



Conference Organizer Guidelines

Version 10 – Approved 27 April 2022

Overview

IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) has created this set of guidelines for all SPS financially sponsored and co-sponsored technical meetings with the main purpose to help organizers create coherent conference and workshops experiences along the years for the attendees while also accommodating innovations, creativity and diversity.

While these guidelines apply to all SPS financially sponsored and co-sponsored technical meetings, some sections may be less relevant for smaller meetings.

All Conference Organizing Committee members must carefully review all guidelines. By accepting a role as part of the Conference Organizing Committee, committee members agree to adhere to these principles and guidelines.

The General Chair(s), Technical Program Chair(s) and Finance Chair(s) must sign and return the SPS Conference Guidelines Agreement available in the next page prior to accepting a position on the Conference Organizing Committee.

The IEEE SPS Conferences staff is available for any questions or requests and may be contacted at sp.conferences.info@ieee.org.

SPS Conference Guidelines Agreement

The Conference Organizing Committee members listed below must sign and return this form as an acknowledgement of the adherence to the principles and guidelines presented in this document.

Each of the below committee members must sign this page in the appropriate position and send a scanned version to the IEEE SPS Conferences staff at sp.conferences.info@ieee.org no later than one month after the reception by the Conference Organizing Committee of the information that the SPS conference was approved by IEEE via the IEEE Conference Application (which is some time after the approval is made by the SPS BoG).

Technical Meeting Full Name and Acronym

Technical Meeting Location

Technical Meeting Date(s)

General Chair or Co-Chair Name

Signature

Technical Program Chair or Co-Chair Name

Signature

Finance Chair Name

Signature

Date Signed

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1 Getting Started

IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) has created this set of guidelines for all SPS financially sponsored and co-sponsored technical meetings with the main purpose to help organizers create coherent conference and workshops experiences along the years for the attendees while also accommodating innovations, creativity and diversity.

While these guidelines apply to all SPS financially sponsored and co-sponsored technical meetings, some sections may be less relevant for smaller meetings. The term ‘Conference Organizing Committee’ in the following refers to the organizing committee of the technical meeting in question, conference, workshop, symposium, etc. Moreover, the term ‘conference’ may be used in the following to refer to any type of technical meeting.

In the following, the text in *italic* will refer to text directly extracted from the SPS Bylaws and Policies and thus may only be changed by SPS Board of Governors (BoG) approval.

It is expected that this document may be revised along time. The revisions will be approved by the SPS Conferences Board.

Version 1 – Approved on November 14, 2017

Version 2 – Approved on October 10, 2018

Version 3 – Approved on May 16, 2019

Version 4 – Approved on September 25, 2019

Version 5 – Approved on May 21, 2020

Version 6 – Approved on August 31, 2020

Version 7 – Approved on November 4, 2020

Version 8 – Approved on June 22, 2021

Version 9 – Approved on September 28, 2021

Version 10 – Approved on April 27, 2022

1.1 SPS Conference Guidelines Agreement

All Conference Organizing Committee members should review and adhere to the following guiding principles, along with the IEEE Policies available at <https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee->

[org/ieee/web/org/about/whatis/ieee-policies.pdf](http://org.ieee/web/org/about/whatis/ieee-policies.pdf) and all IEEE and SPS Governance documents available at <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/volunteers/governance-documents>.

To make the adherence to these principles and guidelines explicit, the General Chair(s), Technical Program Chair(s) and Finance Chair(s) must sign and return the SPS Conference Guidelines Agreement available in the page after the Outline, prior to accepting a position on the Conference Organizing Committee.

This must happen no later than one month after the reception by the Conference Organizing Committee of the information that the SPS conference was approved by IEEE via the IEEE Conference Application (which is some time after the approval is made by the SPS BoG).

1.2 Objectives, Value Proposition and Models Definition

The Conference Organizing Committee shall globally consider all key objectives of the conference and the sponsors, including:

- SPS objectives, including participants satisfaction, membership retention and growth;
- Opportunities for authors and other attendees to announce, discuss, and publish research results;
- Encouragement to attend again in coming years;
- Community building;
- Diversity involvement, notably students, young professionals, women, practicing engineers in industry, and reaching global underserved communities;
- Innovative initiatives and new forms of interaction;
- Financial balance;
- Contingency planning for any possible alternative scenarios regarding paper acceptance rate, registration; and patronage, and financial impact among these factors.

The Conference OC shall more precisely define the Objectives in the relevant context and be prepared with workable, holistic plans that consider the entire program. When creating the holistic plans, conference organizers are encouraged to experiment with new ways to increase attendee satisfaction. Some examples could be:

- Personalized attendee experience through badge customization or offering personal session recommendations based on their interests;
- Augment live in-person conference attendance through virtual events;
- Engagement through live polling in sessions and real-time session feedback through mobile app or social media;

- Inclusion of ‘comfort’ items for attendees, such as charging stations, soft seating, places for pop up meetings, or a quiet work room for attendees to check email.

In this context, it is worthwhile to remind that SPS affirms that the Society should be considerate of the diversity of its membership in all of its activities; in particular conflicts between the conference dates and major religious events and holidays should be avoided, notably for the Society's major conferences ICASSP and ICIP. SPS has approved a list of the major religious events and holidays to consider, which may be requested from the SPS Conferences staff at sp.conferences.info@ieee.org.

Value Proposition

In addition to the Conference Objectives, SPS has defined the event value proposition, as described below. Both the Objectives and Value Proposition should be used as the framework when choosing an event model and planning the event.

Attendees

- Learning about the most recent research topics, innovations and results in signal processing;
- Browsing various topics of interest in one place, moving from session to session;
- Discovering technical advances and tools that can increase personal productivity;
- Interacting with keynote speakers, paper authors and demo presenters to tailor personal understanding;
- Discussing experiences with top names in signal processing fields;
- Networking and engaging with the diverse signal processing community, building and strengthening relationships;
- Participating in tutorials on key signal processing topics, including new technologies;
- Participating in panel discussions on relevant, hot signal processing topics;
- Participating in hands-on workshops by key industries and companies to deepen understanding;
- Discovering and contacting potential collaborators, funders, and employers.

Authors (who are also attendees)

- Receiving peer-review and expert feedback of their paper;
- Getting reference-able publication in the respected IEEE *Xplore*;
- Presenting and exposing their work to a large, knowledgeable audience and getting feedback;
- Obtaining personal recognition, possibly leading to future opportunities.

Sponsors, Exhibitors and Suppliers (who may be also attendees)

- Building brand recognition;
- Exposing products to a knowledgeable audience and getting feedback;
- Showcasing technical achievements and future projects;
- Contacting and recruiting potential collaborators and employee;
- Leveraging relationships between industry and academia;
- Building customer and user contacts and relationships.

Models Definition

SPS events shall always target to maximize the Value Proposition as defined above. To maximize the Value Proposition, SPS events may adopt different models, notably participation models (e.g. physical, virtual or hybrid) and business models, depending on their specific event circumstances.

Under no circumstances, the safety of SPS members and other attendees at SPS events should be put at risk in any way.

When appropriate and under SPS guidance, the event Organizing Committee (OC) shall propose to SPS an event budget, adopting circumstances appropriate models, notably in terms of participation and business models, also duly considering the market value of the event.

The final event budget and models shall be agreed by the OC and SPS together, and finally approved by SPS.

Green/Sustainability Goals and Conferences

Virtual conferences caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in increased attendees and proved virtual conferences are a viable option. Virtual Conferences reduced the carbon footprint substantially through reduced international travel and the associated environmental impact. Virtual attendance could continue to be a viable option for environmentally-conscious travelers.

Through surveys and feedback, it was discovered that conference attendees and members of SPS care about the environment and wish to do more towards green and sustainability options at conferences. Consideration should be placed on additional green initiatives at conferences.

1.3 About Misconduct or Defiance of Policy or Guidelines

If any Conference Organizing Committee member discovers a colleague who is not following the Conference Organizer Guidelines or has gone against IEEE or SPS Policy, he/she should ensure they are aware of these items and their importance. If the incorrect behavior continues, the VP-Conferences or the SPS President should be contacted. The matter will be handled discreetly and confidentially. If it is deemed necessary that the matter requires further resolution, the SPS Conflict Resolution Process will be instituted. SPS Bylaw 206 addresses the conflict resolution process, in which SPS leadership will create an ad hoc committee to handle each matter requiring conflict resolution.

Please see SPS Bylaw 206 for full detail at <http://signalprocessingsociety.org/volunteers/signal-processing-society-bylaws>.

For conflict resolution regarding conferences, the VP-Conferences and Conferences Board will oversee this activity, with the support of SPS Executive Committee. Based on the evaluation, decisions could result in changes pertaining to the conference, including the removal of members of the conference organizing committee.

1.4 IEEE Event Conduct and Safety and SPS Diversity Statement

IEEE Conferences Committee introduced the IEEE Event Safety and Conduct statement, developed with IEEE leadership and launched at the IEEE Meeting Series in November 2018. The statement can be found at: <https://ieeemce.org/event-safety-and-conduct/>

IEEE Event Conduct and Safety Statement

IEEE believes that science, technology, and engineering are fundamental human activities, for which openness, international collaboration, and the free flow of talent and ideas are essential. Its meetings, conferences, and other events seek to enable engaging, thought provoking conversations that support IEEE's core mission of advancing technology for humanity.

Accordingly, IEEE is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment to all participants, including staff and vendors, at IEEE-related events. IEEE has no tolerance for discrimination, harassment, or bullying in any form at IEEE-related events. All participants have the right to pursue shared interests without harassment or discrimination in an environment that supports diversity and inclusion.

Participants are expected to adhere to these principles and respect the rights of others. IEEE seeks to provide a secure environment at its events. Participants should report any behavior inconsistent with the principles outlined here, to on site staff, security or venue personnel, or to eventconduct@ieee.org.

This statement reflects the positive values and behaviors espoused by IEEE and extends these values to the events community. The statement helps us all share expectations and it applies to all attendees, employees, exhibitors, speakers, sponsors, volunteers, and other participants at IEEE-sponsored events.

In addition, the IEEE Signal Processing Society adheres to the additional diversity statement for all Society activities, including conferences.

IEEE Signal Processing Society Diversity Statement

The IEEE Signal Processing Society adheres to the IEEE Code of Conduct and is committed to providing equal opportunity to its members, regardless of ethnicity, race, nationality, disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, gender, age, and/or personal identity. The Society is committed to a welcoming and inclusive environment that promotes diversity in the signal processing community.

IEEE conference organizers are asked to support by completing the following actions:

- Ensure that there is a required checkbox agreeing to the IEEE's Event Terms and Conditions during the registration process for all attendees, which can be found in the Registration Section of this document. This will confirm consent by each attendee of the IEEE Event Conduct and Safety Statement;

- Include this statement alongside all event-specific policies on an event website;
- Include this statement in the advanced and final program;
- Insert the statement into event attendee onsite welcome packets as well as how to report a concern;
- Introduce this statement during an event’s opening session via a slide and/or through incorporation into opening remarks.

Safety or conduct concerns can be reported to eventconduct@ieee.org.

1.5 Avoiding and Reporting Potential Conflicts of Interest

In accordance with IEEE Policy 9.9, organizers and staff must act at all times in the best interests of IEEE when engaging in activities on behalf of IEEE. Conflicts of interest, whether actual, perceived, or potential, must be avoided. IEEE Conflict of Interest forms are required for all organizers responsible for making financial decisions and payments. More specifically, the General Chairs and Treasurers of each Technical Meeting must complete the IEEE Conflict of Interest Form and disclose any potential conflicts. The IEEE Conflict of Interest Form can be found online at: <https://www.ieee.org/about/compliance/conflict-of-interest/coiandpob.html>

IEEE Policy 9.9, states:

9.9 Conflict of Interest

Members, volunteers, and staff must act at all times in the best interests of IEEE when engaging in activities related to 9.3 or on behalf of IEEE. Conflicts of interest, whether actual, perceived, or potential, must be avoided.

A. Definitions.

- 1. A conflict of interest is defined as any situation, transaction, or relationship in which a member’s, volunteer’s, or staff person’s decisions, actions, or votes could materially affect that individual’s professional, personal, financial, or business concerns.*
- 2. A potential conflict of interest arises from a situation where an individual might have a conflict of interest based on his or her responsibility to IEEE.*
- 3. A perceived conflict of interest arises where a third party might reasonably conclude that an individual’s private interests could improperly influence the performance of his or her responsibility to IEEE.*

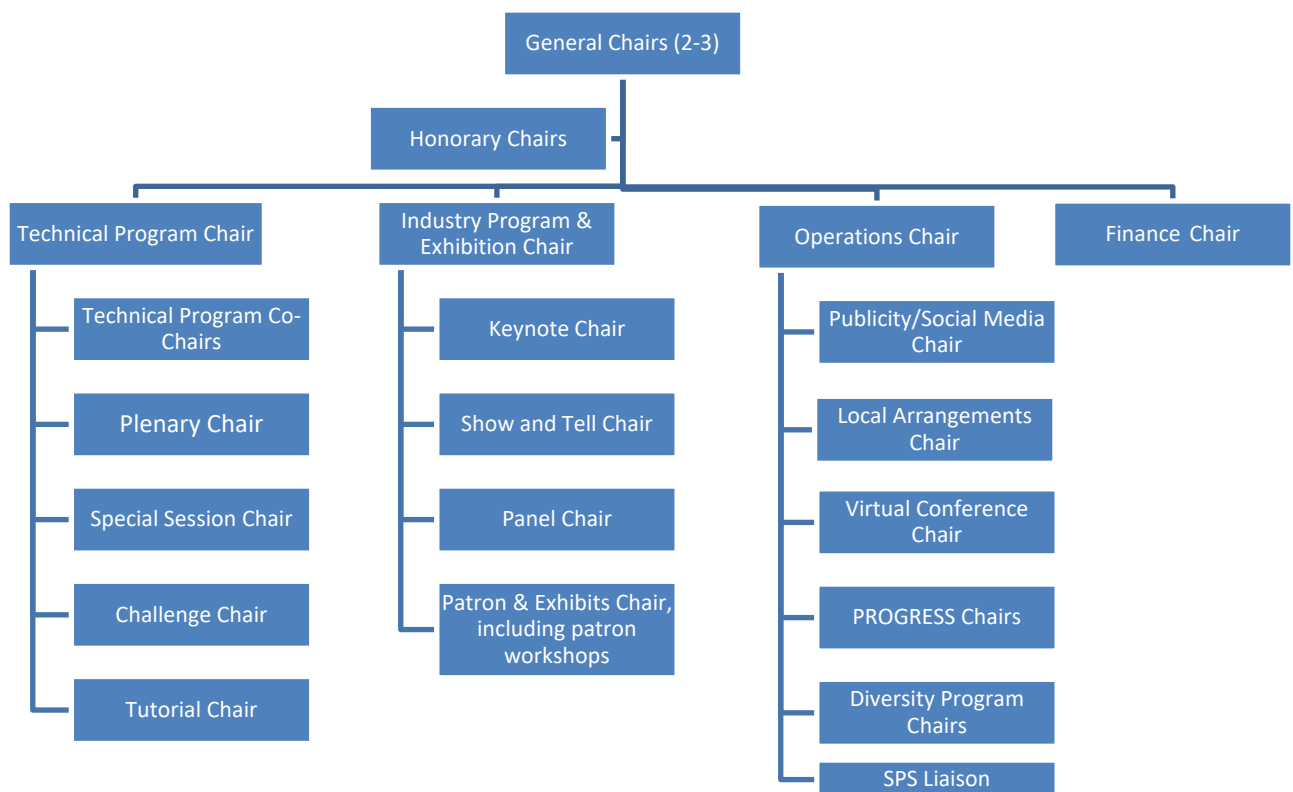
To view the complete IEEE Policies, visit: <https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/about/corporate/ieee-policies.pdf>

1.6 Organizing Committee Structure

For ICASSP and ICIP, starting in 2022, reporting layers should be added to the Conference Organizing Committee Structure dividing the Organizing Committee into three groups and a Finance Chair: Technical Program, Industry Program & Exhibition, and Operations. All three groups should have a Chair and report into the General Chair(s).

