

AICN Newsletter

The Quarterly Publication of the Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks

AICNCC Committee News

Hermann Amaya: New Chair of the Alliance of IEEE Consultants' Networks Coordinating Committee

The new chair of the Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks Coordinating Committee (AICNCC) is Hermann Amaya. Hermann is an IEEE senior member, and also chair and founder of the IEEE Florida West Coast Section Consultants' Network Affinity Group since its inception on 31 March 2009. Amaya was appointed to AICNCC in October 2012. His dedication to the local chapter has been focused on developing the members' consultants businesses, by providing them with a series of conferences and chats by subject matter experts in consulting law, setting up a corporation, working with the federal government, and professional licensure, among many other topics geared toward assisting consultants in successfully setting up and maintaining their practices.

Amaya has been an independent consultant for more than 13 years, and he is currently directing Amher Corporation, a firm delving into systems tests, automatic test equipment, power, purchasing for Latin America, and bids and proposals for the federal government. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy and the State of Florida are among the corporations customers.

In his personal time, Amaya volunteers with Pinellas County Schools, as a trilingual (English, Spanish and French) tutor, having been honored with the 2012 Friend of World Languages Award. Most recently, he was selected as one of five finalists for the Superintendent's Unsung Hero Awards, for dedicated service in support of his wife's teaching career.



Amaya succeeds William R. Kassebaum as AICNCC chair. Kassebaum served three years as chair, and will remain on the committee as past chair. Remaining members of AICNCC are Larry Nelson of the Boston Section IEEE Consultants Network; Bill Grist, chair of the Computer Society for the Foothill Section, co-chair of the Employment Network, and a member of the Orange County (Calif.) Consultants Network and Los Angeles Consultant Network; and Gary Blank, past AICNCC chair and IEEE-USA president-elect.

National Consultants Network

IEEE Consultant Members Can Now Join the IEEE Consultants Network

IEEE consultants now have a new option that will provide additional resources and networking opportunities. By joining the IEEE Consultants Network, IEEE members will receive the Alliance of IEEE Consultants' Networks (AICN) quarterly newsletter, invitations to IEEE-USA consultant

webinars, and they will receive special AICN information announcements. Also, by joining, we will be able to match you with your local consultants' networks. If there is not one near you we will be able to assist in creating a new

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For questions, comments or submissions
please contact Daryll Griffin at +1 202 530 8337
or d.r.griffin@ieee.org.

www.ieeeusa.org/business



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consultants network in your area. You can sign up when you renew your [IEEE membership](#). Just look for the *Special Interest Groups* section on the renewal form and find IEEE Consultants Network. Add this to your shopping cart, at no cost, and you will become part of the IEEE Consultants Network. You can also share this information with other consultants who plan to join IEEE. This option is also available to new members who are signing up to join IEEE for the first time.

Additional Support for Consultants

As you may know, IEEE-USA also provides consultants with a premium consultants' package for \$99 a year. This package provides you with:

- One listing in the IEEE-USA Consultants Database searchable by potential employers
- Free eBooks on Consulting
- Free exclusive webinar on consulting

The IEEE-USA Consultants Database is an online searchable database populated with independent engineering consultants. Businesses and clients can search this database for independent engineering consultants like you. It provides a variety of searching methods such as keyword search, technical category search or an advance searching methods where businesses can use location, expertise and other technical categories to refine their search.

Consultants who have a profile listing in this online database are independent engineering consultants, with expertise in many different fields of engineering. Please visit the [IEEE-USA Consultants Database](#). This tool enhances your online presence, makes it easier to network with fellow consultants, and

provides additional opportunities for potential clients to find you.

How Do You Sign Up?

You can sign up for the IEEE-USA Consultants Database by visiting: www.ieeeusa.org/business and click "Register." (In the future, we're working so you will be able to sign-up for an IEEE-USA Consultants Database listing at the same time when you're renewing your IEEE membership.) Please contact me Daryll Griffin (d.r.griffin@ieee.org) with any questions you may have about IEEE Consultants Network or IEEE-USA's Consultant database.

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Building Your Career

Advance Your Career With the IEEE Wireless Communication Certification

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EXAM PERIOD IS FAST APPROACHING

By Elena Neira

This blog post was originally posted on the [The Institute](#) website on 6 February. It is reprinted here with permission.

With new mobile technologies constantly being introduced into the marketplace and with increased competitiveness in the job market, many professionals are asking themselves, "What can I do to stand out?" and "What talent are employers seeking to bring on board?" For wireless communication professionals, earning the IEEE Wireless Communication Engineering Technologies (WCET) Certification, offered by the IEEE Communications Society, can be the answer. It was for me.

