



President's Column

Notable Proceedings From MTT-S Administrative Committee Meeting AM1 for 2021

■ Gregory Lyons

The first 2021 meeting of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) Administrative Committee (AdCom) is now known as 2021 AM1 (for AdCom Meeting One). For as long as anyone on the AdCom can remember, the first meeting of each year was officially titled the Winter AdCom Meeting. Of course, it is summer in January in the Southern Hemisphere. In deference to our colleagues “down under,” we now more appropriately number our AdCom meetings.

We usually have three AdCom meetings each year: AM1 (in January), AM2 (in May or June), and AM3 (in September or October). They are usually co-located with a conference. We schedule AM1 on the weekend prior to Radio and Wireless Week and just before the International Microwave Symposium (IMS) Technical Program Review Committee (TPRC) meeting. We schedule AM2 for the weekend prior to IMS. Finally, we typically schedule AM3 before or after European Microwave Week. Sometimes we move AM3 to other venues around the world to serve as an opportunity to



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improve relations with a sister Society, e.g., in India or Japan.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there is currently a lot of activity within the MTT-S. A good snapshot of this action can be found in the following summary of the notable activities within each of our AdCom committees reported at AM1. Our committee chairs are listed in Table 1.

Awards

Samir El-Ghazaly presented the AdCom with a list of the proposed 2021 award recipients, which was approved in an AM1 executive session. The list of 2021 award winners can be found on our website: <https://mtt.org/ieee-mtt-s-2021-awards/>.

Budget

Maurizio Bozzi reported some preliminary good news from IEEE. The year-end 2020 MTT-S financial forecast indicates a significant positive net for the year. This is excellent news, given the financial challenge in converting IMS2020 from an in-person event in June 2020 to a virtual event in August 2020. The MTT-S continues to plan carefully for IMS2021 in Atlanta, for which IEEE does not carry pandemic insurance.

Education

Wenquan (Cherry) Che presented four major goals for 2021: 1) increase educational projects and activities in Region 9, 2) initiate a Distinguished Microwave Educator (DME) program focused on undergraduate students, 3) increase application submissions of graduate and undergraduate scholarships,



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and 4) publish several eBooks on tutorial/review articles by IEEE Press/Wiley. The Webinars Subcommittee is responsible for organizing the content of MTT-S webinars, the number of which dramatically increased during the pandemic (18 during 2020). An effort will be made throughout 2021 to create several educational webinars as well as to continue an effort with our young professionals (YP) to create webinars with career/personal mentoring content. The Education Resources Development Subcommittee will lead the DME program.

Electronic Information

Anding Zhu has added the new Social Platforms Subcommittee under the Electronic Information Committee (EiCo), with YPs filling out the membership. Three EiCo goals for 2021 involve: 1) enhancing the MTT-S's social media presence, 2) improving the quality of the communication channel between the AdCom and members, and 3) providing better tools/platforms for information collection and management.

IMS Executive Committee

J.K. McKinney presented four key near-term objectives for the IMS Executive Committee (IMSEC): 1) provide support and guidance for IMS chairs and committees, 2) work to maintain a consistent COVID-19 response, 3) create a smooth transition to the new event exhibition manager, Horizon House, and 4) develop refinements to the IMS business model. For IMS2020, Tim Lee presented the many successful aspects of its transition from an in-person to a virtual event, and, for IMS2021, Steve Kenney discussed in detail the current status as it moves toward a hybrid event in Atlanta in June 2021.

Inter-Society

Ke Wu outlined the following goals for 2021: 1) develop partnerships and agree-

TABLE 1. The 2021 MTT-S AdCom committee chairs.

Committee Name	Chair
Awards	Samir El-Ghazaly
Budget	Rashaunda Henderson
• Treasurer	Maurizio Bozzi
Education	Wenquan (Cherry) Che
EiCo	Anding Zhu
Fellow Evaluation	Jenshan Lin
IMSEC	J.K. McKinney
Inter-Society	Ke Wu
MarCom	Ramesh Gupta
M&S	Goutam Chattopadhyay
MGA	Nuno Borges Carvalho
• MGA and YP Coordinator	Kim Eilert
• WiM	Sherry Hess
N&A	Dick Snyder
Operations	Sridhar Kanamaluru
• Memorials	Jerry Hausner
Publications	Scott Barker
Standards	Ronald Ginley
Strategic Planning	Dominique Schreurs
TCFDC	Dietmar Kissinger
Ad Hoc: YPs (cochairs)	Tushar Sharma
	Sara Barros

EiCo: Electronic Information Committee; IMSEC: IMS Executive Committee; MarCom: Marketing and Communications Committee; M&S: Meetings and Symposia Committee; MGA: Member and Geographic Activities Committee; YP: Young Professionals; N&A: Nominations and Appointments Committee; TCFDC: Technical Coordination and Future Directions Committee, WiM: Women in Microwaves.

ments with additional IEEE and RF/microwave-related Societies, 2) establish a permanent Wireless Power Week, 3) promote the Wireless Power Initiative, and 4) host an Inter-Society Technology Forum. The Inter-Society Technology Forum was approved as a 2021 MTT-S initiative; however, the pandemic has forced a scope reduction to panel session(s) for IMS2021.

Marketing and Communications

Ramesh Gupta described four major 2021 goals for the Marketing and Communications Committee (MarCom): 1) consolidate partnerships with existing and new advertisers; 2) work on adding "Industry Focus" material to *IEEE Microwave Magazine*; 3) enhance the MTT-S Resource Center with electronic

content, including IMS content and on-demand courses; and 4) leverage MTT-S Partner/Sister Society agreements to benefit all Societies. Despite uncertainty in advertising revenues created by the pandemic, 2020 net revenues grew significantly (31%) compared to 2019. Finally, logo revisions and branding guidelines compliant with IEEE requirements were completed and released (go to www.mtt.org).

