Dear readers,

This is the second issue of this column on the Technical Activities of the IEEE Intelligent Transportation System Society. We have a few pieces of information that we want to send our community.

I am very glad to announce the creation of three new technical committees in our society, in three topics of the highest interest:

- Technical Committee on Self Driving Automobiles
- Technical Committee on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence for Mobility
- Technical Committee on Cooperative Driving

Self Driving vehicles is undeniably one of the most prominent areas in the field of Intelligent Transportation Systems. Removing the human of the loop, for the sake of safety and efficiency is a long time dreamed aspiration, and we have witnessed in our society the most exciting events in that line, like the developments on long distance driverless challenges by Alberto Broggi, Italy (search for VISLAB and the VIAC challenge) or the amazing “Bertha Benz” driverless ride experiment by the Karlsruhe Technical Institute, led by Christoph Stiller.

The very same Christoph Stiller will be chairing this new technical committee on Self Driving Automobiles from which we expect very interesting technical activities for the enjoyment and education of our community.

Besides that, we are dedicating strong efforts to the development of a tighter collaboration between the ITSS Technical Activities structure and the development of the technical program of our flagship conference, the ITSC. For this edition, you will see that many of the special sessions of such conference will be “technically sponsored” by one or more of our technical committees. That is to say the members of that committees, will use their expertise to the service of the conference in the form of international program committee members or associate editors, overseeing the reviewing process and making acceptance or rejection recommendations.

Big Data is one of the hottest topics in almost every aspect in engineering. The tremendous rise on the data production of humanity has lead both a curse and a blessing. We can dig and extract exquisite very useful knowledge to improve many processes, also in many Intelligent Transportation Systems areas. The curse comes along with the typical high volume, velocity and variety of the data streams obtained, that makes it really challenging to cope with.

In our conferences and publications we have seen in the last 5 years a continued increment in the proportion of data-driven methodologies and projects. This new technical committee comes to take advantage of that momentum, impulsing new activities, competitions, events,... where we will certainly have the chance of embracing the data tsunami.

Finally, another very important topic in the Intelligent Transportation Systems arena is about collaboration between vehicles and the infrastructure. The trend is clearly appointing in the direction of intelligent vehicles that can, no only drive by themselves, but also to share and access and extended perception of the contexts they are driving through. Vehicle to vehicle (V2V), vehicle to infrastructure (V2I), or vehicle to device (V2X) are new connectivity paradigms that will yield higher levels of a secure and automated mobility. Not just perception is shared, in some methodologies, also decision-making can run distributedly, opening a

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brand new world with acres and acres of room for innovation. Nonetheless, the security of such interconnectivity is a concern currently addressed by our colleagues.

We have created a technical committee on “Cooperative Driving” where we expect we will see a good bunch of new technical activities in this area. At the time of writing this text we are running a new election where the ITSS members will elect a chair who will lead the charge in this area in the near future.

With that newcomers, the current Technical Committee structure is right now as follows:

- Artificial Transportation Systems and Simulation
- Big Data and A. Intelligence for Mobility
- Cooperative Driving
- Ethics and Social Implications of ITS
- Communication Networks
- Human Factors in ITS
- Intelligence and Security Information for Transportation Systems
- ITS Education
- Logistics
- Mechatronic and Embedded Systems in ITS
- Mobile Communication Networks
- Naturalistic Driving Data Analytics
- Railroad Systems and Applications
- Smart Cities and Smart Mobility
- Social Transportation Systems
- Self Driving Automobiles
- Sustainable Transportation
- Traffic and Travel Management
- Transportation 5.0
- Vehicle Safety Technologies and Applications

If anything of the above rings a bell for you and you feel like you would share some of your time in exchange of getting to know and collaborate with the leaders of these topics, we are always in need of volunteers to participate in our activities. Please go to the technical activities website and contact each technical committee’s chair you are interested in helping out: http://ta.itss-ieee.org/

Call for Volunteers
In the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society we organize some very interesting conferences every year. One of the biggest is the The IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems, which 21th edition will be held on Hawaii, on Maui island in this year (2018). In this conference we are trying a slightly different approach regarding the technical program development. We will involve the ITSS Technical Committees much more than before in the reviewing and program organization tasks. For example, they will have a much more prominent role in the reviewing process through the incorporation of their TC members as associate editors, and intermediate layer where they will handle a few papers each asking for review and making acceptance/rejection recommendations. We want to have a fine grain technical quality control by that.

If that is interesting to you, please, get in touch with your corresponding technical committee chairs or myself, and we will see you can serve the society for this or any future conferences.

Another call we need to launch is about the creation of new Technical Committees. If you work in Intelligent Transportation Systems and you see there is technical gap we have in the space covered by our technical committees structure, and you are an ITSS member and you would like to lead that new Technical Committee, you are kindly invited to submit your proposal for the creation of that new TC. Each proposal should include:
1) Title of the Technical Committee
2) Description of the scope and topics that are pretended to be covered with this new TC
3) Work plan for, at least, 2018, with a minimum of two activities per year.
4) A list of at least 8 potential committee members
5) Your commitment to attending our yearly ITSS Technical Activities Board (TAB) meeting, which are typically organized around the ITSS ITSC conference series. You could send a representative from your committee list.
6) A brief Bio highlighting your accomplishments regarding the Technical Committee topics.

Please, send all of that in a single document to: javier.sanchez.medina@ieee.org

You could also suggest a new technical committee to be created without running to chair it.

Constructive suggestions are welcome! Thank you!

Thanks for your attention, hoping for us to meet at some of our conferences and events, stay safe!

Javier J. Sánchez-Medina
IEEE ITSS Vice-president for Technical Activities