

MEMORANDUM

To: AESS Board of Directors
From: Edward Reedy
Vice President of Publications
Subject: Vice President for Publications Report for Fall 2004 Meeting (Autotestcon, 2004
San Antonio, Texas)
Date: September 22, 2004

1. General: Several issues are currently being addressed in the publications area:

1) IEEE 5-Year Reviews

AESS is under going, simultaneously, at this Fall's IEEE Board Series in San Antonio (November 16 & 17, 2004) both an AESS overall Society Review and a TAB Publications Review of the AESS publications, the Systems Magazine and Transactions. The entire publications team is preparing material for these two reviews. Evelyn Hirt is pulling together the Magazine review material; Dale Blair the Transactions; and Joel Walker is adapting their inputs for the AESS Review. Dave Dobson is assisting with specific data and inputs to both reviews and assisting me with writing answers to some of the general questions. At least in the Pubs area, these two reviews are asking for considerable redundant information. Per IEEE Guidelines, both EICs are expected to attend the Pubs review along with the Society President. I can attend also if needed.

2) Error in "Systems" Magazine Publication Schedule

The last week of August I was asked by the IEEE Headquarters staff to confirm the AESS Magazine and Transactions schedule for 2005 (which I did) to be included in the IEEE Membership Brochures. Then Sharon Nadler called me on September 7 to again ask about the schedule and indicated a problem might have occurred. Evidently, someone involved in developing this year's membership brochure misinterpreted some financial information that was submitted and concluded, erroneously, that AESS was changing our schedule for the Magazine to four issues per year rather than twelve. The brochures had already been printed and, in some cases mailed, and could not be corrected. (In fact, this was the case even before I was asked to confirm our schedule.) The IEEE web site will have the correct Magazine publication schedule, however. All of us need to be aware of the error and be able to answer the inevitable questions.

3) Electronic Editing and Manuscript Management

As Dale Blair discusses in his report, AESS has contracted with E-Journal Press for a web-based manuscript review process. It was first implemented with the Transactions and is now being extended to the Magazine with outstanding success. We are already experiencing the efficiencies. This new process has greatly streamlined the manuscript review process and reduced the administrative workload on our editors. In addition, Dale estimates, AESS is saving about \$5000 per year over what the same service would cost through the IEEE.

4) Policy for Handling Plagiarism Complaints

A policy for handling plagiarism complaints was developed by Dale Blair and approved by the AESS Board at our last meeting. It is now in place to serve AESS should such a policy be required in the future.

2. Administrative Editor Report

Dave Dobson, Administrative Editor, reports that AESS will close the year very close to our 1500 page budget for the Transactions. He also noted that “we are running close to our input, with a very short delay.” Two consequences of this are that we are consistently averaging less than a five-month delay between the release date and the actual publication date, and the publication backlog is currently low. Dave, Evelyn, and Joel Walker continue to express concerns about the lack of any significant inputs from the various AESS entities (from Board members on down) for the “Systems” Magazine. Are there suggestions for improving this situation?

3. “Transactions”

Dr Dale Blair, Editor-in-Chief of the “Transactions” continues to make new Editor and Associate Editor appointments. His most recent are summarized in his report at Attachment I. Other items of interest, including new policy on plagiarism, cooperation with the 2004 Radar Conference, and the new web-based manuscript review process are also discussed in Dale’s report.

4. “Systems” Magazine

Under Evelyn Hirt’s leadership as Editor in Chief, the “Systems” Magazine continues its steady improvement culminating in a very excellent August and September 2004 issues. As previously indicated, news and information inputs to the magazine have improved. However, more inputs from AESS Officers and Chapters are still needed. Also, the Magazine is rapidly moving to the same web based manuscript review process as that used by the Transactions. Accolades continue to be received for the July 2003 Centennial of Flight Issue of the Magazine which was published under the leadership of Ron Schroer. It received the honorable mention in the Magnum Opus Award Competition. See the September Issue of the Magazine for more details. In addition, for the fourth consecutive year, the Magazine has received an “Apex Award for Publications Excellence.”

In summary, the past several months have been very busy for members of the AESS publications team, and, at the same time, very productive. Our publications continue to expand and improve.

Attachments

Status of the IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems

By

Dale Blair, Editor-In-Chief

September 12, 2004

Transactions Management

Lance Kaplan and Peter Willet currently serve as Associate Editor-In-Chief. This structure helps us to provide a better product to our customers and improve the transition of Editor-In-Chief.

