

## France Section

**Richard Perdriau, Section Secretary**

### Section Vitality

Two ExCom meetings were held in Paris on July 6 (the first physical one since January 2020) and December 15. The Section's General Assembly will be organized on March 25.

The Section received the 2021 Membership Development Gold Recognition.

On January, the Section gathered 3523 members (vs. 3232 on January 1, 2021, + 9.0 %). More specifically, there was a very significant increase of Student members (244 vs. 57, x 4.28) and Graduate Student members (486 vs. 106, x 4.58).

Obviously, the Section ExCom is very satisfied with those results.

The previous elections were held in 2019. New elections for the Section will be held in 2022. As France Section is concerned, both the Section Chair and Vice-Chair are elected (the Vice-Chair does not implicitly become the next Chair). Six positions will be renewed (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Officer for Conferences, Officer for Technical Activities):

- Call for volunteers: April 15 – May 15
- First announcement of candidates, call for petitions: first week of June
- Deadline for petitions: July 1
- Announcement of all candidates: September 12
- Voting: October 30 – November 30
- Announcement of results: December 1
- Validation by a General Assembly: in December

As of March 14, 8 conference technical sponsorship requests have been filed, among which 7 have already been accepted. Financial sponsorship for RTSI has been accepted, as well as financial management for 3 conferences (WPW, RTSI, ISAF).

### Students

Active Student Branches:

- STB02881 University of Lille
- STB15361 University of Bordeaux
- STB08231 Telecom Paris
- STB64264 Ecole CentraleSupélec
- STB10034 Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace
- STB64630 Ecole Polytechnique (Paris)
- STB17521 University of Limoges
- STB06661 Institut Sup Electronique de Paris
- STB11699 Saint Etienne University

Student Branches currently under reactivation:

- STB99801 Ecole Sup D'Elec de l'Ouest
- STB09711 Natl Polytechnic De Grenoble Ensieg

Student Branches to be reactivated:

- STB18341 Univ De Franche Comté
- STB66001 Eurecom Institut
- STB05391 Universite Pierre et Marie Curie
- STB12551 Univ de Tech de Belfort-Montbéliard
- STB62561 Telecom Bretagne
- STB08421 Univ De Reims Champagne
- STB64381 Univ of Picardie Jules Verne
- STB99741 Ecole Nat Sup D'Electronique De Toulouse

- STB65921 Institut Natl Des Telecommunications

Some 2021 facts about Student Branches:

- STB15361 organized the 'BEE Week' on October 18-20 (11 scientific talks over 3 days)
- STB64264 organized a project contest for engineering students with peer reviewing and a 1000 € prize
- STB64264 is trying to gather all academic structures in Paris-Saclay in a single branch
- STB02881 now gathers 3 academic structures (University of Lille, IEMN, Junia)
- Two SB Chapters (CAS and SSCS) have been created in STB02881

9 Student Branches received rebates in 2020.

6 Student Branches attended the Chapter/SB meeting on October 14-15 (see 'Activities since the last report' below). Attending SB Presidents and/or Counselors shared their experience among them and with Chapter Officers, Section ExCom and volunteers. Lille Student Branch is willing to help inactive SBs for their reactivation.

The Section ExCom has validated the integration of a Section Student Representative (a position which does not exist in the Section at the time being). One candidate has already applied for the position. This has to be endorsed by the General Assembly on March 25.

### Affinity Groups

- LM80005 Life Members
- WE80005 WiE
- YP80005 Young Professionals

LMAG is always very active (4 administrative meetings and 2 technical meetings in 2021, all virtual). Technical meetings dealt with:

- 'Developmental Machine Learning, Curiosity and Deep Reinforcement Learning', presented by Dr. Pierre-Yves Oudeyer, Research Director (DR1) at INRIA. 47 participants.
- 'Progress in AC electrical machines: from Galileo Ferraris principle to the actual technology', by Prof. Gérard-André Capolino, IEEE Fellow.
- A third technical event ('Scenarios for Wind/Solar/Hydro -Based VPPs Production for Power System Applications' by Prof. Dr. George Kariniotakis) was cancelled at the last minute due to the speaker's health condition.

LMAG received rebates in 2020 (with activity bonus).

LMAG has prepared two Milestones ('Ampère' and 'Langevin').

WiE: no event in 2021. The Chair decided to resign. Another call for volunteers will be launched in 2022. Two candidates have already applied for the upcoming election.

YP: no activity in 2020 and 2021. The Chair has not been responding to messages for more than one year. A call for candidates made it possible to identify a potential volunteer, who finally resigned in January 2021. Another call will be launched.

### Chapters

List of Chapters:

- Aerospace and Electronic Systems (AES10)
- Antennas and Propagation (AP03)
- Computer (C16)
- Circuits and Systems (CAS04)
- Computational Intelligence (CIS11)
- Communications (COM19)
- Control (CS23)
- Electron Devices (ED15)
- Engineering in Medicine and Biology (EMB18)
- Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC27)
- Electronics Packaging Society (EP, ex-CPMT21)
- Geoscience and Remote Sensing (GRS29)

- Industry Applications – Industrial Electronics – Power Electronics (IA34/IE13/PEL35 Joint Chapter)
- Instrumentation and Measurement (IM09)
- Information Theory (IT12)
- Magnetics (MAG33)
- Microwave Theory and Techniques (MTT17)
- Nuclear and Plasma Sciences (NPS05)
- Oceanic Engineering (OE22)
- Power and Energy (PE31)
- Photonics (PHO36)
- Reliability (R07-RL07)
- Robotics and Automation (RA24)
- Sensor Council (SEN)
- Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC28)
- Signal Processing (SP01)
- Solid-State Circuits (SSC37)
- Vehicular Technology (VT06)