One of the most important parts of going through the WCET certification process was to sharpen my skills and demonstrate up-to-date qualifications for the job I wanted to land. Successfully passing the IEEE WCET exam allowed me to add the IEEE Wireless Communications Professional (WCP) credential to my résumé. This helped me stand out as an expert in the field, and helped me land a new job. Because I believe in the WCET program, I serve as the WCP liaison to the

IEEE Communication Society, and lead networking, professional development, and job search activities for other IEEE WCPs.

Earning the IEEE WCP credential can also help you demonstrate that you have the necessary knowledge, practical problem-solving skills, and can apply them in real-world situations to develop and implement high-quality deliverables. At the rate in which the wireless industry is growing, there's an ever-increasing need for qualified and experienced professionals on which companies can rely to improve and create new products, reach new markets, and advance to next-generation technologies. Those who earn the IEEE WCP credential have effectively demonstrated their breadth of knowledge by successfully passing the certification exam, which covers these seven areas of expertise: RF engineering, propagation, and antennas; wireless access technologies; network and service architecture; network management and security; facilities infrastructure; agreements, standards, policies, and regulations; and fundamental knowledge.

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from **today's engineer**

To P.E. or Not to P.E.?

By Steven F. Barrett, Ph.D., P.E.

In the late 1990s, like many mid-career engineers, I pondered whether I should go become a licensed professional engineer (P.E.). The entire process was a bit of a mystery. After a satisfying and successful career as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force, I was beginning to make plans for active duty "retirement,"

and a second academic career. At the time, I was serving as a faculty member in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs.

Read the rest of the article in the July 2009 issue of *Today's Engineer* at: <http://www.todaysengineer.org/2009/jul/PE.asp>

RFP-EZ

A Technology Marketplace That Everybody Loves

Let's Make a Deal: Introducing RFP-EZ

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is taking the wraps off of a new experiment in government contracting: [RFP-EZ](#). This project is an exciting partnership between the [US Small Business Administration](#) and the [White House's Presidential Innovation Fellows](#). The intent is a simple one—make it easier for companies to sell to the government, and easier for the government to buy from companies.

How do I use RFP-EZ?

If you've never done business with the federal government before, you don't have to worry about getting on any schedules, or dealing with a cumbersome registration process. Through RFP-EZ, a company can easily search for an opportunity, see a statement of work, and bid for a project—all on the RFP-EZ site.

You can register and start bidding now. Go to: <http://rfpez.sba.gov>.

What kinds of projects are available for bid?

You can bid on a variety of contracts, ranging from video transcription, to web design, to web application development. Projects range from \$3,000 to \$150,000.

How can I give feedback to the RFP-EZ process?

The SBA is committed to listening to small business owners, taking their ideas, and turning them into solutions. As the SBA learns more from this experiment, they hope to expand procurement opportunities to other categories. RFP-EZ will be open for a limited time, as the SBA measure its impact, and determines how to best move forward. It's important that you give the SBA any feedback, comments, or new ideas you may have. Follow them on Twitter [@ProjectRFPEZ](#), or email rfpez@sba.gov.



The AICN is now on Facebook. Check us out at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/IEEE-Consultants-Network/116356868419773>

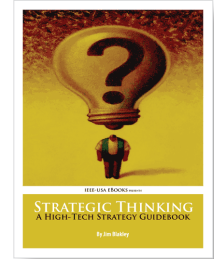
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iPad/iPhone users, download the *IEEE-USA in ACTION* app from the iTunes store. Read reviews, get customer ratings, see screenshots, and learn more about *IEEE-USA in ACTION*.



Free IEEE-USA E-Book

IEEE-USA's Free Member E-Books Focuses on Strategic Thinking, Leadership



As a special benefit in February, IEEE-USA is offering free to members the E-Book, [Strategic Thinking: A High Tech Strategy Guidebook](#), by IEEE Senior Member Jim Blakley.

This how-to guide is designed to show the processes and frameworks that enable strategists to create and implement good strategy. It is structured into three sections reflecting the strategic process: analysis, synthesis and action.

In March, members can download for free [Launching Your Career: A Practitioner's Guide to Leadership](#). This E-Book provides a starting point for those interested in becoming more effective leaders by stimulating thought, motivating practice, and inspiring

reflection.

To purchase IEEE Members-only products and to receive the member discount on eligible products, members must log in with their IEEE Web Account.