The main goals of this organizational structure is to reduce the workload of the General Chairs, give equal weight to the Technical and Industry Programs, and to assign operational oversight of the conference to a volunteer that reports directly to the General Chairs. Organizing Committees will have flexibility to choose and add roles underneath each of these categories for their conference.

Sample of a simplified organizational structure:



1.7 Organizing Committee Job Descriptions

This section includes some guidelines for the Conference Organizing Committee job descriptions.

General Chair

A General Chair is a leader, someone who is able to challenge others to develop while serving as a role model and mentor. The General Chair should facilitate teamwork and consistently acknowledge and appreciate organizing committee member's contributions and effectively utilizes each team member to his/her fullest potential. He/she effectively mitigates conflict and communication problems and provides

solutions for problems as they arise. Major responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that all IEEE and SPS rules and regulations are followed;
- Establishing the organizing committee, assigning roles and responsibilities and setting the working atmosphere;
- Representing the conference to the governing bodies such as the SPS Board of Governors and Conferences Board;
- Conducting regular status meetings with the Conference Organizing Committee and SPS;
- Overseeing conference planning to assure that tasks are completed in a timely manner;
- Resolving and/or escalating issues in a timely fashion;
- Providing data and best practices information to SP and future general chairs.

Technical Program Chair

A Technical Program Chair is responsible for delivering a well-balanced and high-quality technical program at the conference. The Technical Program Chair ensures that all persons involved in technical related tasks, e.g. Area Chairs, session chairs and reviewers, are experts in their fields and may represent different areas within the domain of the conference. Major responsibilities include:

- Developing the Call for Papers;
- Working with the vendor to create and open the paper submission site;
- Manage the paper submission, review and selection process with the committee;
- Build the technical program.

For ICASSP and ICIP starting in 2022, one Technical Program Chair will be assigned as the lead to oversee the entire technical program, beyond the papers. This Technical Program Chair will oversee all technical content chairs for the conference, including the Plenary Chair, Special Sessions Chair, Tutorial Chair, etc. The Lead Technical Program Chair will oversee the technical awards in collaboration with the Awards Chair. This lead Technical Program Chair will attend all regular meetings, work in collaboration with the Industry Program and Exhibition Chair, and as a direct report of the General Chairs.

Industry Program & Exhibition Chair

For ICASSP and ICIP starting in 2022, an Industry Program & Exhibition Chair will be added to the organizing committee and assigned to lead all efforts relating to the Industry Program, Patron and Exhibit Packages and Sales and the Exhibition floor. The Industry Program & Exhibition Chair will engage regularly with the SPS Industry Technical Working Group to ensure collaboration with the Society and consistency between different ICASSP and ICIP years. The Industry Program & Exhibition Chair will oversee the industry awards in collaboration with the Awards Chair. The Industry Program & Exhibition Chair will attend all regular meetings, work in collaboration with the Lead Technical Program Chair, and as a direct report of the General Chairs.

Operations Chair

For ICASSP and ICIP starting in 2022, an Operations Chair will be added to the organizing committee and assigned to lead all efforts relating to the overall operation of the conference. They will oversee responsibilities including website, marketing, technology needs and service providers. They will work closely with the Finance Chair on the budget, and with all members of the Organizing Committee to ensure a smooth experience for conference authors and attendees. The Operations Chair will attend all regular meetings and will act as a direct report of the General Chairs. It is recommended to add the Co-located Events Chair as it may help coordinate co-located events, like PROGRESS Workshop, local events, future workshops (see section 1.10). Maybe also will help find and invite other events to co-locate.

Finance Chair

A Finance Chair oversees all income and expense and is ensuring a balanced budget through contingency planning and by providing solutions for problems as they arise. Major responsibilities include:

- Building a budget and setting the registration and patronage fees;
- Setting up a bank account and managing and recording all financial transactions;
- Paying all expenses and ensuring a balanced budget;
- Closing the conference, including submitting all final financial information within 6-12 months of the conference ending.

1.8 Building and Changing the Organizing Committee

The Conference Organizing Committee should have several members for each position that is commensurate to the size of the conference and never too large as this may damage the efficiency of the management. For example, for ICASSP and ICIP, it is recommended that the number of persons per position is two, exceptionally three. The committee should be diverse in terms of geography, gender, background, and skillset, and should be an inclusive committee.

If it is deemed necessary to change a member of the approved Organizing Committee due to exceptional circumstances, the VP-Conferences should be notified and approve the change. For the roles of General Chair, Technical Program Chair, Industry Program & Exhibition Chair and Finance Chair, also the Conferences Board has to be notified and approve.

Under exceptional circumstances, such as significant changes of the Conference Organizing Committee, SPS may decide to withdraw the approval of the conference.

1.9 SPS Conference Liaison Support

Upon conference approval by SPS for workshops, or about two years away from the conference, a SPS Liaison is assigned and the Conference Organizing Committee informed.

For ICASSP and ICIP, the SPS Liaison is assigned by the VP-Conferences at least two years prior to the conference, so that they can attend the prior year's conference and the conference to conference meetings. Naturally, they shall also attend the conference to which they are liaising. In preference, the liaison is a current member of the SPS Conferences Board. If necessary, the liaison can be chosen from TC Chairs or other leadership roles outside of the CB, such as the Technical Program Chairs of a prior conference. Their role is to offer support on behalf of the SPS Conferences Board, bring forward the SPS point-of-view and historical information on the conference, offer guidance and assistance to organizers based on policy and guidelines and escalates any issues to the VP-Conferences as needed. The ICASSP and ICIP SPS Liaison is asked to submit a *Bi-Annual <Name of Conference> SPS Liaison Report* for each in-person SPS Conferences Board meeting. The SPS Liaison's final update will be presented at the SPS Conferences Board meeting at the conference for which they are assigned as liaison.

For all other technical meetings, an SPS Liaison is assigned by the VP-Conferences following the recommendation of the Technical Committee (TC) Chair that is technically sponsoring the meeting. The SPS Liaison shall provide guidance on the SPS high standards for technical quality, may become part of the conference's Technical Program Committee or at least reviewer, and work with the organizing committee to identify SPS and TC technical synergies with the conference topics. SPS Liaison is asked to prepare a *Final <Name of Technical Meeting> SPS Liaison Report* following the conclusion of the technical meeting, for review by the SPS Conferences Board and Technical Directions Board.

No financial support is available for travelling by the SPS Liaison.

1.10 Liaison for Signal Processing Society Board and Committee Events

Challenges and Data Collections (CDC) Committee

Approximately one year before ICASSP and ICIP, the CDC Committee Chair will contact the Conference General Chairs to start the coordination process for the conference Grand Challenges. The CDC Committee will appoint a representative to sit on the Conference Grand Challenges Organizing Committee to help support the challenges.

Women in Signal Processing Society (WISP) Committee

Approximately one year before ICASSP or ICIP, SPS conference staff will introduce the Conference Organizing Committee to the SPS Membership staff person who is managing the SPS Women in Signal Processing Committee events on behalf the WISP Chair. The SPS Membership staff will act as a liaison between the two committees. All events and activities for Women should take place in collaboration and with oversight from the SPS Women in Signal Processing Committee.

Student Services Committee

Approximately one year before ICASSP or ICIP, SPS conference staff will introduce the Conference Organizing Committee to the SPS Membership staff person who is managing the SPS Student Services Committee events on behalf the Student Services Committee Chair. The SPS Membership staff will act as a liaison between the two committees. All events and activities for Students should take place in collaboration and with oversight from the SPS Student Services Committee.

Young Professionals Committee

Approximately one year before ICASSP or ICIP, SPS conference staff will introduce the Conference Organizing Committee to the SPS Membership staff person who is managing the SPS Young Professionals Committee events on behalf the Young Professionals Committee Chair. The SPS Membership staff will act as a liaison between the two committees. All events and activities for Young Professionals should take place in collaboration and with oversight from the SPS Young Professionals Committee.

PROGRESS Oversight Committee

Approximately one year before ICASSP or ICIP, SPS conference staff will introduce the Conference Organizing Committee to the SPS PROGRESS Oversight Committee Chair who will provide guidance for the event. However, the ICASSP and ICIP Organizing Committee will be responsible for management of the PROGRESS Workshop within their conference. All events and activities for PROGRESS should take place in collaboration and with oversight from the SPS PROGRESS Oversight Committee.

SPS Industry Technical Working Group

Approximately one year before ICASSP or ICIP, the Conference Industry Program & Exhibition Chair should meet with the SPS Industry Technical Working Group to begin planning the Industry Program. The ICASSP and ICIP Organizing Committees should involve the SPS Industry Technical Working Group in all industry planning for the conference, as they are to continuity for the Society.

1.11 SPS Technical Committee Support

In addition to the SPS Liaison, the SPS Technical Committee(s) within the scope of the conference are available for support and guidance, especially on the technical program. A critical example is the creation of the ICASSP Technical Program which should be performed in consultation of the TC Chairs. The SPS Technical Committee List and Chair and Member contact information can be found on the SPS Website: <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/get-involved/technical-committees>.

1.12 Communication with SPS

All organizers have a SPS support team consisting of the VP-Conferences, and SPS Conferences staff who will continuously help the Conference Organizing Committee. For any questions along the way, contact sp.conferences.info@ieee.org.

About two years before the conference for ICASSP and ICIP, or upon sponsorship approval for other financially sponsored conferences and workshops, the SPS Conferences staff and the Conference Organizing Committee will start having regular meetings.

For ICASSP and ICIP, organizers are asked to prepare and present an *Annual <Conference> to <Conference> Update Report*, for review in both the SPS Conferences Board meeting and in the 'Conference to Conference' meeting.

For all other technical meetings, organizers are asked to prepare and submit a *Final <Name of Technical Meeting> Report* at the conclusion of the technical meeting, for review by the SPS Conferences Board and Technical Directions Board.

Additionally, SPS is requiring that conference data is provided to SPS at regular intervals by the conference organizers. Requested data is used for forecasting and to drive business decisions and includes paper and program data, reviewer lists, registration data and attendee lists, session reports and attendance, and hotel pick up reports. Data will be requested by SPS Staff via online form on regular intervals.

1.13 Helping Resources

This section includes a list of resources that may help the Conference Organizing Committee.

IEEE SPS Conference Organizer Guidelines

- ▶ The SPS Conference Organizer Guidelines (this document) is also available on the SPS website. When a Conference Organizing Committee member accepts a role as an SPS conference organizer, he/she is also agreeing to follow all guidelines and he/she should sign the Agreement on Page 2 of this document. The Conference Organizer Guidelines may be found at <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/events/conference-resources>.

IEEE SPS Conference Timeline

- ▶ A high level timeline is available on the SPS Conference Resources page, see <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/events/conference-resources>. Upon request, the SPS Conferences staff can work with the Conference Organizing Committee to prepare a web based project plan timeline to assign tasks and meeting deadlines.

Conference History

- ▶ Historical information on previous conference editions is available, notably paper statistics, meeting room sizes and assignments, past budgets or financials, or sleeping room blocks from prior years to

help in your planning; the SPS Conference Conferences staff will provide this data to the Conference Organizer Committee.

IEEE Meetings, Conferences & Events (MCE) Conference Mentor

- ▶ IEEE MCE can assist with IEEE requirements for completing a conference application, preparing and submitting the conference publication to *Xplore*, or other best practices across IEEE. A representative will contact conference organizers when the IEEE Application is approved, but if you would like assistance beforehand, please contact MCE at ieee-mce@ieee.org.

IEEE Conference Organizer Education

- ▶ MCE and Technical Activities Board offers recorded and live education modules for all organizer roles to help the Conference Organizing Committee members understanding expectations, best practices and guidelines related to each position on the Conference Organizing Committee. More information can be found at <https://ieee-elearning.org/CLE/course/index.php?categoryid=23>.

IEEE MCE - Running an IEEE Conference

- ▶ MCE offers many pages of resources to help conference organizers in running an IEEE conference. Visit the main page to learn more at <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/organizers/organizers-index.html>.

IEEE MCE - Conference Organizer Toolkit

- ▶ The Conference Organizer Toolkit is a collection of information sources, resources, service providers and tools that enable conference organizers to accomplish their tasks and can be found at <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/organizers/conference-organizer-toolkit.html>.

IEEE Conference Organizer Newsletter

- ▶ The Conference Organizing Committee members can also sign up for the IEEE Conference Organizer Newsletter at <https://bit.ly/2NOaNeo>.

2 Finances

This section addresses all issues related to the finances of the technical meeting. Every member on the Conference Organizing Committee shares responsibility for the financial performance of a technical meeting. The General Chair(s) has the ultimate authority and responsibility over the budget and the funds, and grant authority to the Finance Chair(s) or Treasurer(s). Both committee members should be completely familiar with IEEE and Society policy regarding budgets and financial procedures, and are responsible for on time and accurate closing of the conference books.

2.1 Guiding Principles for Finance Chairs

The Finance Chair(s) or Treasurer(s) is responsible for financial decisions and supervising the quality of accounting and financial reporting for the conference, under the guidance of the General Chair(s). The Finance Chair is responsible for providing timely and accurate budget reports, and for obtaining SPS approval at each budget review point.

The following principles are provided as a guideline based on past learnings and aim to assist conference organizers to achieve a financially successful conference.

Holistic Planning

It is recommended that the Finance Chair(s), with oversight by the General Chair(s), prepares a conservative financial plan with alternatives for higher-than-expected attendance and for lower-than-expected attendance (thus three budgets in total). The budget should be administered so as to prepare for these different scenarios.

A contingency plan for low attendance or patronage should highlight which expenses can be cut or reduced. Timing for making these decisions needs to be guided by the venue contract as well as the paper review and acceptance deadlines. Expenses that can be cut without impacting the technical quality of the conference should be cut first.

Similarly, if attendance is higher than expected and budget surplus becomes greater than 20%, there should be a plan to provide additional services or experiences to enhance the conference experience for the attendees. It may become possible to subsidize more student attendees, provide more paper awards, record additional sessions for wider availability, offer meals, make the social dinner/banquet free, or provide additional opportunities for networking and community building through add-on events.

Support for Finance Chair(s)

Finance Chair(s) is supported throughout the conference by both SPS and the MCE Business Analyst. The MCE Business Analyst will be the Finance Chair(s) main point of contact and will advise and guide the Finance Chair(s) on IEEE & SPS requirements, establish and oversee the IEEE conference bank account(s),

submit invoices for payment, submit required documents to IEEE, and aid conference organizers in fulfilling all closing requirements. The MCE Business Analyst will be introduced to the Finance Chair(s) upon conference approval, and will be available and accountable to the Finance Chair(s) throughout the conference planning process (at no cost).

