**SPS Megatrend Initiative Policies**

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**Suggested Policy Number: Policy 5.1.2.**

**Policy 5.1.2. Creation and Termination of Megatrend Initiatives**. A megatrend is a large trending technical area that is relevant to many Technical Committees and Special Interest Groups within the Society. Identifying megatrends and creating initiatives in the technical area shall allow the Society to have more impact in that particular area, broaden the Society’s exposure outside of its traditional community, and provide access to a broader base of participants from outside the Society’s membership base.

Megatrend Initiatives shall have a finite life-span not exceeding six years in general, and an initial life-span of up to three years. When the term end of the Megatrend Initiative approaches, the Initiative will be subject to a review by the TC Review Committee to determine if the Initiative should continue or be terminated. The TC Review Committee Chair will bring forward the Committee’s recommendation to the Board of Governors for review and action. Upon its termination, the Megatrend Initiative’s scope should be integrated into the scopes of the Technical Committees, its successful activities should be carried on by Technical Committees and its participants from outside the society’s membership should be associated with the Technical Committees.

The Vice President-Technical Directions has the authority to identify megatrends and create and receive proposals for Megatrend Initiatives. The proposal shall contain as much information as possible in support of the proposal and shall include a suggested scope, membership roster, as well as a rationale as to why the Megatrend Initiative is needed at that particular time. The proposal will be reviewed by the Vice President-Technical Directions, who will then seek feedback from the Technical Directions Board. After feedback has been received, the Vice President-Technical Directions will bring forward a recommendation to the Executive Committee for review and action. The Executive Committee shall then consider the proposal and the Vice President’s recommendation, and may act to approve the creation of the new Megatrend Initiative. In the interest of coherence of the Society, the Vice President-Technical Directions and the Executive Committee may consider to limit the number of Megatrend Initiatives at any point in time.

After approval of the Megatrend Initiative, the Vice President-Technical Directions shall appoint the inaugural Chair of the Megatrend Initiative, who will become an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Technical Directions Board.

Megatrend Initiatives that are approved after the first quarter of the year will have an effective date of 1 January of the following year for determining their initial review year. This leeway will provide the Megatrend Initiative ample time to initiate their activities before their initial review meeting, which will determine their future.

**5.1.2.1. Scope.** A Megatrend Initiative shall initiate and promote activities within the scope of the Society. It shall cover a particular area within the Society, act as a single point of contact, and be the voice of the Society within that area. The Megatrend Initiative shall represent the interests of all Technical Committees and Special Interest Groups, attract protagonists of the field from outside SPS, focus on both the theoretical foundations and its applications, and should aim at procurement and diligent use of Society’s initiative funds.

Megatrend Initiatives should attract critical mass, promote collaboration and cross-fertilization within SPS and beyond, as follows:

* 1. initiate, organize, and operate innovative society-sponsored/co-sponsored symposia, seminars, and workshops, or sessions at technical meetings of the Society or of the IEEE, at a society-wide level,
  2. promote publications in IEEE-owned, sponsored, and co-sponsored media
  3. reach out to and collaborate with other professional organizations, including other IEEE societies and non-IEEE societies
  4. complement the activities of the Technical Committees and Special Interest Groups and provide expertise and assistance to the Technical Committees and Special Interest Groups in their activities according to Bylaw 501, as follows:
     1. assist in the review of papers submitted to Society technical meetings;
     2. organize and operate society-sponsored/co-sponsored symposia, seminars, and workshops, or sessions at technical meetings of the Society or of the IEEE, at all levels, and at meetings of other organizations having Board-approved cooperative relationships with the Society, in accordance with IEEE rules and procedures and the rules for such meetings;
     3. make nominations in the Society awards process and vet nominations for technical excellence as requested by the Awards Board;
     4. assist Editors-in-Chief in identifying appropriate Associate Editor candidates.

**5.1.2.2. Management.** Megatrend Initiatives shall be governed by a Steering Committee with a Chair conducting the day-to-day business and at least four other members, one of which shall be the Vice Chair. The Steering Committee members are appointed by the Vice President-Technical Directions for a term of two calendar years, renewable. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected by the members of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee is responsible for supporting and setting the directions for the initiative, supporting the Chair and Vice Chair’s activities, initiating, organizing and setting the direction of the Working Groups. They are also responsible for nominating associate members and engaging all members in the initiative’s activities.

**5.1.2.3. Chair.**

* 1. The term of office of the Chair shall be two calendar years, renewable once.
  2. The Chair is a voting member of the Steering Committee. However, the Chair shall have no vote on the Steering Committee except if the vote is by secret ballot or unless the Chair’s vote can change the outcome of the vote.
  3. The Chair is a non-voting member of the Technical Directions Board.
  4. The Chair shall be responsible for maintaining a roster of the membership.
  5. The Chair is responsible for organizing the activities of the Megatrend Initiative and maintaining communication with the Vice President-Technical Directions.
  6. The Chair submits bi-yearly written reports to the Vice President-Technical Directions and to the Executive Office on the Megatrend Initiative’s activities for the Board of Governor meetings.
  7. The Chair reports to the Vice President-Technical Directions.

1. The Chair is responsible for appointing members and delegating work to the Initiative’s Working Groups.
2. The Chair is responsible for preparing the Initiative Review Report and attending the Initiative Review meeting run by the TC Review Committee.

**5.1.2.4. Vice Chair.**

1. The Vice Chair acts as a back for the Chair in the day- to-day-business activities.
2. The Vice Chair term does not automatically succeed to the Chair position; however, the individual may be considered for the Chair position.
3. The Vice Chair will assist the Chair in preparing the Initiative Review Report and attending the Initiative Review meeting, if requested.

**5.1.2.5. Membership.** Megatrend Initiatives will have two types of positions: Members and Associate Members.

* 1. Members are Society members that are nominated representatives from the Technical Committees or Special Interest Groups. The nominated representatives do not need to be current or prior Technical Committees or Special Interest Groups members.
  2. Associate Members are IEEE members or non-members related to the field of the Megatrend Initiative that are nominated by the Steering Committee members and approved by the Vice President-Technical Directions.
  3. Both positions will have a two-year term, renewable.

**5.1.2.6 Working Groups.** Megatrend Initiatives should form working groups dedicated to the main activities of the initiative, such as:

* 1. **Working Group on Conferences** works towards innovative events beyond the existing SPS events, but also for SPS visibility in non-SPS and non-IEEE events, in coordination with the SPS Conferences Board.
  2. **Working Group on Publications** works towards additional publications, such Special Issues in SPS-owned or co-sponsored publications, but also for SPS visibility in non-SPS and non-IEEE publications, in coordination with the SPS Publications Board.
  3. **Working Group on Membership** works towards increasing SPS membership, by offering e.g., continued education support, organizing seasonal schools, in coordination with the SPS Membership Board.
  4. **Working Group on Outreach** works towards collaboration, with non-SPS and non-IEEE publications, in agreement with the SPS VP Technical Directions.

**5.1.2.7. Termination of a Megatrend Initiative**.

Upon recommendation from the TC Review Committee and approval by the Board of Governors to terminate a Megatrend Initiative, a report will be written by the Megatrend Initiative’s Steering Committee to provide their feedback on how and which Megatrend Initiative activities should be absorbed by the Technical Committees. The written report shall be submitted to the TC Review Committee and the Vice President-Technical Directions for review and a final decision.