

Terms of Reference

IEEE Government Engagement Program on Standards

1. Name and Purpose

The IEEE Government Engagement Program on Standards (GEPS) is a tailored program for government officials around the world where they can learn about IEEE standards and contribute to standards discussions. The program provides a unique opportunity for representatives from government ministries and agencies to interact with IEEE standards leadership and technical experts. GEPS representatives can also connect with their colleagues from other government bodies in an environment that facilitates the exchange of information, perspectives and insights on government priorities at the intersection of technology, standards and policy.

2. Aims

The Program aims to:

- Increase governments' understanding of the globally open and consensus-driven IEEE standards development paradigm and IEEE's role within the larger standardization ecosystem
- Inform governments about the IEEE approved standards, standards in development and standards-related programs, initiatives and focus areas
- Enable input from government officials to the IEEE Standards Development Process
- Encourage a global perspective on standardization

3. Benefits

Through participating in the program, GEPS representatives will:

- Gain first-hand information about the IEEE Standards Association's (SA) activities and plans
- Learn about new IEEE standards projects, certification and conformity assessment programs and open source activities
- Have an opportunity to inform and shape IEEE SA's direction and priorities
- Gain insight into how IEEE SA engages with international, regional and national standards bodies, as well as with other actors in the global standardization arena
- Be able to share views and information with thought leaders and other government participants

- Directly interact with IEEE SA leadership and professional staff, both locally and globally
- Have the opportunity, if they choose, to be considered for membership in the IEEE SA Standards Board and its committees, per IEEE SA Policies and Procedures

4. Program Participation

A government body interested in joining GEPS shall assign a person who will act as the government body or agency *'representative'*, *'nominee'* or *'participant'* in GEPS. To note; the terms *'members'*, *'nominees'*, *'representatives'* and *'participants'* are used interchangeably for those government bodies that are assigned by their organization to join the GEPS program.

Participation in GEPS shall be by government body or agency and is open to interested government bodies/organizations from around the world. A list of all current GEPS participants can be accessed at: <https://standards.ieee.org/about/intl/geps/index.html>

Interested government bodies may identify a person from outside of their organization who will act as the organization's representative. In that case, the identified person will be listed as such on the IEEE GEPS website as a representative of the associated government body and the IEEE Standards Association Standards Board (SASB) website. The appointed representative will be responsible for providing the information to the government body.

If requested, it is possible for two people from the same organization to participate in the program: a primary (official) and an alternate (operation) contact. In addition to the primary and alternate contact, which will be listed on the IEEE GEPS and the IEEE SASB website, additional persons from the same organization may be added to the GEPS email list and participate in GEPS meetings as appropriate. Multiple government bodies or agencies from the country can join GEPS, each having their own representative.

As part of becoming a GEPS member, IEEE will list the GEPS representative's full name and affiliation, and will place the organization's logo on the IEEE GEPS website and the IEEE SASB website. The representative's email address will be added to the GEPS email lists which will be used to share information about IEEE that is relevant to GEPS representatives.

4.1. Terms

Participation in GEPS is voluntary. There are no term limits for persons specifically or organizations in general for serving as a GEPS representative. Government bodies joining GEPS are participants/ representatives in the program until otherwise noted to IEEE SA. Program participants assign a representative and this person can remain the representative or be changed at any time at the discretion of the body that is participating in the program.

5. Financial Commitment

Participation in GEPS is free of charge. IEEE SA does not reimburse for engagement in GEPS, including travel-related expenses.

6. Meetings

6.1 IEEE GEPS representatives meet virtually approximately every quarter for an informative topical webinar specific to GEPS representatives. The IEEE GEPS webinars are open to all representatives from the same government body participating in GEPS. Representatives also meet virtually in other discussions, including in virtual round-table discussions on topics concerning technology, standards and policy.

6.2 IEEE GEPS representatives are invited to participate in open sessions of the IEEE SA Standards Board (SASB) meetings. The SASB meets four times per year, either in-person or virtually.

7. Contributions and Engagement

GEPS participants are observers of the SASB and its committees and do not have voting privileges.

GEPS participants may request to present an information item to the SASB and/or submit an informational written report, at the discretion of the SASB Chairperson.

GEPS participants may propose (a) topic(s) of interest that they would like to learn more about, and which may be discussed during a GEPS webinar or round-table discussion.

GEPS representatives also have the opportunity to be directly connected to the relevant subject-matter expert(s) at IEEE, if desired.

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