Transparency

Conferences must be prepared to provide a complete disclosure of all financial transactions giving a clear, concise, and complete view of a conference's financial situation within four business days of request. Accounting transparency is critical for both IEEE requirements as well as government regulations. Lack of such transparency may result in replacement of the Finance Chair(s) or cancellation of the conference.

Gifts

IEEE Policy 9.8E, titled *Business Gifts*, states:

Employees and volunteers of IEEE are not permitted to receive gifts, favors, services, payments, privileges or special treatment of any kind or nature whatsoever from any individual enterprise or organization that conducts or seeks to conduct business with the IEEE unless:

- *They are consistent with good business practices; and*
- *They are of a nature that could not be construed as a business inducement; and*
- *They are considered to be of nominal value in the context presented; and*
- *Public disclosure of the transaction would not embarrass IEEE.*

<https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/ieee-policies.pdf>

2.2 Conference Budget Guidelines

This section includes basic concepts and advices for creating and maintaining a conference budget. Budgets must be approved by SPS before the conference is officially approved by IEEE. Therefore, it is important to create a proposed budget that meets the below guidelines as early in the planning process as possible.

The Budget Sets the Tone

The budget acts as a guide for the Conference Organizing Committee to identify what is important. For example, a larger food and beverage spend says that the social functions are priority. A larger publicity spend says that there is the wish for the conference to grow. The Finance Chair(s) should ensure that the conference goals are reflected financially in the budget within reasonable limits.

Conference Surplus or Deficit

All IEEE financially sponsored conferences must plan to generate a **minimum surplus of 20%** of the total budgeted expense. This must be reflected in all budgets prior to approval. This surplus funds other SPS tools and services for members and customers and also the SPS staff.

If there is concern during the conference planning phase that the conference may not meet the 20% surplus requirement, the Conference Finance Chair(s) must notify the SPS Conferences staff, VP-Conferences and SPS President-Elect immediately.

IEEE Policy states that conferences may not transfer surplus from year to year, but there is opportunity to donate funds to the IEEE Foundation’s SPS Student Young Professional (SYP) Fund to get in practice this type of transfer. The IEEE Foundation Student and Young Professional Fund section contains more detail.

Tips for Building Conference Budgets

1. **Use the SPS Template** – SPS has a preferred budget template, which contains extra features to help build an accurate budget. This template can be found on the SPS Conference Resources page at <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/events/conference-resources>.
2. **Actual Quoted Expenses** – Update the budget to include actual expense estimates that are received in quotes or contracts whenever possible. This will ensure a more accurate financial picture of the conference.
3. **Conference History** - The SPS Conferences staff will provide the conference financial history and registration counts; this information along with known expenses for the conference should be used to help create the budget and estimate the number of attendees.
4. **Registration Fees** – The SPS President-Elect must approve the entire budget as well as the registration fees before they are publicized. Registration fees should not vary more than +/- 5% from prior years (always excluding taxes). All conferences and workshops must offer a discounted registration fee for IEEE Members, SPS Members, students and IEEE Life Members. It is IEEE Policy that the rates be calculated using the percentages below.

| Grade | Differential Range |
|---------------------|--|
| Non-Member | Base Registration Fee |
| IEEE Member | 20 – 25% less than Non-Member |
| SPS Member | 15 – 20% less than IEEE Member |
| Non-Member Student | 70 - 75% less than Non-Member |
| IEEE Student Member | 20 – 25% less than Non-Member Student |
| SPS Student Member | 15 – 20% less than IEEE Student Member |
| IEEE Life Member | Same as or 10% less than IEEE Student Member |

‘Advance’ registration fees should be 25% less than ‘Regular’ or ‘At-Conference’ fees.

Conferences held in many countries may be subject to Value-Added Tax (VAT) or Goods and Services Tax (GST). VAT or GST should be added to the above calculation of registration fees. The SPS Budget Template helps with this calculation. For updated tax instructions by country, contact SPS Conferences staff.

5. **SPS Student Advanced Registration Fees:** Effective December 2019, the SPS Conferences Board approved a motion stating that the SPS Student Member Advance Rate shall be set to US\$200 for all

future flagship conferences, notably ICASSP and ICIP, starting in 2020. Because of IEEE Policy 10.1.15, the IEEE Life Member Advance Rate must also be set to US\$200. For all conferences in which the budget is already approved, SPS will subsidize the difference between the approved budget rate and the rate of US\$200, up to US\$40,000 per conference, starting with ICASSP 2020. The US\$200 rate will be revisited every 3 years. While this motion was only approved for flagship conferences, the concept is that the SPS Student Advanced rate should be kept as low as possible, and ideally at US\$200 for all conferences and workshops.

- 6. SPS Student Tutorial Early Registration Fees** – At ICASSP and ICIP, the early in-person registration tutorial fees should not be higher than US\$25 for SPS students and shall be free for virtual tutorial attendance, starting in 2019. To avoid any significant impact to the conference’s final surplus, the difference between the estimated tutorial income and the final actual tutorial income for the early registration SPS students will be subsidized by SPS.

Conference budgets will be prepared as usual including a balanced set of tutorial registration fees for the various types of registrants; this still allows the conferences to propose multiple models for the tutorial registration fees, including no fees at all.

The conference will be subsidized by SPS whenever the advance/early SPS student tutorial fee for SPS students in advanced registration is above US\$25. SPS offers for each student in these conditions an amount of *Subsidy per student = (specific tutorial fee - \$25)*. The preliminary maximum total subsidy amount will be *Subsidy per student x the number of SPS students in advanced registration*. The subsidy will be only provided to allow the conference to make a 20% projected conference surplus and up to the amount of US\$20,000.

To request the SPS subsidy, the organizers shall submit a request following the early registration deadline. The request should contain: a report with the list of early/advance student tutorial registrants, income received, and updated budget/forecast. SPS will review the report, and transfer the money directly to the conference account prior to the conference occurring, to be used on conference services or expenses, if desired.

- 7. SPS Members from Low Income Economies Registration Fees** - Effective May 2020, a standing SPS Member “Low Income Economies” Advance Rate, will be set to US\$200, for all future flagship conferences for in-person attendance and shall be free for virtual conference attendance. This registration rate will include all the benefits of full registration; **however, to cover an accepted paper with this type of registration, the low income country author has to be the presenter at the conference.**
- 8. SPS Members from Low Income Economies Tutorial Fees** - Additionally, there will be a standing US\$25 SPS Member “Low Income Economies” In-Person Advance Tutorial Rate and shall be free for virtual tutorial attendance for all future flagship conferences. Low income countries are defined by IEEE Membership and can be found here: <https://www.ieee.org/membership/join/emember-countries.html>
- 9. Honoraria** - A honorarium is a payment to an individual of special achievement or renown, in return for that individual’s willingness to participate in an IEEE event of short duration (such as a speaker, seminar leader, tutorial provider, etc.), with the understanding that the payment does not constitute

compensation commensurate with the actual services provided. Often the visibility and publicity of such a role are of personal value to the honoree. The honorarium is intended as a 'thank you' for their time and expertise and is not a quid-pro-quo, and is typically provided to Plenary and Tutorial Speakers. Honorariums should not exceed \$1,500 and are non-recurring. Usual amounts are \$100, \$500, and \$1,000. Please check with previous conference organizers or SPS Conferences staff for advice.

If more than US\$1,500 is being considered for an especially notable speaker, approval of justification is needed by the SPS VP-Conferences before communicating the amount. Although discouraged, special circumstances may require a single payment to a recipient that is shared among multiple parties, usually students without bank accounts. Such payments exceeding US\$1500 in total must also be approved by the SPS VP-Conferences.

All honoraria payments should be included in the conference budget and sent to SPS for approval. When considering recipients of honoraria, volunteers are expected to follow IEEE Policy Section 9.9 on Conflict of Interest. (<https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/about/corporate/ieee-policies.pdf>)

When conducting IEEE business or engaging in activities related to IEEE, members, volunteers and staff must be cognizant of any actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest, especially those involving improper personal or financial gain. Consistent with the process outlined in §715 of the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, it is the responsibility of all IEEE members and volunteers in any elected, appointed, or other decision-making position of an IEEE activity to consider each item of business where they have a vote or decision-making authority to determine if an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest may exist. For example, speakers also involved with the organization or oversight of a conference or workshop should not be granted honoraria for speaking engagements pertaining to that conference or workshop. If there are any questions about perceived conflict of interest, please send the specific cases to the VP-Conferences for review prior to committing to providing an honoraria.

- 10. Sponsorship, Grants and Gifts** - Do not include estimates for potential sponsorship, grants or corporate gifts in the proposed budget unless you have written confirmation from the provider. Once confirmed, revise the budget to reflect the additional income and adjust other items accordingly.
- 11. Conference Gifts to Attendees** – If a gift is offered to the attendees, it should not cost the conference more than US\$25 per person. This limitation does not apply if the gift is offered by an outside organization and does not come from the conference budget.
- 12. Administrative Meetings** – Check with SPS Conferences staff to see if the event will have any SPS administrative meetings co-located; this is always the case for ICASSP and ICIP. If so, this cost must be included in the conference budget and SPS staff can provide a cost estimate to include.
- 13. SPS Administration Fee** - All conference and workshop budgets shall include an administration fee of 2% of the total expenses. This field is included in the SPS Conference Budget template. This administration fee is used by SPS to cover the cost of the SPS Conferences staff team as well as tools and resources for conference organizers.

14. Monetary Gifts to Local Signal Processing Society Chapters - SPS Policy and Procedures Manual 7.13 states that:

Each Society sponsored conference and workshop has the opportunity to provide a donation to the local Signal Processing Society (SPS) Chapter, where the event is taking place. However, in order for the donation to be executed, the following criteria must first be met:

Society sponsored workshops may budget up to \$5,000 per event. The donation must be included as an expense item in the approved budget and the workshop must meet IEEE required 20% surplus. If the 20% surplus has not been met, the donation amount may be reduced, so the Society meets its projected surplus. If the 20% surplus can not be met, a donation will not be extended to the local SPS Chapter. Donations will not be allowed to be increased due to a workshop acquiring a larger than budgeted surplus. Donations are made with the provision that the local SPS Chapter actively participated in the organization of the meeting.

Society sponsored conferences may budget up to \$10,000 per event. The donation must be included as an expense item in the approved budget and the conference must meet IEEE required 20% surplus. If the 20% surplus has not been met, the donation amount may be reduced, so the Society meets its projected surplus. If the 20% surplus can not be met, a donation will not be extended to the local SPS Chapter. Donations will not be allowed to be increased due to a conference acquiring a larger than budgeted surplus. Donations are made with the provision that the local SPS Chapter actively participated in the organization of the meeting.

SPS Policy & Procedures Manual can be found at:
<https://signalprocessingsociety.org/volunteers/policy-and-procedures-manual>.

Budget Approval Process

Upon receipt, the SPS Conferences staff will preview the budget before sending to the President-Elect for review and approval.

Once SPS has approved the budget, it will be forwarded to IEEE Meetings, Conferences & Events (MCE) to share with any other IEEE sponsors for review and obtain final approval.

The General Chair(s) and Finance Chair(s) will be notified when the budget is approved by all financial sponsors (IEEE Sections or other non-society sponsors) and IEEE.

2.3 Conference Contracts

IEEE and SPS strongly encourage that several proposals are received and reviewed for services prior to contracting with one provider. For contracts valued at over US\$250,000, competitive bidding is an IEEE requirement. Before selecting and contracting with any providers, the organizing committee must ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. See IEEE Policy 9.8 for more information on the IEEE Conflict of

Interest Policy, which can be found at: <https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/about/whatis/ieee-policies.pdf>

IEEE has negotiated standard agreements and contract templates with several major hotel chains, as well as standard contract templates for other venues and service providers. Using these templates will expedite the contract review process. Templates can be found at <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/organizers/contracts.html>.

Any contract with a value of US\$5K and greater should be submitted for review by IEEE MCE and Legal Counsel, so please allow additional time.

2.4 Conference Loans & Advances

General Chair(s) or Finance Chair(s) may request a conference loan or advance from SPS at any time during the planning cycle for any upfront expenses prior to obtaining income from registration or sponsorships. Organizers can email SPS Conferences staff to request the loan once the conference bank account has been set up. Conference loans must be repaid in full to SPS at the end of the conference. The total loan value per conference should not exceed 25% of the conference's total budgeted expense. Requests for loans or advances that exceed this amount require explicit approval from SPS.

2.5 Ongoing Financial Management

Conference organizers will be asked for financial forecast updates, based on a schedule driven by conference deadlines to help better understand the final registration numbers. At each of the milestones below, the Finance Chair(s) shall submit a financial forecast, using the SPS Budget Template, to the SPS Conferences staff for review to ensure the conference is on target to achieve financial success. The forecasts should be sent at the following times:

- 1. Signed Venue, Professional Conference Organizer, or other Major Contracts** – Update with actual expense estimates based on the final contract(s). For ICASSP, ICIP and other conferences and workshops approved at least two years out, it is expected that all major contracts are signed at least one year before the conference dates. For conferences and workshops approved one year out, all major contracts should be signed a most six months prior to the conference dates.
- 2. Paper Submission Deadline** – Update based on actual number of papers submitted:
 - If less than 80% of expected papers were submitted, then reduce the expected registrations by the percent difference.
 - If more than expected papers submitted, then increase the expected registration by percent difference.

3. Paper Acceptance Deadline – Update based on actual number of papers accepted:

- If less than 80% of expected papers accepted, then reduce expected registrations by the percent difference and adjust meeting space on hold, and take allowable reductions in room block and Food & Beverage (F&B) guarantees.
- If more papers are accepted than expected, increase the expected registration numbers and adjust the meeting space on hold, if needed.

4. Prior to Opening Registration – Determine if any registration fees need to be adjusted based on the budget, and if so, submit to SPS for review and approval. Consider reducing the registration fees, if budget allows, e.g. due to an expected number of attendees larger than initially estimated, while giving priority to the student fees. Registration fees cannot be posted or updated until SPS leadership has approved any changes to the fees from the pre-approved budget. Final registration fees must be submitted to SPS at least one month prior to the planned date for opening registration.

5. Author Registration Deadline - 80% of registrations are typically confirmed by the author registration deadline. Using this formula, project the final number of registrants based on already having 80% of the conference's total registrants:

- If conference has less than 80% of budgeted registrations confirmed, adjust registration numbers, reduce meeting space on hold, and take allowable reductions in room block and F&B guarantees.
- If more than 90% of budgeted registrations, increase expected registration, and adjust or increase the meeting space on hold.

6. Advance Registration Deadline 90% of registrations are typically confirmed by the advance registration deadline. Using this formula, project the final number of registrants based on already having 90% of the conference's total registrants:

- If conference has less than 90% of budgeted registrations confirmed, adjust registration numbers, reduce meeting space on hold, and take allowable reductions in room block and F&B guarantees.
- If more than 100% of budgeted registrations, increase expected registration, and adjust or increase the meeting space on hold.

7. One week before and until the conference ends – With proper budgeting and financial management, there should be no need to resubmit a revised forecast, and the net surplus should be as anticipated and around 20% of the expenses. However, if there is any indication that the budget will not generate the originally planned surplus, notify SPS immediately. If there is indication that the budget will generate a surplus higher than 20%, consider improving the registrants experience, e.g. record additional sessions for wider availability, offer meals, make the social dinner/banquet free, or provide additional opportunities for networking and community building through add-on events.

