IEEE UKRI Section Report October 2010

Officers: 

- Chair: Christopher James
- Past Chair: Seán McLoone
- Vice Chair: Nihal Sinnadurai
- Secretary: Kang Li
- Treasurer: Nicholas Wright
- Student Activities Officer: Appointment in Progress
- GOLD Coordinator: Yang Yang
- Industry Liaison: Nihal Sinnadurai
- Membership Development: Adam Jastrzebski, Ali Rezazadeh, Giuseppe De Francesco and Nihal Sinnadurai
- Section Newsletter Editors: Brian Harrington, Charles Turner
- Women In Engineering: Theresa Schofield
- Chapter Coordinator: Izzet Kale
- Republic of Ireland: James Christie
- Awards & Fellows: Charles Turner
- Conference Coordination: Marwan Al-Akaidi

Membership:
The active UKRI Section membership as of the end of August 2010 is 9925. This includes 143 Fellows, 802 Senior Members, 6989 Members, 1023 Graduate Student Members and 448 Student Members. This represents a decline of 1.81% in membership on the same time last year. The decline is mainly down to the reduction by 18.24% in Associate Members and also, by 2.10% in the Members category. Closer analysis of the monthly figures shows that Higher Grade Total increased by 3.2% since July but Student Members decreased by 27.97% in the same period. However, we are still showing gain of 1.22% month on month.

Date of above results by using SAMIEEE: 10th September 2010

Meetings:
The section, through its 29 chapters and 3 affinity groups, held over 220 technical meetings in 2009. We have established two new chapters within the Section this year – a Chapter of the Society on Social Implications of Technology, and a (Scotland) Solid-State Circuits Society Chapter.

Activities in the near future:
On 5th October 2010 a Milestone Award event is planned: the IEEE Board of Directors has approved the IEEE History Committee’s recommendation that “Invention of Public-Key Cryptography, 1969-1975” (2008-15) be approved as an IEEE Milestone in Electrical Engineering and Computing with the following citation:

Invention of Public-Key Cryptography, 1969-1975: At GCHQ, by 1975 James Ellis had proved that a symmetric secret-key system is unnecessary and Clifford Cocks with Martin Williamson showed how such ‘public-key cryptography’ could be achieved. Until then it was believed that secure communication was impossible without exchange of a secret key, with key distribution a major impediment. With these discoveries the essential principles were known but were kept secret until 1997.

Best practices:
Promoting growth in student numbers through supporting new and existing student clubs and chapters financially and through mentoring + empowering students to work in outreach activities.

Topics to be discussed in Prague:
Plans to initiate a UKRI-wide lecture programme to promote IEEE membership and engineering.