Meetings and Symposia

Goutam Chattopadhyay and the Meetings and Symposia Committee (M&S) continue their considerable effort responding to challenges presented to conferences by the pandemic. M&S 2021 goals are to 1) support conferences dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) develop postpandemic strategies, including the use of virtual tools; 3) process improvements to conference organization; 4) provide a global conference calendar to avoid date overlap; and 5) increase visibility and advertising of MTT-S conferences. Two key focal points for M&S going forward will be providing better training for conference executive committee chairs and addressing diversity and inclusion in conference organization. It is hoped that the latter will result in joint YP and Women in Microwaves (WiM) events at most financially sponsored MTT-S conferences.

Member and Geographic Activities

Nuno Borges Carvalho highlighted two major successes for the Member and Geographic Activities Committee (MGA) in 2020: virtual Chapter Chair meetings that included a motivational virtual talk and the virtual Distinguished Microwave Lecturer (DML) program. MTT-S membership remained steady during 2020, while many other IEEE Societies saw a decline. A newly approved initiative is FUTURE 50MTT, which

provides students with 50% off both IEEE and MTT-S membership. Finally, the AdCom approved a new Outstanding Chapter Award developed by MGA. It will result in the recognition of more Chapters for exemplary activity. Sherry Hess reported that Women in Microwaves (WiM) is working toward three goals: 1) a WiM newsletter, 2) a regular WiM event, and 3) a monthly column in *IEEE Microwave Magazine*.

Nominations and Appointments

Regarding the Nominations and Appointments Committee (N&A), Dick Snyder indicated that the usual AdCom election nomination schedule will be followed for 2021, with the slate of AdCom candidates to be approved by the AdCom at AM2.

Operations

Sridhar Kanamaluru, along with vice chair Kim Eilert, presented numerous MTT-S constitution, bylaws, and procedures changes, including some significant constitution changes. Constitution and bylaws changes approved by the AdCom during AM1 are now subject to IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) approval. Significant changes were made to eBallot procedures to aid with AdCom business during the pandemic. MGA, N&A, and Technical Coordination and Future Directions Committee (TCFDC) procedures will be updated following AM1-approved motions.

Memorials

Special recognitions were given for six of our members who passed away in 2020, as reported by Jerry Hausner. Each was recognized in the form of an *IEEE Microwave Magazine* article and a posting on the MTT-S website. They were

- Prof. Mojgan Daneshmand on 8 January, with her two daughters and husband, in a plane crash
- Prof. Peter Clarricoats on 17 January

- Prof. Roberto Sorrentino on 3 March
- Dr. Earl McCune on 27 May
- Dr. Hermann Statz on 14 June
- Dr. George Matthaei on 20 October.

Publications

Scott Barker outlined the most important committee activities: 1) the successful launch of our gold open access *IEEE Journal of Microwaves* with printing of the inaugural issue, 2) a joint phase 2 proposal before TAB for *IEEE Transactions on Signal and Power Integrity* (now approved), and 3) work toward creating a steering committee and memorandum of understanding for a joint *IEEE Transactions on Radar Systems*. The

committee is exploring increasing the number of free pages for *IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques* to be more in line with other IEEE journals, with a required budgeting process for 2022. The rapidly growing number of RF systems papers in *IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters* was also of significant note.

Standards

The MTT-S Standards Committee, as reported by Ron Ginley, is in various stages of development on five separate IEEE standards (P1770, P1765, P287, P2725.1, and P2822). Two of the standards, P1770 and P287, have entered the balloting process. MTT-S working groups are engaged and have a good relationship with the IEEE Standards Association. The MTT-S is working with the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society Standards Committee on the Microwave Remote Sensing Standard.

Strategic Planning

Dominique Schreurs reviewed the three-part structure of the new (and simple) 2021 MTT-S Operating Plans written by each of the seven AdCom

committee chairs who are members of the Strategic Planning Committee. The first part of the Operating Plan states three to five committee goals for 2021. The second part maps those goals to the 2020 MTT-S Strategic Plan. The third part prioritizes the top three three-to-five-year planning horizon goals from the 2020 Strategic Plan, as selected by each committee chair.

TCFDC

Dietmar Kissinger laid out four 2021 goals: 1) increase the number of YPs on technical committees, 2) increase the number and diversity of DMLs, 3) explore a Most Active Technical Committee Award, and 4) create a Future Directions Working Group on 5G Health Impact. The AdCom approved the TCFDC proposal for a new non-voting YP Affiliate position on MTT-S Technical Committees. The Speaker's Bureau has been revamped, with procedures included in the *MTT-S Handbook*. An online DML request tool will be available soon. The MTT-Sat Challenge competition is going strong!

YPs

Sara Barros reported 2020 YP successes, including the MTT-S Live Talk and the 2020 IEEE Hall of Fame Award given to MTT-S YPs. She outlined plans for the new Ad Hoc YP Committee to establish strong ties to YP Affinity Groups in each Region and to facilitate the introduction of and cooperation among the YP Affinity Groups and Student Branch Chapters. The four largest challenges are: 1) retention of Graduate Student Members to Full Members, 2) Student Branch Chapter vitality, 3) visibility of MTT-S both inside and outside of IEEE and visibility of YPs in the RF/microwave community, and 4) achieving local outreach.

The MTT-S is a very active IEEE Society. I encourage you to visit our website, www.mtt.org, for more information. If you would like to be involved as a volunteer, fill out a contact form at www.mtt.org/connectme, and we will make sure you get connected.