SPS may ask to work with the conference organizers on modifying the budget to meet strategic objectives of the Society or for other reasons. In extraordinary cases may cancel approval of the conference if the

budget or financial management becomes unacceptable.

2.6 Setting up a Conference Bank Account

SPS strongly prefers that conferences use IEEE for banking through the IEEE Concentration Bank (CB) Account program. This account is created and overseen by IEEE MCE. Using an IEEE CB Account for conference banking ensures that the finances are secure and held within IEEE accounts for security and ease of submitting the final audit information. Learn more about IEEE CB Accounts at <https://www.ieee.org/membership/services/financial/treasury/concentration.html>.

Aside from these benefits, choosing the best banking option for an IEEE conference can depend on the location of the conference and the currency local payments will be made in. Some recommendations based on region can be found below:

Conferences in the United States (US)

Use an IEEE Concentration Banking (CB) account and collect registration in US Dollars - this is the ideal solution and offers the most fiscal control.

Conferences in Canada

Use an IEEE Concentration Banking (CB) account and collect registration in Canadian Dollars - this is the ideal solution and offers the most fiscal control.

Conferences in IEEE Regions 8-10

The best choice for each conference may be different. Below are options, and things to consider:

1. IEEE Concentration Banking (CB) account

- Use this account and collect registration in US Dollars. Conferences may also want to keep second bank account local to pay bills in local currency, and transfer funds periodically from the IEEE CB account.

2. Open a bank account with an IEEE Section or Chapter

- With this option, the Section or Chapter Chair would need to accept responsibility for all transactions and record keeping. It is best to have an existing relationship with Section/Chapter. This is a good option because the bank account is in the name of IEEE.

For specific instances, other banking options may be available and discussed with SPS Conferences staff, the MCE Business Analyst, VP-Conferences and President-Elect.

It is important to consider the stability of the local currency against other major currencies. If there have been wide fluctuations in recent history, then the local currency might be a better bet, for more certainty in financial forecasts. This is to be balanced against the choice of using a major currency, like USD, which has the advantage of being well understood by SPS international community, and so may inspire greater confidence (and have greater convenience) on the part of attendees.

When setting up the conference bank account, the signatories shall include one General Chair, one Finance Chair, and one SP staff member. Contractors cannot be a signatory on any conference accounts.

2.7 Making Conference Payments

Conference organizers should request and ensure all invoices for vendors, including Professional Conference Organizers (PCOs) are received as detailed and enumerated prior to payment and submission. Contracts should be reviewed for the payment schedules and deadlines to ensure invoices are received and timely payments are made.

Conference organizers have signing authority to pay invoices up to US\$25,000.

If using an IEEE CB Account for banking, the credit card has a monthly limit of US\$5,000, but checks can be written for up to US\$25,000. For larger payments, submit the invoice to conference-payments@ieee.org for payment processing.

For substantial invoices, such as venue payment, in which there are some items that are still being negotiated or disputed, IEEE recommends submitting payment in the amount of all agreed upon charges, but withholding payment of any disputed items/amounts. Any remaining payment due can be submitted after final invoice reconciliation.

2.8 Conference Sponsors, Patrons and Exhibitors

According to IEEE, sponsors are defined as the organizations responsible for the financial, technical, publicity, and administrative running of the conference. Financial sponsors have financial responsibility for the conference, including bank accounts, contracts, deficits, surplus, and other financial obligations. Technical sponsors do not have financial responsibility. They actively participate in the conference technical component, but accept no financial or legal liability for the conference.

Patrons are defined as organizations that are financially contributing to the conference in exchange for support. This support can take the form of direct grants, paid advertising in the program, services provided in exchange for brand exposure, underwriting a specific activity (breaks, lunch, etc.), and providing attendee gifts, etc. These patrons should be noted separately on the conference materials and website to distinguish them from financial and technical sponsors.

Learn more about sponsors and patrons at <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/organizers/conference-sponsorship.html>.

The Conference Organizing Committee is expected to gather the largest possible number of patrons, notably with the purpose to reduce the conference expenses and attendee registration fees. The types of patronage adopted are at the discretion of the Conference Organizing Committee. The negotiated terms with the patrons shall not have any direct impact on the conference technical program.

Organizers may also offer the option to purchase an exhibit booth. Organizers should decide on the details of the exhibit area and what is included in the cost of each booth when setting the pricing per exhibitor.

The Exhibitor Prospectus is a document that outlines the technical meeting including a profile of the program and the attendees, to show the value to potential exhibitors and patrons. SPS Conferences staff maintains a copy of these documents, or can help organizers create one based on prior years. Contact sps.conferences.info@ieee.org to learn more or to request a template.

Sponsors, Patron and Exhibitor Example for ICASSP and ICIP

For ICASSP and ICIP, SPS is the sole sponsor. ICASSP and ICIP may have many patrons that support conference through financial grants or for various levels of patronage, typically labeled as Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze level patrons. There is also typically the option to purchase an exhibit booth outside of the patronage packages. Organizers should obtain the prior year patron/exhibitor list as well as the Exhibitor Prospectus file, in an effort to keep the packages somewhat consistent year over year, whenever possible.

SPS Conferences Board has developed a *Patron and Exhibitor Prospectus* template with standard package offerings and pricing, along with terms and conditions to be used for ICASSP and ICIP. Packages can be adjusted each year as needed depending on the local costs and exhibit space, but should be kept as consistent to the template as possible to offer our frequent patrons consistency. Other SPS conferences and workshops may also utilize this template and set packages if they are interested. For a copy of the template, contact sps.conferences.info@ieee.org.

2.9 IEEE Foundation Student and Young Professional Fund

The IEEE Foundation Student and Young Professional Fund (SYP Fund) allows SPS technical meetings to save and use extra financial support received by the conference for future student and young professional activities. The SYP Fund may be used by a conference to deposit extra patronage funds when it is noted that the conference will exceed the 20% surplus amount. By depositing the patronage funds into the SYP Fund directly, it may then be used for future years' student and young professional activities at conferences.

How funds can be deposited into the SYP Fund

1. Organizers may ask their patrons to consider submitting payment directly to the SYP Fund instead of paying to the conference directly. Conference organizers can still give the same recognition to that patron. Conference organizers should also monitor and ensure that they will still meet the 20% budgeted surplus, since SYP Fund donations will not be reflected in the conference budget.
2. Sole-sponsored SPS technical meetings can also make 'matching donations' in the same amount as those patronage funds received, but only if such donation does not reduce that conference's surplus below 20%.

Using the SYP Fund for Student & Young Professional Activities

Subsequent year(s) conference(s) can then withdraw from the SYP Fund for student and young professionals activities, up to the amount donated by the corresponding conference in previous years. Some options include:

- Travel grants for students and young professionals to attend a conference;
- Special events or programming on signal processing for students and young professionals;
- Scholarships and Fellowships for students pursuing a career in signal processing;
- Production of educational media in multiple formats, aimed to educate and promote signal processing to students and young professionals.

If an organizer committee would like to find out if there is fund money available for use by a conference, please contact the SPS Conferences staff. Upon use, a brief report of how those funds were used and successes will be required by SPS and the IEEE Foundation.

Organizers interested in taking advantage of the SYP Fund for future student and young professional activities should contact the IEEE SPS Conferences staff at sp.conferences.info@ieee.org for more information.

2.10 On-Site Cash Management

The General Chair and/or Finance Chair should grant written approval to the custodian of cash on-site. For example, the Finance Chair(s) should receive written approval from the General Chair(s). If the General Chair(s) is to be the custodian, then approval should be received by the SPS VP-Conferences or Executive Director. Request for approval should contain:

- Amount of cash requested, which should be nominal and only when other payment methods are impractical;
- Protocol for handling, securing and dispersing of cash;
- Documentation in the form of approved vouchers and list of payees.

Reconciliation of funds withdrawn to funds dispersed between custodian and approver should be performed daily. It should be ensured that there is a receipt or written line item for any cash expenses that is shared with IEEE when closing the conference finances.

2.11 Conference Closing

Financial books must be closed within **one year** from the last day of the conference to be compliant with IEEE.

As soon as the conference ends, the Finance Chair(s) should work with the IEEE MCE Business Analyst and SPS Conferences staff to complete the below steps to close the conference.

Within One Month of the Conference

1. Submit the <Name of Conference> Final Conference Report to sps.conferences.info@ieee.org, which includes:
 - Complete list of conference attendees, patrons and exhibitors with contact information and registration type and payment received;
 - List of authors who did not present their paper (No-Show Report);
 - Final actual hotel room block (Pickup Report);
2. For ICASSP and ICIP, submit an invoice from the conference to SPS containing the expenses incurred less the patronage money received for the SPS membership events (Student Career Lunch, Young Professionals Event, Women in Signal Processing Lunch, etc.)
3. Repay any IEEE loans, if applicable. Loan repayment can be sent by check or wire transfer. Organizers should include the conference year and acronym on the check or wire transfer note.

Within Six Months of the Conference

1. Submit the Final Financial Report to sps.conferences.info@ieee.org. Once reviewed and accepted, IEEE will confirm the final amount of the surplus to transfer.
2. Submit all tax forms for any payments made to individuals or contractors to conference-finance@ieee.org:
 - 1099 and 1042 forms are required if payments were made to a US independent contractor and/or individual who received payment for services rendered in the calendar year.
 - 1042 form is required if payments were made to a non-US independent contractor and/or individual who received payment for services rendered in the calendar year.
 - Receipt of payment to any individual should include the recipient's name, address, and for US individuals their Social Security Number.
 - Services rendered include any parts and materials, awards, honorarium or prizes.
 - Reimbursements to committee members for out-of-pocket expenses do not require a 1099/1042.
3. Submit the Certificate of Accuracy (COA) signed by the General Chair(s) and Finance Chair(s) to conference-finance@ieee.org.
4. Submit the final conference surplus to all sponsoring entities, and include the conference acronym and year on all correspondence.

- For IEEE Concentration Banking accounts, email conference-finance@ieee.org to request the funds to be transferred.
 - To submit by check, include the conference acronym and year on the memo line of the check. Submit to IEEE, MCE Conference Finance, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA.
 - To submit by wire transfer, contact conference-finance@ieee.org for the current account information.
5. Close bank account and submit proof of the bank account closure to conference-finance@ieee.org
- If IEEE Concentration Banking account, complete the Check Destroy Form.
 - If private bank account, provide a bank statement indicating a zero balance.
 - If university account, provide official (letterhead) document from the university stating that the funds are zeroed out and no further transactions remain.
6. Audit of Financial Records – required if conference receipts or expenses equal or exceed US\$250,000 and IEEE’s sponsorship of the conference is greater than 50%.
- Maintain registration records, receipts, bank statements, and any financial reports for at least three (3) years.
 - IEEE Operations Audit Department or an independent outside accounting firm may complete the audit of the conference’s financial statements.
 - For an audit by IEEE Operations Audit Department, submit all receipts/invoices to conference-finance@ieee.org. If sending copies via postal mail, please mail all copies of all receipts/invoices to IEEE, MCE Conference Finance, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA.
 - If an outside auditor is used, submit the final audit report to conference-finance@ieee.org.

3 Branding, Website and Communications

This section addresses all issues related to the branding, website and communications which are critical for the success of the technical meeting.

3.1 Branding and Logos

The IEEE and SPS logos achieve brand recognition and represent quality. Misuse of either logo is a violation of policy. The logos must appear on all print and web materials in the original approved form. Recoloring of the logo or other modifications of the logo, including creating a conference logo with elements of the IEEE or SPS logo, is not generally permitted. IEEE and SPS logos are a requirement for all technical meeting materials, including the website, advertising, promotion and giveaways.

No logos of institutions of technical meeting volunteers or of conference service providers may appear on any Society solely-owned technical meeting material, including websites, unless they are a co-sponsor of the technical meeting. The main web page for technical meetings may not have any logos other than that of the approved sponsoring entities for the technical meeting. This would mean IEEE and IEEE SPS logos only would appear for technical meetings solely owned by the Society.

Please visit the Signal Processing Society website for instructions on SPS logo usage and logo files to use on your materials at: <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/our-story/sps-branding-materials>

For information on proper usage and placement of the IEEE Masterbrand and IEEE SPS sub-brand, visit the IEEE Brand Guidelines page at <https://brand-experience.ieee.org/guidelines/brand-identity/> or contact SPS Conferences staff for assistance or review.

3.2 Website

Conference Domains

Domain names for conference and workshops websites have or can be purchased by SPS Conferences staff for your conference, to ensure continuity in naming conventions. Please contact sps.conferences.info@ieee.org to secure your conference domain.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for Conference Websites

IEEE has created instructions to ensure organizers comply with GDPR regarding cookie collection on websites. An informational banner must be applied to all technical meeting websites. Instructions on applying the banner can be found at <https://bit.ly/2NOaNeo>.

IEEE Privacy Policy on Website Footer

Conference websites should include a link in the website footer to the updated IEEE Privacy Policy: <https://www.ieee.org/security-privacy.html>.

IEEE Policy Links to add to all IEEE Conference Websites

The two links below must be included in the website of all IEEE conferences so that attendees are aware and can read and access this information pertaining to IEEE Privacy and the Event Terms and Conditions.

IEEE Event Terms and Conditions: <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/event-terms-and-conditions.html>

IEEE Privacy Policy: <https://www.ieee.org/security-privacy.html>

Clauses for all SPS Conference Websites

The below text must be included as written, as it is taken from the IEEE SPS Policies & Procedures Manual, approved by SPS Conferences Board and the Board of Governors.

Non-Presented Paper (No-Show) Policy: Any accepted paper included in the final program is expected to have at least one author or qualified proxy attend and present the paper at the conference. If a paper is not presented at the conference, the paper will not be published by IEEE on IEEE Xplore® or other public access forums, but these papers will be distributed to conference attendees as conference proceedings and the copyright of these papers will belong to IEEE. For poster sessions, if the speaker is not present in front of the poster for most of the time during the poster session, this also implies the paper was not presented. Conference organizers are required to collect attendance records and a list of any non-presented papers and submit to IEEE SPS staff.

Exceptions to this policy will be made by the Technical Program Chair(s) of the conference only if there is evidence that the no-show occurred because of unanticipated events beyond the control of the authors, and every option available to the authors to present the paper was exhausted. The no-show authors may appeal the decision of the Technical Program Chair to the VP-Conferences.

Qualified Proxy Policy: The presentation of papers by substitutes is highly discouraged and may only be made after permission is granted by the Technical Program Chair(s) of the conference based on solid evidence that none of the authors is available to present. Papers presented by substitutes without permission will be considered as no-shows.

Authors with Travel Restrictions Policy: The Signal Processing Society values diversity. Authors who anticipate inability to travel to a conference because of a government-imposed travel restriction are still encouraged to submit papers. Such papers will be reviewed and accepted on their own merit for publication without any knowledge of the author's travel restriction. Within one week of paper acceptance notification, travel-restricted authors must notify the Technical Program Chair of the conference with proof of their restriction. Substitute presenters may be possible or, depending on conference resources, other accommodations may be available, such as a remote presentation or pre-recorded video.