List of SB Chapters:

- SBC02881 University of Lille, CAS04
- SBC02881A University of Lille, SSC37
- SBC10034 Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, NPS05
- SBC10034A Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, AES10
- SBC10034B Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, IA34
- SBC11699 Saint Etienne University, NPS05
- SBC12551A Univ de Tech de Belfort-Montbéliard, IA34
- SBC15361A University of Bordeaux, MTT17
- SBC15361B University of Bordeaux, AP03
- SBC15361C University of Bordeaux, CAS04
- SBC15361D University of Bordeaux, IM09
- SBC15361E University of Bordeaux, SSC37
- SBC15361F University of Bordeaux, EMB18
- SBC15361G University of Bordeaux, SP01
- SBC18341A Univ De Franche Comté, UFFC20
- SBC18341B Univ De Franche Comté, RA24
- SBC64381A Univ of Picardie Jules Verne, IA34

A significant number of chapters (21 out of 27) reported on time and received rebates in 2020. Moreover, activity bonuses were awarded to ED15 and RA24.

The EMC27 Chapter Chair resigned in 2020. A call for volunteers was published, leading to 4 candidates applying together for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary positions. The election was completed on October 31, leading to the whole team being elected. Therefore, the EMC27 is now revitalized and operational.

A new SB Chapter (SBC02881A – SSC37) was founded in Lille in 2021.

15 Chapters (plus the Joint Chapter) attended the Chapter/SB meeting on October 14-15 (see 'Activities since the last report' below).

An initiative towards the creation of a local AP03 Chapter in Rennes (France) was taken a few months ago. The Section encouraged talks between the Chapter ExCom and the local volunteers, with the aim to avoid any competence fragmentation. A sensible solution seems to be emerging in the form of a Student Branch in Rennes with a local AP03 Student Chapter.

A total of 99 events were organized by all Chapters in 2021 (96 in 2020), 39 by SB Chapters (18 in 2020). Those numbers are still significantly lower than in 2019 due to Covid. However, the increase in the number of SB Chapter events is really noticeable.

### Industry

For the second year, the 'Assises de l'Industrie 4.0' event was organized with industry representatives and students by Serge Dos Santos (INSA School of Engineering) in Blois, France, on September 28-29 (60 participants).

France Section widely contributed to the IEEE RTSI 2021 virtual conference, organized by Italy Section:

- Claire Lajoie-Mazenc, Section Chair, was a member of the Steering Committee. She was also a speaker in the panel session of the 5th Annual WiE Italy Affinity Group meeting
- Serge Dos Santos was the Technical Program Committee Co-Chair
- Frédérique Vallée, Immediate Past Section Chair, was a member of the 'Meeting with Industry' Committee
- Pascal Lorenz, Section Treasurer, co-chaired the 'Smart Community' track
- Gérard-André Capolino, former Section Chair, co-chaired the 'Smart Energy' track

The Section is actively preparing the organization of RTSI 2022, which will take place physically in Paris on August 24-26. The event will be co-sponsored by Region 8 as well as Italy, Switzerland and United Kingdom Sections. 18 Chapters out of 26, plus the Joint Chapter (IA34/IE13/PE35), have already confirmed their participation.

The Call for Papers for RTSI 2022 can be found [here](#).

### Activities since the last report

A meeting was organized with Chapters and Student Branches (plus the Section ExCom and volunteers) on October 14-15 in Paris. 15 Chapters out of 26, plus the Joint Chapter (IA34/IE13/PE35), as well as 6 Student Branches participated (most of them physically). The first evening was dedicated to a friendly dinner and the Section Awards ceremony (Student Branch of the Year, Volunteer of the Year). The second day started with a general presentation of Section activities by the Section Chair, followed by individual presentations of Chapter and Student Branch activities. All participants were then invited to work in groups, in order to exchange their best practices and collectively suggest improvements to the whole Section, Chapter and SB workflows. The event was a success (see picture below) and received very good feedback from the participants.



The Section's Web site was entirely overhauled in December 2021 by Frédérique Vallée, Section Past Chair, and Pascal Lorenz, Section Treasurer, after following a specific training.

A conference on energy storage for mobility was co-organized by the IEEE and the SEE (Société de l'électricité, de l'électronique et des technologies de l'information et de la communication) in CentraleSupélec on March 9.

Romain Couillet received the IEEE/SEE 2021 Glavieux Joint Award on December 6.

### **Planned activities**

During the General Assembly on March 25, the 7 new Fellows of the France Section will be honored with a plaque. A technical talk given by Dominique Baillargeat (new Fellow) will follow the General Assembly.

The '2021 Student Branch of the Year' and '2021 Volunteer of the Year' awards will also be given during the General Assembly.

3 additional technical events are planned to be co-organized by the IEEE and the SEE in 2022.

The extended ExCom (Conseil d'Administration) of the Section will participate in a meeting with Saifur Rahman, 2022 IEEE President-Elect, and Tariq Durrani, Past VP of IEEE Educational Activities, during their visit to Paris on April 13.

As already mentioned above, the Section will organize the RTSI 2022 conference in Paris on August 24-26.

### **How Region 8 can be of help to your Section, members, and activities**

Communication is still a major challenge for the Section. There is still much room for image improvement, particularly among students who may not figure out how the IEEE can be profitable to them. 'Classic' IEEE communication media (such as eNotices) may look outdated and can be mistaken for spam. Web sites are often difficult to update in a timely manner. What about social networking?

Another idea emerged: 'chapter information cards' describing the activities of each chapter, as well as officer contacts for additional information about careers in professional fields addressed by each chapter.

### **Any other issues of interest**

None.