2026 Control Systems Society Operations Plan

Purpose

The CSS Operations Plan implements the Strategic Plan by defining the operational initiatives that support each strategic pillar and providing a framework for their implementation, review, and continuous refinement. It is reviewed periodically and updated as needed.

Strategic Pillars

As outlined in the CSS-SP, the IEEE Control Systems Society will pursue five strategic pillars that define its long-term priorities and guide the Society's activities, investments, and partnerships.

- Advance the Foundations of Systems and Control
- Harness Systems and Control to Address Societal-Scale Challenges
- Accelerate Translation to Practice
- Lead Knowledge Exchange
- Cultivate an Engaged and Sustainable Membership

Governance and Review

The CSS Operations Plan is maintained under the direction of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC), which periodically reviews progress toward the strategic objectives defined in the CSS Strategic Plan. Responsibility for implementing and periodically reviewing individual operational initiatives is assigned to the appropriate Society Officers, Standing Committees, or Boards. Progress is reviewed regularly by the Executive Committee and reported to the Board of Governors.

Operations by Strategic Pillar

Advance the Foundations of Systems and Control

- Identify and periodically assess emerging scientific directions, methodological advances, and foundational research challenges to guide the evolution of the Society's technical portfolio, including its Technical Committees, publications, and conferences.
- Maintain a vibrant and evolving Technical Committee structure through systematic review, structured leadership succession, active community engagement, and periodic assessment of technical relevance and governance.
- Periodically review and adapt the Society's publications and conferences to reflect emerging scientific directions and advances in systems and control.
- Foster reproducible research, benchmark problems, and rigorous scientific practices that strengthen the foundations of systems and control.

Harness Systems and Control to Address Societal-Scale Challenges

- Leverage the *Control for Societal-Scale Challenges* Road Map to develop and sustain flagship initiatives, interdisciplinary collaborations, and partnerships that address societal-scale challenges.
- Expand collaborations with sister societies, international organizations, and funding agencies.
- Operate and continuously evolve the Community Outreach and Development Activities (CODA) program through a structured proposal, peer review, funding, and outcome reporting process.
- Continue to expand IEEE CSS Days by engaging Technical Committees, Local Chapters, and the broader community in coordinated worldwide activities that promote the visibility, impact, and societal relevance of systems and control.

Accelerate Translation to Practice

- Strengthen engagement with industry, government laboratories, entrepreneurs, and other practitioners by expanding participation in Society conferences, particularly the IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications (CCTA), as well as publications, standards activities, technical activities, leadership, and strategic partnerships that accelerate the translation of systems and control technologies into practice.
- Expand CSS leadership and participation in standards activities, including engagement with the IEEE SA, that accelerate the deployment and adoption of systems and control technologies.
- Promote benchmark platforms, validation methodologies, and testbeds that facilitate the translation of research into practice and improve the evaluation of emerging technologies.
- Facilitate collaboration among academia, industry, government laboratories, and entrepreneurs through workshops, challenge problems, and other collaborative technical activities that accelerate the translation of systems and control technologies into practice.

Lead Knowledge Exchange

- Maintain and continuously evolve the Society's publications portfolio to meet the changing needs of the research community, including open access, emerging scholarly publishing models, reproducibility, and the responsible use of AI.
- Strengthen the integration of CSS publications, conferences, and Technical Committee activities through innovative conference formats, stronger journal–conference interactions, and enhanced opportunities for technical exchange.
- Expand technical education through tutorials, workshops, webinars, digital resources, and experiential learning opportunities, including student competitions and challenge problems.
- Strengthen the Distinguished Lecturer (DL) and Distinguished Industry Lecturer (DiL) programs to broaden global access to high-quality technical presentations, tutorials, and educational activities through local Chapters.
- Promote open science, reproducible research, and research integrity across scholarly communication, education, and professional practice.

- Develop coordinated processes to identify, curate, and disseminate high-quality technical, educational, and community content that increases the visibility and impact of systems and control across digital and public communication channels.
- Provide leadership in IEEE-wide initiatives that modernize scholarly publishing and peer review, including AI-assisted editorial workflows, while maintaining rigorous standards of scientific quality, transparency, and research integrity.

Cultivate an Engaged and Sustainable Membership

- Expand NextCom as a community-led initiative supporting students, early career researchers, and young professionals through mentoring, networking, professional development, leadership opportunities, and participation in the Society's long-range planning.
- Strengthen mechanisms for bottom-up engagement and feedback that enable members across career stages, geographic regions, and institutional affiliations to contribute to the evolution of Society activities, priorities, and governance.
- Develop a sustained membership pathway that attracts students, supports their transition to professional membership, and fosters long-term engagement throughout their careers.
- Strengthen mentoring, leadership development, local chapters, and global networking activities to enhance member engagement across all career stages and regions.
- Strengthen partnerships with other IEEE Societies and interdisciplinary communities to broaden participation and attract students, early career researchers, and practitioners whose work is grounded in systems and control.
- Recognize excellence, service, and leadership through the Society's awards and Technical Committee recognition programs, including the CSS Outstanding TC Award, while supporting nominations for external awards and IEEE Fellow elevation.

Cross-cutting Operational Priorities

- Continuously refine the Society's financial planning, forecasting, and resource allocation processes to align investments with strategic priorities, expand support for outreach, education, and community-building initiatives, and maintain long-term financial sustainability.
- Coordinate Society-wide communications to promote technical achievements, educational activities, outreach initiatives, and member accomplishments through sustained, high-quality digital and public engagement.
- Continuously review and refine the Operations Plan to reflect emerging opportunities, community needs, and progress toward the Strategic Plan.

October 1st, 2026
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