IEEE Event Conduct and Safety Statement: IEEE believes that science, technology, and engineering are fundamental human activities, for which openness, international collaboration, and the free flow of talent and ideas are essential. Its meetings, conferences, and other events seek to enable engaging, thought provoking conversations that support IEEE’s core mission of advancing technology for humanity.

Accordingly, IEEE is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment to all participants, including staff and vendors, at IEEE-related events. IEEE has no tolerance for discrimination, harassment, or bullying in any form at IEEE-related events. All participants have the right to pursue shared interests without harassment or discrimination in an environment that supports diversity and inclusion.

Participants are expected to adhere to these principles and respect the rights of others. IEEE seeks to provide a secure environment at its events. Participants should report any behavior inconsistent with the principles outlined here, to on site staff, security or venue personnel, or to eventconduct@ieee.org.

IEEE Signal Processing Society Diversity Statement: The IEEE Signal Processing Society adheres to the IEEE Code of Conduct and is committed to providing equal opportunity to its members, regardless of ethnicity, race, nationality, disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, gender, age, and/or personal identity. The Society is committed to a welcoming and inclusive environment that promotes diversity in the signal processing community.

View the complete IEEE Signal Processing Society Policy & Procedures Manual at <http://signalprocessingsociety.org/volunteers/policy-and-procedures-manual>.

IEEE also recommends posting information about preprints, including Arxiv.

Preprints

Authors may post their preprints in the following locations:

- Author’s personal website
- Author’s employer’s website
- [arXiv.org](http://arxiv.org)
- TechRxiv.org
- Funder’s repository*

This does not count as a prior publication. If copyright to the paper was transferred to IEEE through the completion of an IEEE Copyright Form before the preprint is posted, IEEE must be credited as the copyright holder with the following statement included on the initial screen displaying IEEE-copyrighted material:

“© 20XX IEEE. Personal use of this material is permitted. Permission from IEEE must be obtained for all other uses, in any current or future media, including reprinting/republishing this material for advertising or promotional purposes, creating new collective works, for resale or redistribution to servers or lists, or reuse of any copyrighted component of this work in other works.”

Upon publication of the paper, the paper’s Digital Object Identifier (DOI) should be added.

Visit the IEEE Author Center for more information on SPS sharing and posting policies at <https://ieeauthorcenter.ieee.org/>.

Legal Considerations for Web and Promotional Content

The OC should not use content and/or images from another site (including IEEE digital sites) without permission. For example, Google images found through search without permission of the owner should not be used. For all content that is not original, its source should be provide as a caption, once permission for publishing has been obtained.

For example, commonly found pictures of cityscapes are often used. Even though such pictures may not be displayed online as copyrighted, they may still be. It may be best for the OC to check with the local government and tourism bureau for available images that are available for use.

Website Archiving After the Technical Meeting Ends

After the conclusion of the event and after all final updates are made to the website, it is recommended that website hosting is then transferred to IEEE SPS, if it was not already hosted there. This is important to ensure that the web record for the event remains intact and within IEEE for reference for the long term future.

All websites can be packed and sent to IEEE SPS to be hosted within IEEE on the SPS website. To get started, contact sp.conferences.info@ieee.org. Communications and Marketing

All e-mail and postal mailing lists generated by technical meetings sponsored solely by SPS are solely owned by the Society. Conference organizers cannot send out email blasts to mailing lists, and must request outreach through the SPS Conferences staff.

Contacting Attendees

Any emails sent out using approved contacts need to include the ability to opt-out of future communications, usually a link within the footer of the email. This can just go to a reply-to email or can be auto-removed, if an email marketing tool is used.

Promoting Your Conference

SPS Conferences staff can help with recommendations on promoting your technical meeting. IEEE Meetings, Conferences & Events also has prepared a suite of tools and guides to help attracting attendees to technical meetings which can be found at <http://ieeemce.org/audience-development-toolkit/>.

Social Media

Conference organizers should strongly consider appointing a Social Media Chair for the conference. Their responsibilities include managing a group for the conference, posting updates leading up to the event, answering any comments and questions on the social media community, and creating sample posts for the Conference Organizing Committee members to share with their networks. At the conference, the social media chair can post pictures, live streaming of the plenary speakers, and promote an event hashtag for all attendees to use.

Social media accounts are available for ICASSP and ICIP and ownership will be provided to the Social Media or Publicity Chairs one year before the conference takes place. For other conferences and workshops, if there is interest, SPS can help starting with social media pages and help with some best practices.

4 Technical Program & Beyond

The technical program is naturally a major product of the Conference Organizing Committee and should deserve great attention. This section addresses issues related to the technical program from creating the Call for Papers to submitting the final publication to IEEE *Xplore*.

It is important to stress that while some core components of the technical program are expected to happen year after year, the Conference Organizing Committee is encouraged to add new components to enrich and complement the conference experience. Special attention should be given to continue successful components from previous years and stimulate interaction between the attendees.

4.1 Flagship Conference Themes

Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Machine Learning should be prominent topics and themes for all ICASSP and ICIP conferences using outstanding plenary speakers, asking highly respected colleagues to organize special sessions, organizing good tutorials, and having panel discussions with the participation of relevant industry.

4.2 Call for Papers

The Call for Papers should be produced well in advance in order proper advertising of the technical meeting may happen. For ICASSP and ICIP, it is suggested that the Call for the Papers is available on the previous year edition of the conference.

The Call for Papers must show some degree of consistency over the years and include a list of technical topics following the SPS EDICS, when available. Any updating of the list of topics must be done in consultation with the relevant SPS Technical Committees and the VP-Technical Directions.

Effective for new deadlines set after May 2020, all paper submission deadlines are required to be set on Wednesdays, including extensions and also other deadlines as much as possible. Moreover, paper submission deadlines should not happen on [Major World Holidays to Avoid, listed in the Appendix](#). This change will allow for all members of our community to participate by limiting the strain on authors and respecting individual's personal, family, and home time.

Changes to the deadlines advertised in the published Call for Papers and conference web site should be handled only as exceptions since these changes create a large number of complaints. If the paper submission deadline has been advertised as 'rigid' in the conference web page or Call for Papers, then no changes (notably extensions) will be allowed. Otherwise changes (especially extensions) to the paper submission deadline for ICASSP and ICIP, must get approval from the VP-Conferences at least 5 days before the initial submission deadline and be announced in the conference web site and with an email to the SPS members, at least 3 days before the initial submission deadline.

4.3 SPS EDICS

Changes to the EDICS in the Call for Papers should be limited to where they are deeply required as continuous changes become confusing to authors and readers over time. Any changes must be made in consultation with the relevant SPS Technical Committees.

When a SPS unified EDICS will available, the defined procedure for changes should be strictly followed.

4.4 Number of Pages for Technical Meeting Papers

The number of pages per paper for each technical meeting may change depending on specific constraints and traditions of each technical area. Moreover, it is recommended that the paper lengths stay consistent within a technical meeting each year, to meet authors' expectations over the years.

SPS recommends that solely owned IEEE SPS events, notably ICASSP and ICIP, request and publish four-page papers with a 5th page exclusively for references. However, deviations from this recommendation may happen if other page lengths have been established for a certain technical meeting. Future changes to this recommendation or the established tradition must be done in consultation with the SPS VP-Conferences.

The number of pages and associated conditions, such as the 5th page for references, must always be highlighted in the Call for Papers and web page. If the page length is changed from the previous year, this must also be highlighted.

4.5 Paper Submission Site

The paper submission site should be open at least one month before the paper submission deadline and should be well structured to avoid misunderstandings while submitting papers.

4.6 Open Preview or Early Access Conference Papers

The conference organizers should consider early on, notably when setting the author deadlines, whether they want to participate in either the Open Preview or Early Access conference programs, as there are strict date requirements and the need to request participation from IEEE early in the planning process.

Open Preview: In this program, conference proceedings are made available as open access in IEEE *Xplore*, notably one month prior to the conference until the conference occurs. It is promoted for use by conference attendees to allow reading papers prior to attending the conference. After the conference, non-presented papers (no-shows) are removed and conference papers go behind the IEEE *Xplore* paywall for subscribers.

Early Access: In this program, HTML and PDF of all conference papers are made available in conference mobile app to all attendees using passcode. This option will typically require development from mobile app provider.

The participation in these programs should be disclosed to authors during the submission stage, and information should be clearly communicated and listed on the website including the estimated date of publication, which is typically one month before the conference start date. It is also recommended that authors are contacted several months before the conference reminding them of the early date of publication when the date becomes final.

4.7 Conference Paper Reproducibility and Supporting Content

It is recommended that authors are offered the ability to share datasets, code and other supporting content associated with accepted papers. The below platforms support reproducibility and publicity for posters and/or presentation files that accompany a conference paper. These below options can be added to the Call for Papers, conference website, and author acceptance email, as well as mentioned during the conference:

Increase the visibility, impact, and reproducibility of your research.

Free resources are available to upload content associated with your paper!

IEEE DataPort

Upload up to 2TB of data associated with your conference paper to IEEE DataPort at no cost. Uploading your data will enhance the value of your article, support research reproducibility, and may even result in more citations for you since each dataset uploaded to IEEE DataPort is assigned a unique DOI that can be cited and referenced!

*To add your datasets or learn more, visit **IEEE DataPort** (<https://iee-dataport.org>)*

Code Ocean

Include associated code, software simulations, algorithms, and more for article readers to understand what produced the results. Articles in the IEEE Xplore® digital library will display the associated and executable code from Code Ocean. Published code is fully citable and receives a DOI for better discoverability.

*To add your code or learn more, visit **Code Ocean** (<https://codeocean.com>)*

IEEE SigPort

Upload your presentations or posters in PDF format to share with other conference attendees. By posting your information, it will promote visibility of your work, and easier access to conference presentation slides. Accepted authors will receive an email with instructions and a complimentary code to add content.

[Conference Organizers should contact the SPS SigPort Editorial Board to learn more and obtain the code for their conference.](#)

4.8 Peer Review Process

Technical Program Integrity

The technical program is the most important part to an SPS conference and the integrity of the technical program must be handled with the highest level of deference and principle. All conference organizer committee members should be mindful of the following during the paper submission and review process:

- A review committee shall be diverse in nationality, gender, and affiliations.
- Members of the Conference Organizing Committee and the Technical Program Committee can submit papers; however, their papers must be handled with great care to avoid any risk of conflict of interest. Papers submitted by committee members must be handled by other committee members, and the names and other identifying information should be omitted if possible.
- Members of the Conference Organizing Committee cannot be selected to present a keynote or plenary address.

For any questions regarding these current practices or procedures, contact sp.conferences.info@ieee.org for clarification and assistance.

Papers Authored by Technical Meeting Volunteers

All SPS technical meetings have established procedures to ensure that no one can acquire unauthorized access to privileged information. The procedures ensure that the identities of reviewers for papers authored by technical meeting volunteers are not divulged to the authors and cannot be accessed by them. In particular, papers submitted by technical meeting volunteers are handled by another member of the technical meeting organization; reports and recommendations for volunteer-authored papers, when submitted to the author, omit the names and other identifying information for reviewers; and access restrictions to ensure reviewer privacy from authors are also enforced in the electronic publication management systems used for SPS technical meetings.

Area Chairs and Reviewers

Area Chairs main responsibilities are to oversee the paper review activity on behalf of both the Technical Program Chair(s), notably making review recommendations. They also assist the Technical Program Chair(s) in scheduling the papers and sessions within the technical program. For ICASSP and ICIP, it is suggested that each Area Chair manages, on average, around 30 papers. In order to make good estimations for how many Area Chairs are needed in each technical area, the conference organizers should request the submission statistics by topic from the previous year conferences, from either the SPS Conferences staff or professional conference organizer.

Area Chairs should be mainly comprised of members of the SPS Technical Committees. Additional Area Chairs should be approved by at least a relevant Technical Committee. Area Chairs should be identified

well in advance, notably well before the submission deadline in order their selection is complete when the papers arrive. If a Technical Program Committee is defined, it should correspond to the set of Area Chairs.

The quality of the review process is critical for the success of the conference and thus the selection of reviewers must be careful. For ICASSP and ICIP, the list of reviewers in the various technical areas should be sent well in advance of the submission deadline to the relevant Technical Committee for approval. The reviewers must receive an invitation to review (and define the maximum number of papers to review) and accept it before getting allocated papers to review.

Because reviewing quality is critical and must be rewarded, the Conference Organizing Committee should consider some form of reviewer recognition, e.g. reviewer awards or the creation of a list of excellent reviewers (ideally not too large, e.g. less than 2% of the total number of reviewers). These forms of recognition should be publicly advertised, notably in the Web page and at during the conference.

Reviewing Process

Naturally, the reviewing process has to be as credible and reliable as possible. All types of conflicts of interest must be avoided, including the Organizing Committee members.

The target minimum number of reviews per paper is three; under exceptional circumstances, two reviews may be accepted, notably if they are coherent on a clear Accept or Reject.

Reviewer Recruitment

After paper submission, all authors and co-authors shall receive an email recommending them to register as reviewers and offer to review a number of papers, e.g. 3 times the number of papers he/she submitted for that same conference/workshop, with a maximum limit of 10.

Additionally, the submissions which authors globally do not offer to review a pre-defined minimum number of reviews MAY be desk rejected. It is suggested that the pre-defined minimum number of reviews is, at most, for half the authors of each submission, 3 times the number of papers he/she submitted for that same conference/workshop with a maximum limit of 10. First-year graduate and under-graduate students are excluded from this recommendation.

The reviewer should be labelled as 'New reviewer' if he/she is not yet in the reviewers list in order the Technical Program Chairs or Area Chairs may more carefully check their credentials while assigning them reviews. For the 'New Reviewers' associated to desk rejected papers, it should be confirmed that they are still willing to review.

This option is used at the discretion of the event Organizing Committee; however, to be used, it has to be clearly announced well before the submission deadline in the event Web page and Call for Papers.

Every year, TC members should be asked to suggest new, competent reviewers, notably young reviewers, e.g. post-docs, senior PhD students. This is especially important for emerging topics and topics without

enough reviewers. These reviewers should be labelled as 'New reviewer' if he/she is not yet in the reviewers list in order the Technical Program Chairs or Area Chairs may more carefully check their credentials while assigning them reviews.

Reviewer Recruitment, approved in May 2020, should be implemented by conferences and workshops as soon as possible, but implementation of these improvements will be required for flagship conferences starting in 2023.

Immediate Rejects

The submissions which do not have a minimum quality as checked by two senior experts, e.g. Area Chairs or TC Chairs, MAY be desk rejected and not subject to a full reviewing process. The immediate reject must be supported by a clear motivation provided to the authors. This does not prevent that authors may appeal later to the Technical Program Chairs.

This option is used at the discretion of the event Organizing Committee; however, to be used, it has to be clearly announced well before the submission deadline in the event Web page and Call for Papers.

Immediate Rejects, approved in May 2020, should be implemented by conferences and workshops as soon as possible, but implementation of these improvements will be required for flagship conferences starting in 2023.

Author Rebuttal

After the reviewers conclude their reviews (including a recommendation), the authors should have a pre-defined period, e.g. a week, to comment and eventually refute the reviews with appropriate constraints, e.g. number of words. Following the authors' rebuttal, the reviewers are given the possibility to update their reviews and associated recommendation, e.g. a week, either by updating their evaluation of the paper or indicating 'No Change'.