Call for Authors

IEEE-USA E-books seek authors to write an e-book or a series on career guidance and development topics. If you have an idea for an e-book that will benefit members on a particular topic of expertise, email your proposal to IEEE-USA Publishing Manager Georgia C. Stelluto at g.stelluto@ieee.org, and IEEE-USA E-Book Chair Gus Gaynor at g.gaynor@ieee.org.

Public Policy

IEEE-USA Partners with SmartBrief for Weekly Newsletter



IEEE-USA has formed a new partnership with *SmartBrief*, a company specializes in hand-picking the most relevant and important news items of interest to IEEE's U.S. members, and summarizing them with links to the original sources.

[IEEE-USA SmartBrief](#) is replacing IEEE-USA's *Eye on Washington* publication, which focused on political activities affecting engineers. Since *SmartBrief* has such a vast network of publications partners, AICN has requested that this new publication include news on consulting from time to time. The 8 November 2012 issue included an article on *Hiring a Tech Consultant?*

[Sign up](#) today for *IEEE-USA Smart Brief* to finish reading this and other exciting stories.

Hiring a tech consultant? Think about this first

Hiring an IT consultant can be a good way for a company to temporarily bolster its workforce for project-specific tasks, but it's not as simple as just adding a desk, experts say. To avoid legal issues, companies need to determine whether a consultant is an employee, or an independent contractor... more at CIO.com (11/7)

"Advance Your Career With the IEEE Wireless Communication Certification" continued from **page 3**

RELIABLE EXPERTISE

Having the IEEE WCP credential after your name designates you as a reliable, intuitive, and forward-looking professional adept in the major areas of wireless communication. "WCET certification distinguishes me as a wireless expert," says Jeff Smith of Cisco Systems, a WCP credential holder, about the program. "For customers, the certification helps provide a level of trust that they are being advised by a certified wireless engineer."

Going through the certification process can also be a way to learn about one's areas of strength and better understand those areas in which further development is needed. Individuals who have gone through the steps to prepare for the certification exam gain a better understanding of their current skill set and are better equipped to communicate their capabilities to others. I personally found that learning about my skills and knowledge after going through the certification process gave me even more confidence to follow my career goals and helped me better communicate my skills to colleagues and employers.

INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY

According to the *Wireless Telecommunications Services: Global Industry Guide*, "In 2016, the global wireless telecom services market is forecast to have a volume of 5.6 million subscribers, an increase of 21.7 percent since 2011." The Asia-Pacific region will account for the largest percentage of that market said the report.

Due to the transnational nature of mobile technologies, the IEEE Communications Society steering committee that oversees the program and an industry advisory board consisting of members from around the world work to keep it aligned with the latest technical advancements and industry needs worldwide. Therefore, another advantage of being an IEEE WCP is that your knowledge is not limited to U.S. markets because you learn about global opportunities as well.

Also, the IEEE Communications Society has partnered with organizations like the Mobile Computing Promotion Consortium of Japan and the National Taiwan University

of Science and Technology of Taiwan, whose goals include better positioning their organizations' constituents to address the needs of the wireless communication industry.

GETTING CERTIFIED

The IEEE WCET certification exam is offered twice a year, during the second and third quarters. The next testing window will be open from 7 April to 4 May 2013 but candidates must apply to take the exam by 22 March 2013. Testing locations are at Prometric centers around the world, so candidates can choose the location most convenient for them. I personally found the application process simple to complete and locating a testing facility nearby was easy. On the WCET [website](#) are additional details about the exam and how to apply. It also includes a number of resources to support candidates in preparing for the exam, such as a practice exam and the *2013 Candidate's Handbook*. You can also download the IEEE WCET Android mobile app to get access to an up-to-date calendar, podcast, videos, and more. Search for "IEEE WCET" on Google Play. An iPhone version will be released soon.

Candidates can also connect with others preparing for the exam and those who are already IEEE WCPs through the [IEEE WCET Group on LinkedIn](#). I'm a member of the LinkedIn group and find it to be a great place to connect with others and grow my professional network. In addition, [ComSoc Training](#) lists online and in-person training courses on various wireless related topics that can help you sharpen your skills in the communications field. Though none of the courses offered cover the contents of the WCET certification exam, they can be helpful in helping you prepare. ComSoc Training even offers a special training and certification exam seat package for one price, making it more affordable.

Neira is the IEEE Wireless Communication Professional Liaison to the IEEE Communications Society Steering Committee.