



# IEEE Aerospace Electronic Systems VP-Conferences

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*VP-Conferences*

*2022 Strategic Planning Meeting (Pisa, Italy)*  
*14-15 February 2022*

- **Enable high quality conferences/symposia/workshops**
- **Produce high quality technical content**
- **Facilitate the production of reasonable surpluses without sacrificing quality**
- **Refine and promote Best Practices in planning and managing conferences\***
- **Explore new conference delivery mechanisms\***

\* Virtual and Hybrid events present significant challenges and will impact in-person attendance

- **Strengths**

- Several flagship conferences (Aerospace, AUTOTESTCON, Radar) that are high quality, well attended, and provide excellent surpluses

- **Weaknesses**

- Relationships between Conference Organizing Committees and AESS not always as tight as they should be
- Relationship with Conference Chairs not always as strong as they should be
- Processes for FCS and TCS are not as clearly defined as they should be
- AESS conference guidelines are not easily accessible – at times confusing
- Conference final reports are not always generated on time

- **Opportunities**

- Steady-state regarding hybrid (in-person + virtual) conferences not reached yet

- **Threats**

- Competition for conference attendees' time and money is intense

- **Strengthen student participation**
  - Graduate, undergraduate, and high-school level sessions and competitions
- **Revive “Junior Conference Concept”**
  - To coincide with major conference (Aerospace, Radar...
  - Offer awards/gifts for participation

- **Work with Tech\_Ops committee to identify common areas with other societies**
- **Encourage panel chairs to work with conference chairs to identify technical tracks of mutual interest to other societies**
  - **Organize joint technical sessions, workshops, and tutorials**
  - **Organize invited sessions to draw top speakers from different communities**

- **None**
- **Set aside “seed funding” for under-developed/under-privileged regions/areas**
  - Encourage participation and membership enrolment
  - To coincide with DL series



- COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we do business
- Much of 2021 was spent in converting traditional conferences to virtual or “pseudo” hybrid offerings
- MCE has new hybrid/virtual guidelines: <https://ieeemce.org/planning-basics/virtual-hybrid/>
- Hybrid (in-person/virtual) conferences appear to be the way of the future
  - Can yield increased attendance, if done well
  - May also reduce in-person attending
- Regional workshops may offer opportunities in locations with travel restrictions



- **Short-term:**
  - Update and refine conference guidelines (especially for hybrid offerings)
  - Homogenize offerings
  - Review all conference budgets – dedicate one committee member to this task
  - Strengthen liaison for financially-sponsored conferences
- **Status:**
  - Sponsorship requests reviewed by conference committee, and approved by VP
  - Budgets need to be carefully for consistency - Reviewed by one committee member
    - Offers feedback to conference committee and VP
  - Conference liaisons are reviewed for each conference application
    - Propose one AESS member to act as second liaison

- **Three-year goals**

- **Work with MCE to ensure budgets/peer-review/MOUs are meeting objectives**
- **Increase surplus through new conferences and regional workshops**
  - **Revise/Encourage chapters and panels to consider short (1 or 2 days) conferences and workshops**
- **Ensure all conference chairs are cognizant of guidelines and are examining historical results**
  - **AESS Panel chairs to provide guidelines to potential conference proposers in advance of application process – Help guide them**

- **AESS conference guidelines update**
  - **Research/implement best practices for hybrid and virtual**
- **Establish clear conference budget review process**
- **Conference leadership**
- **New TCS requests/Quality**

- **Review and update the guidelines**
  - Research/implement best practices for hybrid conferences
  - Leverage MCE guidance (as a starting point)
  - Involve Conference Committee and Panel Chairs
  - Identify clear objectives and criteria
  - Ensuring conference quality/surplus
- **Review and acceptance by the BoG**

- **Work with MCE to facilitate conference budget reviews**
- **Conference lead to review conference budget**
  - Offer feedback to achieve reasonable surplus
  - In accordance with set metrics
  - Make recommendation for approval/sponsorship
  - Ensure peer review / budgeted surplus

- **Strengthen AESS member presence on organizing committees**
  - Ensure guidelines for quality/profitability are met
  - Provide guidance on best practices for smooth operation
  - Could be as observer/advisor or active committee member

- **Analyze request for TCS sponsorship**
- **Ensure quality in TCS conferences**
- **Involve all Conference committee (and tech panels as appropriate)**
- **Identify benefits to AESS based on set criteria**
- **Agree to TCS sponsorship when AESS objectives are met**