

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