Author Rebuttal, approved in May 2020, should be implemented by conferences and workshops as soon as possible, but implementation of these improvements will be required for flagship conferences starting in 2023.

Reviewers Discussion

Before a reviewing recommendation is issued, and after the individual reviews are available, the reviewers may have an anonymized discussion period, after which they may change their reviews and associated recommendation. This may happen in a process including or not authors' rebuttal. If there is author's rebuttal, the reviewers may change their reviews after the authors' rebuttal and before the start of the reviewer discussion period. Following the discussion, the reviewers are given the possibility to update their reviews and associated recommendation. Optionally, TPCs may also organize a discussion between Area Chairs, notably to discuss the 'grey zone' papers before making the final recommendations.

Reviewers Discussion, approved in May 2020, should be implemented by conferences and workshops as soon as possible, but implementation of these improvements will be required for flagship conferences starting in 2023.

Acceptance Rates

The established practice, including acceptance rates, scope, and paper review procedures, for the conference shall carry over to each occurrence with little change in order the potential attendees may have some reasonable expectations. Changes to the acceptance rate shall be no greater than +/- 3% from the average in past years. ICASSP and ICIP organizers must guarantee a paper acceptance rate under 50%, ideally around 45%. Deviations from these guidelines shall be reported to the VP-Conferences long before the final notices are sent to authors.

Appeal Process and Authors' Complaints

The authors have the right to appeal the decision for their paper, by raising it to the Technical Program Chairs of the Conference who should consider the author's reasons and reply in due time, notably in time for the paper to be included in the technical program, should the review decision be overturned.

4.9 Plagiarism

Plagiarism should be dealt with care while following the rules and processes. IEEE defines plagiarism as the reuse of someone else's prior processes, results, or words without explicitly acknowledging the original author and source. It is important for all IEEE authors to recognize that plagiarism in any form, at any level, is unacceptable and is considered a serious breach of professional conduct, with potentially severe ethical and legal consequences.

Equally important to the process of recognizing an act of plagiarism is clarifying who will be responsible for responding to any complaints of alleged plagiarism. Allegations of misconduct by authors of papers in conference proceedings shall be investigated by the Technical Program Chair(s), or if needed by the SPS VP-Conferences.

Section "8.2 Publication Guidelines" of the PSPB Operations Manual contains a major section entitled "Guidelines for Adjudicating Different Levels of Plagiarism" at <https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/pubs/pspb/opsmanual.pdf>.

4.10 Special Sessions

Special sessions should be dedicated to topics that are special in some way and not to topics that could easily fit as regular sessions. The reviewing of papers submitted to special sessions must be done using the same process and reviewer pool as for the papers submitted for regular sessions.

Each Special Session Chair cannot contribute/author more than one paper for the special session they are chairing. If needed to build the technical program, papers submitted for regular sessions may be included in special sessions and vice-versa.

4.11 Building the Technical Program

Building the technical program is a huge task, especially for ICASSP and ICIP, and thus appropriate time should be allocated for it. It is critical to:

- Select the papers for each session in order to build coherent sessions;
- Select the titles for each session in order the proper message is sent;
- Select the sessions along the days in order to avoid related sessions to appear in parallel;
- Distribute the sessions along the days in order attendees interested in a specific area may have interesting sessions all the days.

Consultation with SPS Technical Committees

When building the technical program, the Technical Program Chair(s) are requested to consult with the SPS Technical Committee Chairs for the alignment of topics along the days and for each day as this alignment is critical to maximize the experience of the attendees; this consultation is especially critical for ICASSP.

Women in Signal Processing Directory

The Women in Signal Processing (WISP) Directory aims to increase and promote visibility and recognition of women in signal processing fields by growing, engaging, enabling, and increasing representation of women across SPS and the engineering community as a whole. The conference organizers are suggested to use the WISP directory as a resource to find additional volunteers, speakers, reviewers, session chairs, etc. at <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/get-involved/women-signal-processing>.

Poster and Lecture Papers

No differentiation is made between the value of papers included in poster and lecture sessions. Papers are assigned primarily to ensure consistency among the sessions, at the discretion of the conference organizers. Some organizers elect to use poster sessions to provide the opportunity for attendees to meet authors personally and to discuss their papers in depth. The poster session papers must be vetted together with the lecture session papers to ensure the same standard of quality.

Show & Tell Sessions

Papers: Papers accepted in the Show & Tell sessions should have the same quality and vetting process as the lecture and poster sessions, and will be submitted to IEEE *Xplore*[®] with the same conditions. Papers in Show & Tell sessions should have novelty coming from practical realization techniques, interesting/new applications and advanced system structures, especially suitable for industrial applications. Show & Tell papers, poster papers and lecture papers are all considered equal for review, selection, and posting in IEEE *Xplore*[®].

Demonstrations without a regular paper: There may be cases where Show & Tell demonstrations are made without an accompanying paper, or with a paper that has not undergone the same review process as the poster and lecture papers. Such papers or other documentation of the demonstration will not be included in IEEE *Xplore*[®]. It is the discretion of the conference organizers to determine whether these materials are to be included as supplements in the conference proceedings. All papers included in the conference proceedings and/or IEEE *Xplore*[®] must submit a copyright form.

Demonstration Participants: Demonstrations should be encouraged as a different way to engage authors and attendees, and accommodations should be made for this type of session when possible. Organizers should make every effort to cover the cost of setup of a basic demonstration in the conference budget, and specify on the website what support and/or items (i.e. booth, table, lighting, etc.) will be included at no charge. If enhanced technological or logistical support is required for the demonstration, a nominal fee may be requested from the demonstration participants to offset the direct cost of the demonstration.

4.12 Obituaries

Regarding obituaries, the SPS Conferences Policies state:

7.8.3. Conference Publications, Publication of Obituaries. (approved 24 March 2005)

No obituaries will be published in any IEEE Signal Processing Society technical meeting proceedings or programs.

7.10. Recognition at Technical Meetings of the Society Members Who Have Died. (approved 24 March 2005)

No obituaries will be part of any IEEE Signal Processing Society technical meeting or ceremony.

4.13 Content in the Conference Proceedings and IEEE *Xplore*[®]

The conference papers shall be sent to IEEE *Xplore* no more than one month after the end of the conference, notably after identifying the final no-shows as the corresponding have to be removed.

Statement on Conference Proceedings

All solely owned IEEE SPS events should include a statement on each page of the conference proceedings listed below:

“This full text paper was peer reviewed at the direction of IEEE Signal Processing Society subject matter experts for publication in the IEEE ABCD 20XX proceedings.”

Changing Conference Paper Information in IEEE Xplore®

Once a conference paper is submitted to IEEE for publication in IEEE Xplore, changes to that publication become very difficult to make. Because content is indexed when it appears in IEEE Xplore, it is important that the publication is correct and final prior to submission to IEEE. All requests which are approved or denied are done so in accordance with IEEE Publication Services & Products Board policy and are not at the discretion of MCE, the conference sponsors or IEEE Publications team.

Creating Additional Conference Publication for Challenge Papers

IEEE allows multiple conference proceedings to be submitted for one conference, and records them as “sub-event”. Challenge Papers, as an example, typically have later deadlines, which would not allow them to be included in the complete conference proceedings, due to time constraints. If these papers are peer reviewed, they still may be able to be submitted to IEEE Xplore as a sub-event of the main technical meeting.

For ICIP 2019 and going forward, a separate IEEE conference application and publication form is submitted for “YYYY IEEE International Conference on Image Processing Challenges (ICIPC)” that can be used to capture and submit the challenge papers to IEEE Xplore. Naturally, only challenge papers approved following a similar reviewing process may be submitted to IEEE Xplore.

This is a recommended best practice for all SPS technical meetings facing this issue.

4.14 Plenary/Keynote Speakers

The selection of the plenary/keynote speakers has a major impact on the success of the conference. These speakers should connect to the conference’s theme, and should help in attracting newcomers to the conference. It is suggested that the set of plenary/keynote speakers is a good mix of top experts from academia and industry. However, additional weight and consideration should be placed on finding industry speakers, since they can provide press, attract more industry attendees and new members, and propose challenges to the academic SPS members.

All plenary or keynote speakers must agree and sign to the IEEE Copyright and Consent Form prior to their confirmation as speakers. Completed forms should be sent to SPS Conferences staff.

SPS requires that all plenary/keynote speakers are recorded and included in the SPS Resource Center. The IEEE Copyright and Consent Form can be found at https://signalprocessingsociety.org/sites/default/files/uploads/publications_resources/docs/IEEE%20Copyright%20and%20Consent%20Form%20RC%20with%20Paper.pdf.

4.15 Tutorials

The number of tutorials must be reasonable to guarantee a good attendance to each tutorial. It is suggested that tutorials with less than eight registrants are cancelled in due time.

See Conference Budget Tips for information on special discounted tutorial rates for students and members from low-income countries.

4.16 Awards & Recognition

Conference Awards

Conference organizers can create and distribute awards for their conferences; naturally, they are not considered SPS awards. For ICASSP and ICIP, there should be an award for Best Paper and Best Student Paper, while additional awards may also be considered. Awards for the best reviewers as rated by the Area Chairs should also be considered. All awards, especially conference paper awards, shall be judged with impartiality and organizers shall avoid any conflict of interest. Therefore, the following rules apply:

- Papers by key conference organizers, such as General Chair(s), Technical Program Chair(s) and Finance Chair(s), are not eligible for awards.
- The paper award selection should follow the SPS Policy 2.9 for Awards, found at <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/volunteers/policy-and-procedures-manual>. Self-nominations are not accepted or considered and judging shall be on the basis of exceptional merit and quality.
- It is suggested that the process to select the awards is made available in the conference Web page and briefly explained when delivering the award.
- Prizes shall be equally divided among all authors and each shall receive a certificate.

Receive and submit a 1099 and/or 1042 schedule/form to conference-finance@ieee.org for services rendered including, awards, honorarium or prizes.

ICIP Pioneer Award - During ICIP 2019, the conference organizers introduced the “ICIP Pioneer Award,” with the hope that this could continue annually at ICIP. The ICIP Pioneer Award is a conference award, aiming to recognize the contributions of ICIP founders and key contributors in multiple dimensions in the years after.

Best Reviewer Award - During ICIP 2020, the conference organizers introduced an award for paper reviewers who provided thorough and thoughtful reviews of the ICIP papers. Award nominations were provided by the Technical Committee Chairs.

Most Popular Paper Presentation Award – During ICIP 2020, the conference organizers introduced an award for the most viewed oral presentation videos, which may be considered for future virtual or hybrid conferences.

SPS Awards

At some conferences, SPS Awards may be distributed and/or acknowledged, notably ICASSP. Check with SPS Conferences staff to know what awards will be announced and given at each conference and finalize the specific times for the ceremonies to take place.

For ICASSP, there usually are two separate award ceremonies. The first award ceremony is normally held before the Welcome Reception and it is for paper and other Society awards. Approximately 30 minutes should be allotted for the event. The second award ceremony is normally held during the Opening Ceremony to ensure broad exposure and it is for all the major award recipients and newly elevated SPS Fellows. Approximately, 30 minutes should be allotted for the event.

Conference Best Paper Award for IndustryFor ICASSP and ICIP, SPS awards the Conference Best Paper Award for Industry. Conference organizers will be contacted for their decision regarding this paper and should be prepared to assess the papers for this award. Conference Best Paper Award for Industry criteria can be found at <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/community-involvement/awards-submit-award-nomination#conferencebestpaper>.

Norbert Wiener Society Award and Lecture

The Norbert Wiener Society Award recipient is expected to present a Norbert Wiener Lecture at ICASSP. This Lecture is one of the plenary lectures given on the day of the banquet, but it is not a banquet speech. The ICASSP Organizing Committee should coordinate the lecture with the recipient, as any other ICASSP plenary.

4.17 SPS Journal Paper Presentations

Previously approved SPS Journal Paper Presentations at Conferences

ICASSP and ICIP must offer an opportunity for SPS journal papers accepted or published within the last year to be presented at the conference. Other sole SPS-sponsored conferences and workshops may also offer this program.

Co-sponsored conferences and co-sponsored journals may participate in this option upon agreement of conditions with all co-sponsoring partners of both the conference and the journals. . Since the paper has been accepted and published by IEEE, no further review of the paper is required.

Authors of submitted journal papers that meet the specified criteria will receive an acceptance letter, and upon registration will receive an invoice and invitation letter to apply for internal funding and/or travel visa to attend and present the paper.

Where possible, journal papers presented at the conference will be included in the conference proceedings provided to conference attendees, by downloading the original paper from IEEE *Xplore*[®] to include on conference proceedings for attendees. Journal papers will not be included in the published conference proceedings.

- Eligibility requirements for this option are outlined below: The paper must have been published or accepted for publication within the 12-month period preceding the conference paper submission date;
- The paper topic should be aligned with the conference’s technical program, and authors should select relevant EDICS from the conference’s list;
- Authors of accepted journal papers must meet the same registration requirements as all authors, including the total number of papers that can be covered by a single registration.

Open Journal on Signal Processing (OJSP)

Starting with ICASSP 2023, the Open Journal on Signal Processing (OJSP) will provide an alternative review path for papers intended to be presented at ICASSP and ICIP. Papers submitted to OJSP prior to the conference submission deadline that are designated as being intended for presentation at the conference will receive expedited review to ensure that a decision is available in time for inclusion of accepted papers in the conference program. Such accepted papers will be published in OJSP, and will also be eligible for presentation at the conference.

This trial will provide an Open Access option for authors submitting their papers to ICASSP, utilizing OJSP as the publication venue. Accepted authors will be required to meet the same obligations as all ICASSP conference authors, including the submission deadlines, peer review, registration at the full author rate, and presentation of the paper at ICASSP.

Publicity and Author Communications Regarding Journal Paper Presentations at Conferences

The following wording should be placed on the ICASSP and ICIP websites starting with ICASSP 2023. Other participating conferences and workshops may also use relevant language:

Publishing and Paper Presentation Options

IEEE continues to be the most cited publisher in US and European new technology patents. Learn more about the benefits of publishing with IEEE (<https://www.ieee.org/publications/authors/publishing-benefits/index.html>).

<CONFERENCE NAME> offers several ways for authors to present their latest research:

1. **Submit a conference paper**

Authors are invited to submit papers that are up to four pages for technical content including figures and references, and one optional fifth page containing only references. To maximize visibility and impact, all accepted papers will be published in IEEE Xplore digital library and will be freely accessible and downloadable by all, in final format, beginning one month prior to the conference and through the conference end date (Open Preview).

View submission instructions, templates for paper format, and the “no show” policy (link to author information).

2. Submit an open access journal paper in the Open Journal of Signal Processing (OJSP)

Following the same timeline as the conference papers, authors have the option to submit their paper for publication with the Open Journal of Signal Processing instead of in the conference proceedings. This journal is 100% open access, which means that all content is freely available without charge to users or their institutions. All articles are currently published under Creative Commons licenses (either CCBY or CCBY-NC-ND), and the author retains copyright. Users are allowed to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of the articles published under CCBY, or use them for any other lawful purpose, as long as proper attribution is given. Articles published under CCBY-NC-ND are also available to users under the same conditions as CCBY, but the reuse cannot be for commercial purposes or change the work in any way.

Open access is provided through the payment of an article processing charge (APC) paid after acceptance. To present your paper at <CONFERENCE>, the accepted paper must be covered by a full author registration fee.

