Standards are a way to document experience, explore new areas in technical fields, and establish criteria to measure or improve safety and performance. The IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS) is a prolific producer of IEEE standards, and there are currently more than 75 active projects dedicated to their preparation or revision. All standards are living documents that need improvement and modification based on multiple factors, especially changes in technology. After they have been issued, standards have a limited life. Unless they are updated to keep abreast of technology, they will soon become obsolete. IEEE requires that a standard be updated at least every ten years to remain classified as an IEEE standard.

All IAS IEEE standards are the results of efforts by interested and dedicated volunteers who share their time to contribute to the efforts. The staff of the IEEE Standards Association (SA) is always available and willing to provide guidance and assistance. Standards require substantial resources in terms of the number of people involved in their preparation, maintenance, and revision. However, the pool of volunteers available and willing to work on standards is gradually shrinking due to attrition and lack of support from employers. To continue and maintain the excellent standards developed by the IAS, a transfusion of young "fresh blood" into the process is needed to get involved in the standards making process and bring in new ideas and energy to complement experience of senior people.

A standard starts with an idea based on a need to standardize a concept or performance identified by a group of interested volunteers with experience in that area and a stake in the outcome. These are normally users, producers, buyers, or consultants involved with that concept or product. The need may be the result of multiple factors, including, but not limited to, optimizing costs, enhancing electrical safety, providing guidance on how to do things consistently, and how to test the integrity of a product.

The next step is finding a Society to sponsor a project approval request (PAR) to the IEEE SA. The sponsor is usually the department or Society that has expertise in the scope of the proposed standard. Standard writing parallels the tactics used by successful writers. I read somewhere that to start a book, successful authors first determine an ending and then work out the beginning and the detailed contents. The ending is shown to a publisher to gauge its interest in the product and whether the financial resources to start the book might be forthcoming. A PAR scope follows this tactic, as it is written to define the deliverables of the standard, i.e., the ending. Once the PAR is approved by the IEEE Standards Association’s Standards Board, the work of filling in the detailed contents, i.e., preparing the standard, is undertaken.

The IAS’s Industrial and Commercial Power Systems (I&CPS) Department is the home of what was once designated the IEEE Color Books.

All standards are living documents that need improvement and modification based on multiple factors, especially changes in technology.

Daleep Mohla
About a decade ago, the decision was made to break out the overarching contents of each Color Book into individual standards, which are known as dot standards. The working groups responsible for preparing and updating the dot standards meet twice a year—once before the start of the I&CPS conference, usually held in May, and once before the IAS Annual Meeting, usually in October. The next I&CPS conference is scheduled for 7–10 May 2018 in Niagara Falls, Canada. Standards working groups will meet a day before and during the conference. You are invited to attend the I&CPS conference and participate in the working groups responsible for the standards of interest to you.

The I&CPS was recently designated by the IAS to be responsible for sponsoring IAS standards on data centers. Data centers are the fastest-growing projects being undertaken by large users and major information technology companies for networking, managing, and storing the data critical to operations of users and technology companies.

Fresh blood, therefore, is vital for the continued excellence and sustainability of the IAS standards program. So this is an appeal to all employers in the electrical industry. Please encourage the active involvement of your employees in the IAS standards development process. There will be a high return on the investment you will make in asking your employees to participate. By becoming involved in the process, your company will be providing leadership in setting the standards. This is also an appeal to volunteers to get involved in the process. As a member of the working groups, not only will you be able to share your skills with the industry, but you will have an opportunity to network with and learn from other industry experts. Please contact me at d.c.mohla@ieee.org if you are interested in joining a working group involved in the preparation of any IAS standards.

AWARDS (continued from page 75)

IAS Award Recipients

IAS Outstanding Achievement Award

Braham Ferreira was recognized as the 2017 recipient of the IAS Outstanding Achievement Award “in recognition of outstanding contributions to the application of electricity to industry.”

IAS Distinguished Service Award

Jerry L. Hudgins received the IAS Distinguished Service Award for 2017. The award is given “in recognition of dedication and distinguished service to the IEEE Industry Applications Society.”

IAS Andrew W. Smith Outstanding Young Member Award

Xu She received the IAS Andrew W. Smith Outstanding Young Member Award for 2017. His award was presented “for contributions to advancement of solid-state transformer technologies and industry application of silicon carbide power converters.”

IAS Outstanding Young Member Service Award

Megha Tak received the IAS Outstanding Young Member Service Award for 2017. The award is given “in recognition of outstanding service through involvement in IEEE IAS activities.”

IAS Awards Nominations Due 1 May

Nominations for these IAS-level awards are due 1 May:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Outstanding Achievement Award
- Andrew W. Smith Outstanding Young Member Award
- Outstanding Young Member Service Award.

The nomination criteria and forms are available on the IAS website.