

# IEEE Sections Congress

Partnering with non-IEEE Technical  
and Professional Groups

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# **A Guide to Successful Partnering with non-IEEE Entities.**

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# Why Do it?

Because partnering offers:

1. Access to a wide range of volunteer resources with complementary skills and expertise
2. Access to a wider audience
3. Collaboration with kindred groups
4. Pathways to a multi-disciplinary world

# Where are the Opportunities?

Topics outside IEEE's domain of interest

Examples:

Physical and biological sciences

Legal issues

Ethical conflicts

# New technologies requiring an inter-disciplinary approach

- Environmental issues
- Renewable energy resources
- Manufacturing for sustainability
- Medical technology

# Gaps in the educational curriculum identified by industry

- Soft skills
- Entrepreneurship
- Intellectual property rights
- Business skills

- Opening a dialog with new communities
- Pre-college education (getting more kids interested in science and technology)
- Media (influencing the way that technology issues are presented)
- Business (leveraging the value of IEEE membership to industry)
- Consulting engineering
- National societies

# What are the Practical Challenges?

Recruiting committed volunteers to do the organisational work

# Setting up formal agreements and deadlines

*'A verbal agreement is not worth the paper it is written on'* Sam Goldwyn, Movie Producer

Official documents avoid, or minimise, the danger of misunderstandings

# Establishing robust planning structures

- Agree a schedule of committee meetings,
- Appoint the responsible officers from each party, and identify key tasks

# Financial controls

- Draw up formal contracts with third parties, if necessary
- Assess financial risks

# Intellectual property issues

- Secure agreement on prior art status and ownership issues, and the schedule for publication of the outcomes.

# Marketing and publicity

- Need to recognise that third parties can bring essential expertise
- Exploit IEEE and national society networks to maximise the gains achieved from the collaboration

# Lessons Learned

## Lessons Learned from Partnerships in Region 8 and the UKRI Section

Start with small-scale activities before attempting to organise large meetings and conferences involving non-IEEE entities.

# Mutual Respect

- Each party needs to have confidence in the ability of the other partners to carry out their assigned tasks and meet deadlines (what is their track record?)

# Financial risks

- Each party should obtain the approval of their governing body (Section, Region, etc.) before entering into formal agreements that involve financial risks.

# Examples of Successful Partnerships in the UKRI Section

- History (IET and the UK Defence Electronics History Society)
- Women in Engineering ( Women's Engineering Society and IET)
- Engineering in Medicine and Biology (IET and IPEM)
- Media issues (Sense about Science)
- Industry relations ( IMAPS-Europe)

# The Way Ahead

- Partnering with non-IEEE entities is an excellent way for IEEE to expand its influence beyond its primary commitment to electro-technology

- IEEE does not have the volunteer resources to engage with all fields of interest to its members
- Most IEEE groups are limited in the scope of their activities by a shortage of volunteers

- Partnering allows IEEE to deploy its volunteer resource base more effectively and broadens the appeal of IEEE membership



# Questions?