[View submission instructions, APC's on the Signal Processing Society website.](https://signalprocessingsociety.org/publications-resources/ieee-open-journal-signal-processing/information-authors-ojsp)

(<https://signalprocessingsociety.org/publications-resources/ieee-open-journal-signal-processing/information-authors-ojsp>).

3. Present an accepted SPS journal paper

Authors who have published a paper in a Signal Processing Journal within the last year may submit their published journal paper and present it at the conference, in order to discuss and advance the research and find additional collaborative opportunities.

Authors of journal papers will receive an acceptance letter, and upon registration will receive an invoice and invitation letter to apply for internal funding and/or travel visa to attend and present the paper. Where possible, journal papers presented at the conference will be included in the conference proceedings provided to conference attendees, by downloading the original paper from IEEE Xplore® to include on conference proceedings for attendees. Journal papers will not be included in the conference proceedings.

Eligibility requirements are outlined below:

1. Paper must have been published or accepted for publication within the 12-month period preceding the conference paper notification of acceptance date;
2. Paper topic should be aligned with the conference's technical program, and authors should select relevant EDICS from the conference's list;
3. Authors of accepted journal papers must meet the same registration requirements as all authors, including the total number of papers that can be covered by a single registration.

4.18 Session Chairing and Support

Each session should have a chair who manages towards an interesting and exciting session not only by controlling the timing but also by managing the interaction between the presenters and audience. Ideally, the session chair should not have to present any paper in the session he/she is chairing.

The session chair should be given a session report where the no-shows and author proxies are reported. Each session chair should be supported by a volunteer who provides help, notably with the projection system, microphones, etc.

4.19 Recording Conference Content

IEEE SPS Resource Center Content Capture Guidelines

The IEEE SPS Resource Center is the SPS online library for video content and host venue for recordings of plenaries, keynotes, and tutorials from solely owned SPS conferences. Conference organizers are responsible for collecting material for integration into the Resource Center using the following guidelines.

For Conference & Workshop Organizers: It is required that the plenary sessions, tutorials and tutorial-style sessions be recorded. It is not required that regular lecture sessions be recorded but the conference organizers may decide to record other sessions and events in the conference.

Please note that the videos should not be posted to the conference website or be available via any other avenue. The videos will be posted exclusively on the SPS Resource Center. Contact sps-videos@ieee.org for recording questions.

Materials Required

The following are required for the Resource Center to host content:

- A signed IEEE Copyright and Consent Form for each recording, completed before the event is recorded and submitted with the recorded video. If there is no IEEE published paper involved, just complete the red highlighted fields on the form. http://signalprocessingsociety.org/sites/default/files/uploads/publications_resources/docs/IEEE%20Copyright%20and%20Consent%20Form%20RC%20No%20Paper.pdf.
- A recording of the event in MP4 format.
- It is recommended that audio be recorded via lapel microphone.

What to Record

- **Preferred Option** - A video recording of presented technical materials (usually slides and/or associated video and audio) and a very clear recording of the speaker's voice. The video can be recorded from the projection of the materials on a screen, or using screen-grab recording software.
- **Secondary Option** - A video recording of the speaker, where the speaker's voice is clear.

Video/Audio Formats

The following technical specifications should be used to ensure high quality playback from the SPS Resource Center. For questions on the technical specifications, contact sps-videos@ieee.org.

- MP4 format

- Codec: H.264/AVC
- Resolution: 1280x720 (minimum)
- Compression: VBR
- Video Bitrate: 1.2 Mbps - 1.5Mbps
- Audio: AAC 192 Kbps or MP3 192 Kbps (minimum)

How to Submit Recorded Content

The recorded content and the IEEE Copyright and Consent Forms should be sent to sps-videos@ieee.org within two months of the conclusion of the event, along with a summary document of all the content sent.

Please use the following naming conventions when submitting the video files:

- **Plenary Recording Files:** "Plenary_ConferenceAcronym_speaker or title.mp4"
- **Tutorial Recording Files:** "Tutorial_ConferenceAcronym_speaker or title.mp4"
- **Other Recording Files:** "EventType_ConferenceAcronym_speaker or title.mp4"

4.20 Video Recording for Virtual and Dual Events

For virtual and dual (physical and virtual) events, a recorded video presenting the paper MAY be asked at the same time of the paper submission to be used for the virtual/dual event. Alternatively, to facilitate the submission and reviewing processes, the video submission deadline may be later than the paper submission deadline, e.g., one week.

In this case, the reviewing process shall address not only the submitted paper but also the corresponding recorded video although the technical content to be assessed is mostly the one in the paper. As for the papers, for the accepted submissions, the authors may later submit an improved version of the recorded video, e.g., to address the reviewers' feedback.

This possibility is used at the discretion of the virtual/dual event Organizing Committee; however, to be used, it has to be clearly announced well before the submission deadline in the event Web page and Call for Papers.

Video recording for virtual and dual events, approved in May 2020, should be implemented by conferences and workshops as soon as possible, but implementation of these improvements will be required for flagship conferences starting in 2023.

4.21 Additional Technical Events

Conference organizers should consider adding events which have been successful in previous years. Some successful events are documented below; organizers are encouraged to meet with the prior year Conference Organizing Committee to learn about items that were trialed and should be continued.

Grand Challenges

Grand challenges are usually well received because they bring a competitive element to the conference. Challenges create clear test material, test conditions as well as assessment criteria and methodologies which allow specific communities to compare their results under well-defined and transparent conditions.

The SPS Challenges and Data Collection (CDC) Committee is responsible for overseeing all challenges organized by the IEEE Signal Processing Society, including conference challenges. The conference organizers must collaborate with the CDC Committee on challenges to ensure they meet the standards set by the Society.

The process would follow these steps:

- The CDC Committee will appoint a representative to sit on the Conference Organizing Committee to help support the challenge activity.
- The Conference Challenge Organizers and the CDC representative will select the challenges to be hosted by the conference. In that process, the CDC representative may consult with the CDC committee as necessary.
- The Conference Challenge Organizers will provide the CDC Representative with all information related to the proposed challenges, both the hosted and rejected ones, notably contact information, to bring back to the CDC Committee to make the challenges visible on the [CDC website](#) and to contact the challenge organizers. In return, the conference site will refer to the [CDC website](#).
- The Conference Challenge Organizers will communicate with the CDC Representative to discuss potential follow-ups (long-term/broader visibility, review/challenge/database paper publication). This step is not mandatory, but it will help further support the challenge.

Industry Oriented Sessions

While the majority of SPS membership is from industry, the conferences are many times mainly organized for academic and research members. Industry oriented sessions are targeted to provide directly valuable events for the industry members.

School of ICASSP

This program incorporates a series of quick, informal invited lectures that provide an overview of some of the big advances in signal processing. The School of ICASSP program is intended for students and industry attendees to fill knowledge gaps for attendees by holding lectures by the original inventors or leading experts in these fields.

Because they are quick and informal talks, organizers are encouraged to use existing and informal spaces, such as open areas within the exhibit hall, or within the plenary room when it is not being used. This informal flow allows for listeners to come and go, and adds to the informality. This event was trialed at ICASSP, but could be adapted for any technical meeting.

4.22 Beyond Technical Events

SPS usually arranges the following beyond technical events for ICASSP and ICIP. Conference organizers are encouraged to help support these SPS events, or plan similar events for other technical meetings.

Women in Signal Processing Luncheon

Usually comprised of a speaker or panel session, and networking lunch, organized by the Women in Signal Processing (WISP) Committee.

Student Job Fair and Luncheon

Interested companies can host a table or purchase a ticket to attend a luncheon to meet with students, and this option should be included in the patron and exhibitor prospectus. Students provide their CV to SPS and this information is shared with the companies for recruitment and networking discussions. The luncheon is organized by the SPS Student Activities Committee.

Author Education or Ethics for Authors Session

Typically a lunch and learn session for authors to learn more about tools and resources available to them, as well as ethical considerations for scholarly publishing.

Young Professionals (YP) Meet Up Event

Typically held after the conference sessions conclude in the evening as a social networking event, sometimes with facilitated networking exercises or a speaker, organized by the Signal Processing Young Professional Committee Chair.

PROGRESS Workshop

PROGRESS stands for PROMotinG DiveRsity in Signal ProcESSing. The goal of the PROGRESS Workshop is to motivate and support women and under-represented minorities to pursue academic careers in signal processing. The key to increasing diversity and inclusion in signal processing is a more diverse faculty. Such faculty offer role models and are well positioned to draw women and under-represented minorities to the field and inspire them for excellence.

PROGRESS is comprised of a two-day workshop as an integral part of ICASSP and ICIP, as well as follow-up surveys and mentoring teleconferences. See full program details at: <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/professional-development/progress-initiative>. The ICASSP and ICIP Organizing Committee will be responsible for organizing a PROGRESS Workshop within their conference. An ICASSP or ICIP Organizing Committee member shall be assigned to run the PROGRESS Workshop with the guidance of the PROGRESS Oversight Committee.

Organizational details of the PROGRESS Workshop should be part of the ICASSP or ICIP proposal.

State of the Society Presentation

During the ICASSP and ICIP Opening Ceremony, the SPS President will present a State of the Society presentation. Approximately, 30 minutes should be allotted for the presentation.

4.23 Events Involving the Local Signal Processing Community

Organizers are encouraged to work with the local SPS Chapter on the conference program towards creating events which may have a more direct impact in the local communities, not only SPS members but also local universities, schools and industry. Some ways to work together include:

- Coordination of a poster session for local members conducted by or with support from the local chapter;
- Panel with Chapter members, networking with local members, technical tours, etc.;
- Events, especially hands-on workshops potentially offering certificates, where students and teachers from local university and secondary schools are invited to a free workshop;
- Events involving the local industry;
- Opportunities for networking and team building based on giving back to the local community;

4.24 Welcome Reception and Banquet

The welcome reception must be open to all conference registrants at no cost.

Although not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that the banquet is included in the registration fees for all types of attendees at no additional cost, if possible while fulfilling the requirements regarding the registration fees and a balanced budget. Including the banquet in the registration fees would be a major step for a very inclusive conference.

Banquets do not have to be formal and expensive, and emphasis could be placed on creating an inclusive environment for all attendees. This could be achieved through the venue selected, the entertainment planned, and even by renaming the event to a “farewell party” or “appreciation dinner” to convey a more casual feel to attendees. Remind that many attendees cannot be reimbursed for expensive meals and younger attendees may not appreciate too formal events.

4.22 Other Events and Logistics Towards Improving the Experience

Organizers are encouraged to organize any events that contribute to improve the event experience, notably lifestyle and community building events. Examples could be cultural and sports events, musical events, photo contests, jogging, etc.

Additionally, gender-neutral restrooms shall be made available and labeled as such during the conference at the venue for ICASSP and ICIP and recommended to be implemented at all conferences and workshops. ICASSP and ICIP organizers shall speak to the venue and conference planners to implement this enhancement to the venue. This small accommodation will aid in creating a more inclusive environment for members of the LGBTQ+ community and is important for SPS’s diversity and inclusion efforts.

Personal pronouns shall be implemented on conference badges for ICASSP and ICIP and recommended for all conferences. This can be accomplished either by asking for this information during the pre-registration process and printing the pronouns on each registrant's badge, or by offering stickers or ribbons for attendees to select when they pick up their registration packets, or setup their virtual registration profiles. This serves as a way of asking for preferred personal pronouns to be respected, and to avoid making assumptions about gender. Pronoun badges can also help to open up conversations about gender and raise awareness of gender diversity.

Special attention should be dedicated to the attendees coming to the conference for the first time in order they feel welcome. Efforts should be placed on networking and meeting new people for them, to encourage their attendance in future years, e.g. by creating a special event for first time attendees.

5 Industry Program & Exhibition

This section addresses guidelines for developing a strong industry program and patrons and exhibition.

5.1 Industry Program

For ICASSP and ICIP, an Industry Program should be planned alongside the Technical Program. Ideally the Technical Program would be robust and include a full industry track, including:

- Industry Keynotes
- Panel Discussions
- Industry Special Sessions
- Industry Workshops and Demos
- Patron Workshops for Recruiting

Planning of the Industry Program should start at least one year out, and the overall conference program should be designed with emphasis on both the academic and industrial program.

The ICASSP and ICIP Organizing Committees should involve the SPS Industry Technical Working Group in all industry planning for the conference, as they are to continuity for the Society.

5.2 Industry Key Performance Indicators

Analysis of the attendee records in our major conferences performed in 2021 show that there are a number of industry members of the Society that do not regularly attend ICASSP or ICIP. It is a mid-term objective of the SP society to try and attract these attendees to our conferences in the future. However, it is sometimes difficult to evaluate whether there is a positive evolution in this trend. More specifically, there is a need for some objective indicators that could help in evaluating the work performed after the conference took place, especially to determine support needed for future years. In this sense, Organizing Committees of our major conferences should be aware and try to reach these targets, if this is not directly coupled to a requirement of their performance.

It was recognized that industry involvement in our main events should be monitored in three different areas:

1. Sponsorship and exhibitors.
2. Industry program.
3. Attendees and papers.

three selected KPIs for the above areas of monitoring, along with a brief discussion on the rationale behind them.

KPI1. Exhibit/Patron Sales: - 25% total revenue generated from sponsorship (exhibits and patronage) within five years (By 2026) for ICASSP and ICIP.

Rationale: Targeting a percentage of exhibit/patron income in the conference budget. Leveraging historical data, both ICASSP and ICIP should try to reach 25% income from exhibit/patronage in 5 years (2026). For ICASSP, this percentage has been almost reached for virtual conferences (due to lower expenses, so lower attendee income, in general.) as well as in Calgary (22%) and Shanghai (23%) editions. For ICIP, it has only been reached in Taipei (30%), with much lower figures in the other years (around 10% with strong fluctuations). With 5 years to work towards this goal, it seems possible. Good additional features of this KPI are:

- a) It scales with conference location.
- b) It scales with conference size overall.
- c) It is directly seen to offset registration fees.

KPI2. Industry Program: 80% of the conference hours will have an industry session, and at least one industry keynote and one industry panel held each day of the main conference, within five years (2026) for ICASSP and ICIP.

Rationale: It is difficult to measure attendees to the industry program in real physical events, so it appears more appropriate to establish a metric on the actual industry program. The goal here is to have a full industry track that spans the entire conference. Organizers should be able to choose how to fill this time with different types of industry programming, but there should be at least one keynote and one panel session each day. The idea is that someone could spend the whole time in the conference attending only industry sessions. The remaining 20% should be allocated to the conference keynotes and other activities that are aimed at everybody. Additional activities that may be considered as part of the industry track are: industry-lead demo sessions, industry/corporate workshops, spotlight talks (addressing emerging R&D technology), standardization sessions, patent presentation sessions or industry-oriented student activities.

KPI3. Papers and Attendees: 30% of attendees should be from Industry within the next five years for ICASSP and ICIP (By 2026).

Rationale: This is clearly measurable in terms of the percentage of registrants and we have plenty of data coming from ICASSP2020 and 21. It is discussed, however, that these two events are quite special (for being both virtual) and may provide wrong participation targets for future events. However, given the fact that there will be a virtual component in place in future editions of this conference, it seems feasible to keep these numbers. Regarding the number of papers driven by the industry, we have no data from previous ICASSPs, even if it will be collected in future editions. In practical terms, this KPI would require ICASSP to maintain 30% of industry attendees for 5 years, and ICIP having 5 years to get to 30% (note that current ICIP figures show around 16-17% of registrants coming from the industry).