Peter Willet attended the IEEE Panel of Editors Meeting in Boston during April.

Editors

- Moved Dr. Lance Kaplan of Clark-Atlanta University from Editor for Radar Systems to Editor for EO/IR Systems. The transactions have been very weak in EO/IR Systems area and I hope to improve that situation through more timely reviews of those manuscripts.
- Moved Edward Chornoboy of MIT/LL from Associate Editor for Radar Systems to Editor for Radar Systems.
- Appointed Rangaswamy Muralidhar of AFRL as Associate Editor for Radar Systems.

M. Barry Carlton Award

- Nominations for 2002
 - "Outlier resistant adaptive matched filtering," by Karl Gerlach
 - "Vector Subspace Detection in non-Gaussian Clutter: Part I and Part II", by Fulvio Gini and Alfonso Farina (and with Monica Montanari-part II)
- Nominations for 20303
 - "Analysis of the Impact of Non-Quadratic Optimization-based SAR Imaging on Feature Enhancement and ATR Performance" by Cetin, Karl, and Castanon

- "Survey of Maneuvering Target Tracking: Pt. I: Dynamic Models," by Li and Jilkov
- "Bayesian Gamma Mixture Model Approach to Radar Target Recognition," by Copsey and Webb
- Selection of the 2002 Award will be made in October 2004
- Selection of the 2003 Award will be made in December 2004
- Selection of M. Barry Carlton Award will be made by a vote of the editors.
- Articles announcing the awards will appear in IEEE Systems Magazine.

Editorial Procedures

- Added questions for authors submitting manuscripts concerning IEEE and IEEE AESS membership.
- Updated the Editor Information on IEEE AESS web site.
- Continued web-based review process hosted by E-Journal Press rather than the IEEE endorsed Manuscript Central. We have had good service from E-Journal Press and saved at least \$5000 per year.
 - Manuscript submission at <http://taes.msubmit.net>
 - Link added to IEEE AESS web site
 - Revised "Information for Authors" for new submission process.
 - Added pop-up box that cautions authors about plagiarism.
 - Some delays have been experienced in getting editors started to use the system. Most of the editors are now using the system.
 - 280 New manuscripts submitted electronically from Sept 2003 through August 2004.
 - 3 manuscripts accepted with revision.
 - 38 manuscripts rejected
 - 71 manuscripts returned for minor revisions
 - 11 manuscripts accepted after minor revisions
 - 45 Revised manuscripts have been submitted.
 - Review times are significantly less. Average review times are running about 125 days.
 - System includes automatic reporting on status of manuscripts.
- Policy on handling complaints of plagiarism.
 - A formal complaint of plagiarism with documentation is to be made in writing to the EIC of the transactions. The EIC reviews the plagiarism claim to assess the legitimacy of the complaint and appropriateness and completeness of the documentation. For legitimate complaints with appropriate and complete documentation as determined by the EIC, the EIC appoints the Technical Editor for the area of the paper under question to a committee including the VP for Publications and Associate VP for Publications for IEEE AESS to serve as an oversight/evaluation committee for the plagiarism complaint. The committee will solicit input from independent, anonymous investigators as needed to make their assessment. The EIC then provides the documentation to those on the

committee. At the same time without acknowledging the claimant, the EIC provides a copy of the documentation to the accused offender to notify them of the complaint. Any response from the accused offender that is provided within 30 days will be provided to the committee. The committee has 60 days to render a decision on the plagiarism. After the committee issues a decision, the EIC provides that decision with justification to the claimant and accused offender. Either can then appeal that decision to IEEE headquarters. Decisions of the EIC are appealed directly to the VP for Publications for IEEE AESS. If found guilty of plagiarism, the offender will receive sanctions on publishing in the IEEE Transactions on AES and the IEEE Systems Magazine.

Other

- Special Section in cooperation with the 2004 IEEE Radar Conference entitled “Innovative Radar Technologies – Expanding System Capabilities.” Dr. Pierfrancesco Lombardo, Associate Editor for Radar Systems, will be overseeing/managing the review process.
 - Special Section on “Knowledge-Based Signal Processing” is in progress. Guest editors are Dr. Joe Guerci and Dr. Bill Melvin.

