

Spain Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

We held our section meetings at industry premises (two meetings in BBVA Innovation Center, Madrid-2015) and collaboration with startup ole-Salamanca (<http://startupole.eu/2016>), with participation of more than 40 international corporates (Telefonica, BBVA, Google, Freelancer, Banco Santander, Sabadell, Iberdrola, Zed, City, others) and more than 100 EU Startups, investors (Faraday, Entrecanales, DAD, etc). BBVA was awarded as the best Company/institution 2015 for the IEEE Spain section. A new award has been established for the best Tech-entrepreneur, for the very first time in the section, and also the section has created the Entrepreneur IEEE Spanish Network in 2015. A new program for Tech-entrepreneurs have been created and launched. Also we recognize those companies that supported IEEE activities. Professionals from industry are represented at our BoG. We deal with promoting professional agreements and inviting speakers from industry. Also we have appointed an Industry Ambassador working in the semiconductor industry. He will be in contact with R&D representatives of companies like Broadcom, Marvell, Power Electronic, to establish relationships and initiate the mentoring program. We will promote the knowledge of standards among the general public and try to create a database of technology transfer groups at Universities and public institutions to provide to industry members as a service.

Students and Young Professionals

Every year we recognize the best student branch that performs an active work with a significant impact to the community. Also selected students from different branches are represented at our BoG. Other initiatives deal with supporting those activities organized by students and promoting networking among young professionals and well recognized companies at industry. We are promoting a set of successful activities in order to be replicated at other universities, i.e., near to the students from different parts of our country. Two new initiatives are being developed by joint Student Branches. First one is the collaborative development of a Cubesat (small satellite), using experience of some research groups close to a few SBs. Funds are being sought now, and collaboration with several Chapters is underway. Second one consists in incursions, where a member of one SB will spend a few days hosted by another one, learning how it works and what their procedures are. Housing will be provided by members so there will be no cost to Section, and the initiative is addressed especially to new volunteers so that they can learn how to work. Finally we work on promotion of tech-entrepreneurship among students and continuing promotion of science and engineering.

Section Vitality

It can be confirmed that our section is very vital. As evidence, we lead the organization of conferences and special flagship events that are well recognized at IEEE community. Each year we celebrate IEEE Day at different venues distributed through our geography. About potential changes in progress, a new initiative jointly developed by the MD officer, the Chapter Coordinator and the SAC will work in rejuvenating inactive Student Branches (SBs) and engaging them with chapters. Anytime a workshop or event will take place in the Section (organized by the Section itself or not), the local Student Branch will be contacted and members will be requested to serve as volunteers in the event. We found that many times Chapters are not aware of the potential help that Student Branches can lend to their events, and Students do not know when events are taking place near them. We hope that we will engage students and will lower the difficulty for chapters to organize small events.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

We have reached a high level of achievements and outstanding activities during last year. As evidence, we have attracted events that are highly recognized at IEEE community. In September 2015 we organized IEEE EUROCON 2015, (<http://eurocon2015.usal.es>), one of the major IEEE international events. In conjunction with IEEE EUROCON 2015, we also supported actively the organization of Tech-Entrepreneurial events such as: STARTUP OLÈ (<http://startupole.eu>), also supported by Region 8 the European Commission-STARTUP EUROPE initiative and several H2020 EU Projects. As a result of success, both events brought together around 1000 researchers, innovators, tech-startups, investors, medium and large corporates (eg. Google, Telefonica, Freelancer, Iberdrola, BBVA, Banco Santander, Google, Banco Sabadell), media, European Commission Representatives, and stakeholders, generating a great forum for networking and new synergies.