



**2017 Outstanding Section Membership
Recruitment and Retention Performance**

South Africa Section



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Candidacy for IEEE Region 8 Vice-Chair: Technical Activities

Dr Albert Lysko

Chair: IEEE South Africa Section

**Candidate for Vice-Chair – Technical Activities:
IEEE R8 TA**

Content

- ▶ About me
- ▶ TA: from challenges towards solutions

My general background

► Born and grew up in St-Petersburg, Russia

- 3y of Entrepreneurship experience (development of software defined modems, assembler real-time programming, ... **passion for technology**)
- Top 5% of the class student

► Lived, studied and worked for 7 years in Norway, travel Scandinavia

- *Joined IEEE*
- PhD + academic + industry work
- Met my to-be-wife, whom is from South Africa

► Now live in Pretoria and volunteer in IEEE, in South Africa

- *Introduced to volunteering in IEEE by Saurabh Sinha, **started with TAs (DL)***
- Principal Researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
 - 3 patents, 2 book chapters, 1 book, 60+ research and 25+ popular papers, ...
 - CSIR technical lead in the first large television white space (TVWS) trial in Africa (**affected FCC regulations in USA!**); **20000+ users served Internet** with TVWS; now CSIR has its own TVWS database **licensed to 5+ countries** and certified by the UK regulator Ofcom for commercial operation in UK
 - Work with EU Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Actions

➔ **Significant international (Russia, Europe, Africa) experience**



Brief summary of IEEE roles

- ▶ **Current member of 11 Societies** (tried 14 Societies over the years)
- ▶ **Member: IEEE R8 Member Development committee, 2018+**
- ▶ **Member: IEEE AP-S SIGHT committee, 2018+**
- ▶ **Member: IEEE 5G Testbed roadmap WG, 2018+**
- ▶ **Section Chair: IEEE South Africa, 2017-2018**
- ▶ **Committee Chair: IEEE South Africa Section Awards & Recognitions Committee, 2016++**
- ▶ **Member: IEEE AP-S Education committee**
- ▶ **Initiator, Member: AP-S Online resources subcommittee**
- ▶ **Section Vice-Chair: IEEE South Africa Section, 2015-2016**
- ▶ **Chapter Chair: IEEE South Africa Jt AP/MTT/EMC Chapter, 2013-2014**
 - Chapter Past Chair: IEEE South Africa Jt AP/MTT/EMC Chapter, 2015
- ▶ **IEEE South Africa VTools coordinator, 2012**

Summary of recent achievements in my IEEE career

Overall	40+ events organized (ones recorded on VTools) 20+ news articles
Events, conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Chair: ICACCE 2016 conference (~100 people) • Technical Chair: IEEE R8 Africon 2017 conference (~200 people) • 66+ events in Section per year, attended by 4,500 people
Section-driven MD and TA events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IEEE Session (full day) in 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>now followed by IEEE talks in several local conferences</i> • IEEE R8 Member Development workshop in March 2018 (award) • IEEE Senior Member Elevation workshops in May 2018 (9x) • IEEE Day – first time celebrated in South Africa in 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 events, with 300+... attendees! • IEEE Xtreme – 4 teams from South Africa (Oct 2018)
Awards, MoUs, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x MoU with SAIEE • 1x joint (IEEE ZA – SAIEE) award process completed (2017) • Introduced travel grants for volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4x international travel grants (to IEEE R8 and to IEEE SC meetings) for active volunteers, and • 15+ local travel grants for local training events • Introduced conference support guidelines for Section • 15+ web help pages for Section operation
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 new Chapter (VTS) established (2018), and 1 more (NPSS) coming • 2x new SB are coming up (UWC and CPUT) • Gold membership development achievement for both 2017&2018

A best poster re “Africa” in R8 Athens



TA: from challenges towards solutions

- ▶ IEEE was founded on Technical Activities (TA)
- ▶ Currently, IEEE is losing professional members, especially in developing world. *Examples of existing problems:*
 - membership value decreases
 - value too diverse and complex to understand
 - focus on making more money (from members!)

We need to

- ▶ **Improve coordination, visibility and level of IEEE resources, conferences and events**
- ▶ Strengthen the links between MGA, R8, TA, EA
- ▶ Support better understanding of diversities and needs in R8
- ▶ **Enhance/enrich programs to support development and promotion of TA for member's careers and professional development**
- ▶ **Strongly consider corporate enhanced membership and corporate-focussed OUs**