

# VP Conferences Report

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# Topics

- **Strengthen Conference Practices**
- **Financial Sponsorship**
- **Technical Co-sponsorship**
- **An Idea For Discussion**
- **Conferences Strategic Plan**

# Strengthen Conference Practices

- **US Government Sequester is having major impact on conferences**
- **Limitations on conference attendance by U.S. Government are likely to continue**
  - **IEEE and other organizations are addressing this issue**
  - **But AESS should plan conservatively**
- **Conference Organizers must be prepared to adapt if forecasts are not being met**
- **Recommend that AESS create a core of conference planning and management expertise**
  - *Experienced individuals available to support and strengthen AESS conference organizers ability to manage in this new uncertain economic environment.*
  - *Participate in all Financially cosponsored conference committees*
    - *Work to maintain and increase the Conference Surplus*
  - *Available to TCS conferences as appropriate*

# Financial Sponsorship

- Too many MOUs are perpetual, with changes in the Governance and Conference Management processes.
- Strengthening the AES Conference Liaison for Financial Sponsorship – encourage new AESS Board of Governors members to participate in Conferences within their area of interest.
- Recommend strong consideration of this objective in selection of future nominees for Board of Governors
- Goal: Selectively examine and rewrite the “Perpetual” MOUs to bring up to IEEE policy standards – examine each and suggest rewrites on those that do not conform with IEEE Best Practices.

# Technical Co-sponsorship

- **Current Strategic Plan says:**
  - *Increase the number of AES Financial Sponsored Conferences by 3 by converting current Technical Co-sponsorship Conferences or starting new Conferences that support the long term AESS Strategic Objectives.*
- **Is this realistic?**
  - **We have 11 Technical Cosponsored Conferences this year**
    - 10 of the 11 Conferences are held outside of the U.S.
    - 8 of the 11 Conference Chairs are not AESS members
  - **I see no inclination from these conferences to seek or accept AESS financial sponsorship**
  - **We do not always have substantial involvement in the organization of the technical program**
    - What should our criteria for TCS be?
    - How do our members benefit?
- **Recommend focusing on Increasing and broadening AESS participation in these conference committees**

# An Idea For Discussion

- **Conference attendance is expensive**
  - Many AESS members cannot afford to attend
  - Travel and lodging expenses exceed conference fees by 2+:1
- **On the one hand, this is an argument for increasing conference fees (10% increase in registration → 3% overall increase)**
- **But it also argues for looking into other conference services**
  - **Where possible, make portions of conferences available through WebEx, e.g., The plenary sessions of RadarCon 13**
    - Or on AESS Web site
    - An added benefit for AESS membership
  - **Remote attendance**
    - Perhaps charge 30-50% of registration fee
    - Video feed for conference presentations
    - Conference booklet available for download
    - CD mailed to attendees
  - **Many challenges**
  - **Technical feasibility at conference venues**
  - **Dealing with multiple attendees for one registration**

# Conferences Strategic Plan

**Objective:** The AES Strategic Plan for Conferences should focus on refining and promoting best practices in planning, management, publications and financing Conferences that directly or indirectly benefit the AES Society Membership.

- **Create a core of conference planning and management expertise**
  - *Experienced individuals available to support and strengthen AESS conference organizers ability to manage in this new uncertain economic environment.*
  - *Participate in all Financially cosponsored conference committees*
    - *Work to maintain and increase the Conference Surplus*
  - *Available to TCS conferences as appropriate*
- **Weigh BoG participation in conference management in selection of future nominees for Board of Governors**
- **Selectively examine and rewrite the “Perpetual” MOUs to bring up to IEEE policy standards**
- **Pursue options for “other conference services”**
  - **Report at the Fall Board meeting**