

## **Guidelines for Expanding Conference Papers for Submission to the IEEE Sensors Journal**

### **Background**

Each year, the Journal encourages targeted technical meeting authors to submit expanded, archival quality versions of their conference papers. Our authors and reviewers have asked “What is expected?” It is difficult to specify precisely what authors should do in this expansion and improvement of their conference papers. Each case will be unique. However, below we offer guidelines to help the authors decide what they want to include in their submitted manuscripts.

Researchers usually present new results at conferences or workshops and continue the project after the conference to improve the results. As more progress is made, developing an archival journal paper to report the results to peers around the world becomes appropriate.

Conference digests often publish one- or two-page abstracts. Conference proceedings on the other hand typically limit papers to a range of two to four pages and are sometimes peer-reviewed. Contrast those with archival journals that are always peer-reviewed and typically publish papers that are six pages or longer. So, expanding conference papers into a suitable form for archival journals is a goal for many authors. Conference papers are usually short, and deal with very recent research results or new ideas illustrated by preliminary experiments. An archival journal paper, on the contrary, contains an overview of the state-of-the-art (with references to other’s and one’s own past work), a problem statement, the concept of a solution, a discussion of the theoretical background, experimental set-up, sound measurement data, an evaluation of the results, discussion and conclusions – a much more complete presentation of the overall project and its results. Thus, except in rare occasions, there is a substantial difference between a conference paper and a journal paper. Rarely should a manuscript be submitted to the Sensors Journal that is identical to an earlier one published at a peer-reviewed IEEE sponsored conference for at least two reasons: (1) a conference paper is seldom “complete,” and (2) the material is already published and widely available to millions of sensor professionals via IEEE Xplore.

Please note that submitting an expanded version of a paper that was peer-reviewed and accepted at a conference does not guarantee acceptance by the Journal. All submissions to the Journal are subjected to our standard peer-review process and the decision to accept the paper is in the hands of the reviewers and the associate editor assigned to manage the review process. We can say, however, that expanded manuscripts from our IEEE SENSORS Conference that have followed the process described below have been well received by our reviewers and associate editors.

The IEEE Sensors Journal Editorial Board has examined aspects of this transformation process and offers advice to potential authors who want to expand a conference paper for publication in our Journal.

## **General Guidelines**

### Mandatory Actions:

- If changes are made, choose a new title for the paper.
- Use feedback obtained at the conference to update, revise, and rewrite the paper as appropriate to improve its overall quality.
- Reference your conference paper in the appropriate locations.
- Include a footnote in the submitted manuscript stating, e.g., "An earlier version of this paper was presented at the 20XX IEEE SENSORS Conference and was published in its proceedings."
- Indicate in a letter (upload as a supporting document during the submission process) whether the conference paper was peer-reviewed and clearly state what has been changed.
- Provide the original conference paper (upload a PDF file during the submission process).
- If IEEE does not hold the copyright for your conference paper, obtain permission to reprint figures and tables that are used in the expanded paper.

### Recommended Actions:

- Expand the background section and include additional references.
- Include novel scientific content and expanded descriptions of procedures.
- Provide data that was not published at the conference.
- Revise and update figures and text to avoid exact duplication of the conference proceedings.

## **Summary**

Authors of papers that have been presented at technical meetings whose focus is on sensors are encouraged to submit expanded, archival quality versions of their work to the IEEE Sensors Journal. Note that it is the author's duty to inform the editorial board that a submitted manuscript is based on a previously published conference paper. Those that follow the guidelines above can expect to receive positive feedback from our reviewers and associate editors.

***By the IEEE Sensors Journal's Editorial Board (January 10, 2007)***