

United Kingdom and Ireland Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

This is a key plank of our strategy and apart from R8 initiatives, we are encouraging all Chapters to identify the major industries that will benefit from IEEE Partnership and their specific technical focus. This is driven by the reality that Chapters and Societies are a major attraction to industry in terms of knowledge, standards, best practice and conferences. It is also attempting to engage all Section entities in this important and strategic task rather than leave it to one industry liaison officer as a centralized approach that has failed to deliver much value in the past.

We have also started discussions with the IEEE USA initiative in developing an industry related portfolio, after a meeting with the IEEE President in the UK who is also keen on the industry liaison. IEEE is rather under-developed in this respect and liaison with the US colleagues has indicated the need for a collaborative effort and the development of a generic as well as sector focused industry offering. The aim is to share experience between the UK&Ireland section and the new initiative in the US and come up with an effective and global approach that will benefit all IEEE entities.

Students and Young Professionals

We have made major strides for the young in our Section and after securing R8 financial support, we planned and ran the first of our Young Entrepreneurs Open Day in London on 11 June. This was aimed at IEEE members and non-members to showcase the IEEE benefits to the young students and graduates and deliver a measure of corporate social responsibility in the UK & Ireland. We're planning two more events for 2016 & 2017.

Our events are organized and largely run by our YP, SA & WIE groups who have taken active role in this public facing joint activity that has additionally fostered closer liaison & collaboration between the three youth groups in the section. We will be happy to share experience with other Sections and indeed organize joint Young Entrepreneurs events with them.

We have a very active SA team and have formed an active YP group independent from the PA group that it was merged with. This has put more focused attention on the YP and the new chair and his committee are innovating in various forms of YP activities and concepts. Our YP & SA teams are also actively attending the Regensburg SYP Congress.

Section Vitality

We have created a Chapters Forum run by the Section VC to enhance liaison between Chapters and encourage more activities. To encourage vitality, the first Section meeting of the year was brought forward and focused on strategy and planning. We were advised by MGA that a number of Chapters were dormant. We emailed the Chapters concerned and have asked them to come up with a plan for activity or seek help for fresh blood through eNotices, the final option is forming a new committee. The current dormant Chapters are: AES10, CAS04, CIS11, COM19/CS23 (IRELAND), IM09, RA24 & SSC37 (SCOTLAND). All the chairs have been contacted for action.

Some of these new initiatives have resulted in complaints from some Chapters that the pace is too fast and the number of online meetings arranged for filling the communications gap are too many. This matter has been debated at the recent AGM and there's consultation on the rationale for these as well as the way forward.

The new strategy to enhance the vitality & member value in the section has also faced some opposition from the more conservative persons but welcome by the youth groups who have been encouraged/supported to be more active.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

There are a number of other initiatives in hand to transform the Section in terms of member value proposition and as well as funding/revenue generation. One key item is the legal registration of the Section with the IEEE's help that is intended as a basis for developing the services in the Section to offer UK style Professional Registration. Apart from adding a new member value that is currently only available through UK Institutions, this will enhance revenue to be spent on groups and Chapters. We have also started discussions with other Engineering stakeholders i.e. the IET and Royal Academy of Engineering and hope to use these additional relations to promote IEEE and collaborate with the established organizations.

The LMAG group has also developed a mentoring scheme for the young members that they are preparing to roll out in September. This is additional to the R8 initiatives as well as the Collaboratec based facility and will enhance the quality of member services in the section.

Finally, the History Affinity Group are planning a major commemoration event early 2017 for Logie Baird and plans are to invite key TV & broadcast industry executives at this ceremony held at Royal Institution London.