5.3 Industry Track Registration

For ICASSP and ICIP, the Industry Program may have a different audience than the traditional conference, and this content has its own value. It is recommended that there is a separate registration fee for the industry program at these conferences, and that there is an option to register for just the industry program of ICASSP without registering for the full conference.

5.4 Patronage and Exhibition

For ICASSP and ICIP, a prospectus template has been created by the Society with standard package offerings. Please request this template from SPS Staff at sp.conferences.info@ieee.org to get started.

Patrons and exhibitors should be approached to contribute conference content, and it should be requested that technical experts attend from these companies and attend the exhibition instead of typical marketing booth staff.

It is recommended that the patronage sales process begin at the previous year's conference.

6. Registration and Attendees

This section addresses issues related to registration and attendees.

6.1 Conference Registration Information

Once the registration fees are approved by SPS, it is recommended that they are published on the conference website. Registration fees should be available to potential authors before the paper submission deadline, in order for authors to plan for conference expenses. This page should also clearly state what is included with registration. Once the registration site opens, the page to register should be easy to locate, and should be actively promoted on the conference homepage.

6.2 Obtaining Consent on IEEE Privacy Policy and Event Terms and Conditions from all Registrants

All technical meetings are required to incorporate pro-active consent to both the IEEE Privacy Policy and IEEE Event Terms and Conditions as part of the event registration process to capture and affirm active consent. Acceptance is a mandatory condition of registration for any IEEE event. For audit purposes, consent to the IEEE Privacy Policy and IEEE Event Terms and Conditions must remain as two separate acceptance fields and cannot be combined. Please review the IEEE Privacy Policy at <https://www.ieee.org/security-privacy.html> and the IEEE Event Terms and Conditions at <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/event-terms-and-conditions.html>.

IEEE has developed the following language for General Data Privacy Regulation (GDPR) compliance as it relates to event registration. To ensure the attendee has full attention on the questions, they should be presented on a separate page before being asked to provide any personally identifiable information. It is recommended that the checkboxes be pre-populated, and that it is necessary to have both boxes checked before registrants can advance to the next page.

Please include the information exactly as written below at the beginning of the registration form/website.

Acceptance of IEEE Policies are required to register for this event.

By submitting your registration details, you acknowledge that:

You have read and are in agreement with [IEEE's Privacy Policy](#)

I accept the IEEE Privacy Policy

You have read and are in agreement with [IEEE's Event Terms and Conditions](#)

I accept the IEEE Event Terms and Conditions

I would like to receive information about conferences and other opportunities from the Signal Processing Society that may be of interest to me.

6.3 Inclusion Efforts and Registration

Effort should be placed on making all attendees feel welcome and included. On the registration form for conferences, legal name should not be required on the registration for the badging, and preferred name should be able to be provided. If a visa letter is requested, it is then appropriate to ask for the registrant's legal name, for this paperwork.

Additionally, pronouns should be asked during the registration process, and included in the badge printing. Pronouns are the way that we refer to people in place of their name or in third person (referring to that person while talking to someone else). Often, pronouns have an implied gender such as “he” to refer to a man/boy or “she” to refer to a woman/girl. People may also make assumptions about the gender of a person based upon their appearance or their name. In both cases, these assumptions aren't always correct, accurate, or helpful. In fact, in our workplaces, schools, and communities, these messages can be harmful and damaging to relationships.

When you use someone's correct pronouns, it serves to create an inclusive environment where you demonstrate that you care for and respect them. Just as we wouldn't want to make up a nickname for someone and use it against their will, it can be just as upsetting or disrespectful to refer to someone using incorrect pronouns. Actively choosing to not use the pronouns someone has shared that they go by is harassment and implies that intersex, transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming people do not or should not exist.

All registration forms should contain a field asking for pronouns, and this field shall be displayed on the badge or on a ribbon affixed to the badge that attendees select at the conference.

The question on the registration form shall not be required, and read:

Personal Pronouns: (drop-down)

- he/him/his
- per/per/pers
- she/her/hers
- they/them/theirs
- ze/hir/hirs
- other:_____

6.4 Country Listing

Every paper submission and registration form ask registrants to select their address, including country. To align with IEEE practices, providers are required to label this field as “Country/Region” and use the ISO Country list, which can be found <https://www.iso.org/iso-3166-country-codes.html>

Also aligning with IEEE Practices, effective 8 Oct 2021, one exception should be made to the ISO Country List to change the listing for “Taiwan” to be reflected as “Taiwan.”

6.5 Author Registration

Every regular paper accepted by a technical meeting must have attached to it at least one registration at the full member/non-member rate. IEEE Life Members who are authors of a paper may also register papers at the IEEE Life Member discounted rate. When all authors are students, one student author will be required to register at the full registration rate.

All SPS sole sponsored conferences and workshops will all allow four papers per full registration, if the registrant is an author of all four papers. Wording on the website and registration pages should state that "Each full registration can cover up to four papers." If organizers would like to adjust this number to more or less than four papers per registration, this request must be approved by the VP-Conferences prior to finalizing the call for papers. For full details, please reference SPS Policy and Procedures Manual, 7.9, at <https://signalprocessingsociety.org/volunteers/policy-and-procedures-manual>.

Members of the Conference Organizing Committee, whether they need a registration to cover their papers or not, may receive a complimentary full registration, intended to serve as recognition of their efforts.

To ensure quality presentations, it is suggested to advise the authors not presenting more than two papers.

There are guidelines for setting registration fees for IEEE members, SPS members and students within the *Finances* section of these guidelines.

6.6 Discounted Student Registration

Effective December 2019, the SPS Conferences Board approved a motion stating that the SPS Student Member Advance Rate shall be set to US\$200 for all future flagship conferences, notably ICASSP and ICIP, starting in 2020. Because of IEEE Policy 10.1.15, the IEEE Life Member Advance Rate must also be set to US\$200.

For all conferences in which the budget is already approved, SPS will subsidize the difference between the approved budget rate and the rate of US\$200, up to US\$40,000 per conference, starting with ICASSP 2020.

The US\$200 rate will be revisited every 3 years.

While this motion was only approved for flagship conferences, the concept is that the SPS Student Advanced rate should be kept as low as possible, and ideally at US\$200 for all conferences and workshops.

For virtual conferences, or virtual attendance at hybrid conferences, complimentary tutorial registration will be provided to SPS Student Members.

For in-person conferences, or in-person tutorials at hybrid conferences, the advanced SPS Student Member rate per tutorial should be set to US\$25.

6.7 Discounted Registration for SPS Members in Low Income Economies

Effective May 2020, a standing SPS Member “Low Income Economies” Advance Rate for in-person or for authors, will be set to US\$200, for all future flagship conferences. This registration rate will include all the benefits of full registration; **however, to cover an accepted paper with this type of registration, the low income country author has to be the presenter at the conference.**

Additionally, there will be a standing US\$25 SPS Member “Low Income Economies” Advance Tutorial Rate for all future flagship conferences.

For virtual conferences, or virtual attendance at hybrid conferences, complimentary registration and complimentary tutorial registration will be provided to attendees from “Low Income Economies”.

Low-income countries are defined by IEEE Membership and can be found here: <https://www.ieee.org/membership/join/emember-countries.html>

For all conferences in which the financials are below 20%, SPS will subsidize the difference between the discounted rate and the SPS Member Rate for these registrants.

The impacts of these decisions should be assessed in 2-3 years.

6.8 Complimentary Registration

Complimentary registration should be given only in exceptional cases, notably:

- Members of the Conference Organizing Committee, whether they have papers attached to their registration or not as a reward for their service;
- Keynote, Plenary or invited speakers;
- Student volunteers.

6.9 Demographics Questions on Registration Sites and Surveys

It is valuable to collect some information on who conference attendees are for benchmarking and reporting. Registration sites should include the following information, which should be included in attendee lists sent to SPS at the conclusion of each event.

Required question: Are you an author of an accepted paper at this conference or workshop? Yes or No.

Required question: Which one of the following most closely matches your current employment status?

- Employed in academia

- Employed in government
- Employed in private industry - research
- Employed in private industry - manager of research
- Employed in private industry - engineering/applications
- Employed in private industry - manager of engineering/applications
- Self-employed
- Full-time student
- Retired
- Not currently employed
- Other

Required Question: Which one of the following categories best describes your years of professional experience?

- Not applicable – Full time student
- Less than one (1) year
- 1-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- 20+ years

This information is important to capture for benchmarking, and should report on all accepted authors and not just the one attendee whose registration is covering the papers. SPS is interested in increasing the number of non-author participants, so this information is valuable to show growth.

The demographics questions below should be standardized in all uses by IEEE, including conference registration.

1. Gender information: Questions that ask a participant or user to identify their gender need to be multiple choice, optional, and written as:

Do you identify as:

- Male
- Female
- Non-Binary
- Prefer to self-describe: (Or, if coding cannot be changed, state ‘Please specify: __’)
- Prefer not to answer

2. Salutation information:

Questions that ask for a salutation or prefix (such as Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Mstr.) for a participant or user’s name, need to be made optional.

Please note: These or similar demographics questions are to be made optional and cannot be required.

6.10 Promoting SPS Member Discounts

It is recommended that the registration site includes a reminder to become an SPS member and save on the event registration fees. Suggested language with a link to become an SPS member can be found below:

Did you know that you can save on conference registration with a membership to the IEEE Signal Processing Society? Click here (<https://www.ieee.org/membership-catalog/productdetail/showProductDetailPage.html?product=MEMSP001>) to join SPS today!

6.11 Visa Requirements

Certain countries require participants to obtain a visa when attending a conference and may also request a letter from the conference to verify a participant's attendance at the event. Some embassies may need to verify that registration fees have been paid in full and may require applicants to appear in person for an interview, causing delays in the application process. IEEE has guidelines and templates for conference organizers available. Learn more at <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/organizers/visa-request-process.html>.

Since the time to obtain a visa may depend on the country where it is requested and the nationality of the person requesting, the Conference Organizing Committee should strongly recommend the authors to start the visa request immediately after the acceptance letter is received. Moreover the Conference Organizing Committee should make the authors aware that, if the visa request is initiated too late, the non-obtaining of the visa in time to participate at the conference may not be sufficient justification for a registration refund.

6.12 Registration Refund Policy

All registration fees covering a paper are non-refundable. For registration fees not covering a paper:

- A full refund, after a US\$50 (equivalent) processing fee, will be given, provided the request is applied for prior to the last day of the Advance Registration deadline.
- Refunds will not be issued after the Advance Registration deadline, unless in extreme cases (i.e. medical or family emergencies, visa issues based on solid evidence). In such cases, the organizers must be alerted prior to the conference start date. To obtain a refund, an email must be submitted containing proof of the extenuating circumstance, up to one week after the conference end date. Any visa related issues must provide proof that the application was submitted early enough according to the typical times to obtain a visa for the country and person in question.
- The final decision on refund will be at the discretion of the conference organizers.

6.13 Author Preprints, including arXiv

Authors may post their preprints in the following locations:

- Author's personal website
- Author's employer's website
- arXiv.org
- TechRxiv.org
- Funder's repository*

This does not count as a prior publication. If copyright to the paper was transferred to IEEE through the completion of an IEEE Copyright Form before the preprint is posted, IEEE must be credited as the copyright holder with the following statement included on the initial screen displaying IEEE-copyrighted material:

"© 20XX IEEE. Personal use of this material is permitted. Permission from IEEE must be obtained for all other uses, in any current or future media, including reprinting/republishing this material for advertising or promotional purposes, creating new collective works, for resale or redistribution to servers or lists, or reuse of any copyrighted component of this work in other works."

Upon publication of the paper, the paper's Digital Object Identifier (DOI) should be added.

6.14 Registration Reporting Access

To ensure compliance with data privacy and GDPR, organizers should only grant report access to those engaged in the event planning activities on a 'need-to-know' basis. To maintain GDPR compliance:

- Only use attendee information for its intended purpose (i.e. planning your event);
- Grant reporting access only to authorized users of the information;

6.15 Onsite Registration Process

The event has finally arrived and you are ready to open onsite registration. There are a couple of things to keep in mind as you staff the registration area for an event:

- Verify all event personnel (i.e. student volunteers handing out name badges) who may have access to attendee personal data understand GDPR and the implications of mishandled data;
- Never hand out badge credentials to anyone other than the registered attendee;
- Always lock laptops and never leave them unattended;
- Shred any uncollected name badges after the registration system has been reconciled.

6.16 Conflict Resolution

Conference organizers should be mindful of quickly resolving any complaints or conflicts as quickly as possible. If a complaint is received, organizers should always reply to the sender to try and resolve any conflict. When replying, organizers should be mindful that they are speaking on behalf of IEEE and SPS. If an organizer is unsure of how to respond, they should contact SPS Conferences staff or the VP-Conferences for assistance.

6.17 Emergency Preparedness

Emergency situations can arise at any time and in any place. Whether it is a large-scale natural or weather-related disaster, fire, acts of violence, terrorism or pandemic, accident, illness, or death. A meeting or event organizer has no greater responsibility than ensuring the health and safety of their attendees.

All organizers should complete an Event Emergency Action Plan and distribute to all organizers and suppliers prior to arrival at the conference.

Should you have an issue of concern for your event, follow these steps of action:

Step One: Ensure the safety and well-being of individuals

Step Two: Send an email to eert@ieee.org with your concern

Step Three: Call, EERT team lead, Sherry Russ Sills, +1 908 566 8167 (Mobile)

For more information and resources, visit the IEEE MCE website: <https://ieeemce.org/planning-basics/general-guidelines/event-emergency-management/#!/workspaces/>

6 Appendix

7.1 ICASSP and ICIP Dates to Avoid

6.1 was approved by the SPS Conferences Board on December 18, 2018 and added to the SPS Policy & Procedures on May 18, 2019.

Date Range

ICASSP should be held between 1 March and 31 May annually.

ICIP should be held between 1 September and 31 October annually.

Major World Holidays to Avoid

This list does not intend to include all holidays in all religions but rather major religious events which overlapping with a major SPS conference may create significant personal or familiar discomfort.

- Orthodox Christmas - 7 January each year
- Chinese New Year - Typically between late January to mid-February for one day
- Ramadan (30 days) – Occurs about 10 to 12 days earlier each year. Began on May 27 in 2017
- Good Friday and Easter Sunday - Typically late March or April
- Pentecost (Whit Sunday) - Typically late May or early June
- Passover - Typically late March or April
- Orthodox Good Friday and Easter - Typically late March or April
- Rosh Hashanah - Typically September or October
- Yom Kippur – Typically September
- Dasara (Vijaya Dashami) - Typically in September or October each year.
- Muharram/Al-Hijra - Begins 10 to 12 days earlier each year. Held on 22 September in 2017
- Diwali (Deepawali or Deewali) - Typically in October or November each year
- Hanukkah - 8 days in mid-December
- Christmas - 25 December each year

Conferences to Avoid Overlap

This list consists of conferences that may be decided prior to ICASSP or ICIP:

- IEEE International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI) - Typically early April
- Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) – Typically June
- IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC) - Typically May or June
- IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV) - Typically October
- IEEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM) - Typically November
- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) - Typically early December

