Short Course Initiative
Strategic Plan

February 2019

Short Course Committee:
Stefano Coraluppi (Chair), Lorenzo Lo Monte, Luke Rosenberg, Michael Wicks, Jason Williams
AESS Short Course (ad hoc) Committee was first established in 2018

Business model
- 1-3 day courses to be hosted by AESS Chapters
- Provides a lengthier presentation than DL program, allowing educational/professional development
- Fee for participation. AESS Chapter covers speaker and venue costs; nominally, surplus 20% to AESS, 80% to Chapter

Program info is available online
- [http://ieee-aess.org/aess-short-course](http://ieee-aess.org/aess-short-course)
Background

Short courses to date
- Fabrizio, South Australia Section, CSS/AESS Chapters, Nov 2015 (1 day)
- Lo Monte, South Australia Section, CSS/AESS Chapters, Nov 2017 (3 days)
- Lo Monte, Germany Section, AESS Chapter, Oct 2018 (2 days)
- Crouse, South Australia Section, CSS/AESS Chapters, Jun 2019 (? days)

Instructors
- Fabrizio, Lo Monte, Koch, Crouse (TBD March 2019)
- Potential: Mariottini (Robotics/Autonomy, Draper)
Current priorities

- Update/maintain website
  - Course descriptions must be added
- Identify instructors and advertise offerings
  - Email blast on 31 Oct 2018
  - Advertise regularly in QEB and Systems Magazine
  - Contact tutorial speakers from AESS conferences, and current DLs
  - Direct, targeted approach with selected Senior Members and Fellows (like mentoring program)
  - Seek help of BoG members (lecturing or advertising)
  - Email to be sent to all Chapter Chairs (http://ieee-aess.org/chapters/all)
Backup
Short Course Initiative

Chapter Summit
April 26, 2018
AESS Board of Governors Meeting
April 27-28, 2018
Oklahoma City, OK, USA
Many AESS chapters have insufficient revenue to organise events, especially with external speakers.

The Short Course Initiative was conceived back in May 2015 by then VP Education, Joe Fabrizio.

He ran a pilot program in November of 2015 by giving a one-day workshop himself, drawing in many participants and proved his idea as successful, raising around AUS$10K for the local chapter.

The South Australia Chapter ran a second “pilot” in 2017, bringing AESS Distinguished Lecturer, Lorenzo Lo Monte in to give a multi-day course, with equal success - 45 participants and AUS$15K profit.

Short courses offer the opportunity to fund high quality speakers, provide useful training, engage with the local community and raise revenue which can be directed towards further events.

Courses can be offered to industry, government laboratories and academia – these organisations typically have training budgets.
**Organisation**

- We recognise that the details of every course will be different.
- This outline provides some general guidance to assist in the planning.
- Short course organiser – should be the local AESS chapter chair with support from other local members.

- First step is to find a topic which will provide a reasonable audience.
  - Contact colleagues to find areas they would like training.
  - Reach out to large companies / research institutes in the local area.
  - Create an online survey for local IEEE members.
  - Contact the AESS industry relations and / or education organiser for advice ([www.ieee-aess.org](http://www.ieee-aess.org)).
**Organisation**

- Find a speaker and agree on the date.
  - This may be someone from the short course website or someone known in the local industry.
  - Contact the respective AESS technical panel and / or education committee for ideas.
  - Must first be approved by the AESS short course committee.
- Clarify details of the topic to be covered, duration of course and whether they would be prepared to give multiple courses in different (nearby) locations.
- Venue – Should be accessible for all attendees.
  - Requires seats / tables / projector / screen / lectern.
  - If possible, record presentation – see guide for recording presentations on the short course website.
  - Should hold between 10-50 attendees.
  - Be near public transport / suitable car parking.
Budget - planning

• Goal is to keep costs as low as possible to attract large audience.
• Instructors should be offered an honorarium (although not everyone will be able to accept it).
• AESS can provide seed money of US$2500 to help with initial course expenses (then paid back from the course profits).
• All expenses of the instructor should be covered. They are expected to travel economy and stay at a hotel near the venue.
• Course costs should be chosen to match the expected expenses (see example spreadsheet for planning).
• Offer different pricing for IEEE members / non members and students.
• Profit should be split 80/20 with the local chapter / AESS.
Budget – risks

• There may be financial losses due to poor attendance.

