

United Kingdom and Ireland Section

Steve Nightingale

Getting Closer to Industry

- Industry Outreach talks to students have been arranged jointly with the Institute of Physics. Industry practitioners have come along to give early evening lectures to young students hosted at a senior college and attended by students from a number of schools.
- Research to Industry (R2I) has become an annual event. Researchers (including many IEEE Students) are given the opportunity to present successful research outcomes to potential industrial routes to market. Following a keynote address in each of four sessions, researchers are given strict templates in which to present the essential aspects of their research project. In addition to the researchers and other academics, the audience includes industry participants who listen to the presentations with a critical ear. R2i usually has an audience of some 100 attendees from various disciplines.

Students and Young Professionals

- There are 27 active Student Branches in the Section including 4 in Northern Ireland and Ireland.
- Plans are underway to establish new branches together with providing mentoring and support from existing established branches.
- A collaboration program is being developed with Young Professionals working towards finding experienced mentors from industry and academia to provide a wider range of contacts to potentially further industrial/research experience opportunities.
- The 4th Student and young Professionals Conference will be held at Manchester University in September 2015.

Section Vitality

- A total of 174 L31s were submitted by the UK & Ireland Section to report activities organized in 2014. This confirms a very healthy level of technical activity.
- Many of the smaller more specialized conferences and colloquia supported by the Section, e.g. ARMMS conference (a conference held twice a year attracting 90-100 registrants) work well when promoted and cosponsored by some of the national engineering and related organizations. This more cooperative approach gives increased mailshot coverage and helps avoid similar competing events between the different organizations.
- It is disappointing how few members appear to be interested in voting for Section Officer positions. A typical response despite repeated email reminders is around 5%. Suggestions to improve engagement from the Section membership would be appreciated.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The name of the Section was changed from the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland to the United Kingdom and Ireland in June 2014.
- The Section contributed to a publication in the New Statesman encouraging engineering in the UK entitled: Engineering our Future, which was published in February, 2015. See: <http://www.newstatesman.com/sites/default/files/files/NS%20Engineering%20Our%20Future%20Supplement%20Feb%202015.pdf>
- Several initiatives have been undertaken to improve the Sections relations with National Institutions and Institutes in the UK. Agreement has been reached with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) on cross-advertising and cross-sponsorship by mapping the IEEE Chapters/Societies with the IET Technical Communities. Similar arrangements are being concluded with the Institute of Physics and Engineers Ireland.
- The Section is investigating a process whereby Engineers in the UK can be professionally registered through the IEEE UK and Ireland Section. The Section Chair and Vice Chair have a meeting with the UK Engineering Council on March 5th to discuss the legal, political and administrative issues.
- The UK and Ireland LMAG committee has obtained endorsement from the IEEE Board of Directors for the Blumlein Historic Milestone to commemorate the work of Alan Blumlein on stereo sound. A plaque will be erected in Abbey Road recording studios on April 1st, 2015.