• To reduce risk we suggest:
  • Set an early bird payment date (~30 days before the course) to attract early registrations.
  • If sufficient registrations are not achieved by this date, then make it clear that the course may be cancelled and fees refunded.
  • AESS short course committee can offer advice if there are any concerns.
  • Chapter chairs should book venues / flights with the ability to cancel if necessary (i.e. flight insurance).
  • Only after the course is deemed ok to proceed, should funds be committed.
## Budget - planner

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<th>Expenses:</th>
<th>Cost ex Tax</th>
<th>Tax</th>
<th>Total cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accomodation</td>
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<td>550.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals / incidentals</td>
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<td>Speaker fee</td>
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<td>AESS seed money payback</td>
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<td>Credit card fees</td>
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<td>Tax</td>
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<table>
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<td>Avg cost per day</td>
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<td>AESS profit (20%)</td>
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Registration - vTools

• Course can be organised with the IEEE vTools.
  • This is a free service offered by the IEEE (http://sites.ieee.org/vtools/)
  • Automatically connected to the L31 reporting tools.
  • Can manage registrations and send bulk emails.

• In the USA - manages credit card payments and interfaces with the concentration bank accounts.
• Easier to manage if the local AESS chapter has their own bank account separate to the section.
• At this time, vTools Payment is still being developed for countries outside the US and Canada. An update will be provided as the payment method is formalized.
Advertising

• Create a flyer for advertising with all the required information.
  • Using vTools, send an eNotice to the local (and nearby) AESS sections.
  • Post it on the local (and nearby) IEEE section websites.
  • Using your networks, forward the flyer to local companies and universities.
AESS Instructors

• A list of AESS short courses and instructors will soon be compiled for the short course web site.
• If you would like to sign up as an instructor, the expectation is:
  • You provide a list of topics which are vetted by the short course committee.
  • Course topics are not to be too technical or too generic unless the audience has agreed to the content.
  • Agree to perform the course as a volunteer or with an agreed upon honorarium.
  • Be prepared to travel internationally.
• The slides are owned by the instructor, but if they agree to be recorded to have it included on the AESS Resource Center, they will sign a Copyright Form, and the slides will be posted as well.
Course example

- Luke met with Lorenzo Lo Monte at the Seattle radar conference about a potential course.
- Luke then surveyed his organisation (Defence Science and Technology Group) to identify the greatest training need.
- Lorenzo Lo Monte agreed to visit Adelaide, South Australia and give a three day course on rapid systems prototyping and electronic warfare in November 2017.
- Lorenzo provided a short description of each day and Luke advertised the it as a Distinguished lecture course.
Course example

- Lorenzo could not accept payment, and his company offered to pay for accommodation.
- SA chapter paid for flights with insurance in case of cancellation.
- Fees were set low and an early bird deadline was set well in advance of the course.
- Manually organised registration and credit card payments – not ideal.
- 19 registrations by the early bird date – decided to go ahead with course.
- Organised printing of course notes, catering, venue at local university and drinks function on the second night.
- Final number of registrations were 45 and profit exceeded AUS$15K.
Ideas for AESS events

- Outreach and networking events:
  - Bring a work colleague along to a sponsored event with a local member highlights the benefits of joining the AESS.
  - Industry networking event for students and young professionals.
- Sponsorship of student events
  - Conference travel for accepted papers
  - Student paper awards at conferences
  - Student competitions
Summary of Resources

- Website www.ieee-aess.org
- Contact email address: admin@ieee-aess.org
- AESS short course committee:
  - Luke Rosenberg
  - Lorenzo Lo Monte
  - Judy Scharmann
  - Jason Williams
  - Joe Fabrizio

- Resources on the website:
  - List of approved instructors
  - Example budget and spreadsheet for course management
  - Short course recording guide
  - vTools tutorial
  - Example advertising flyer (.pub and .pdf)