AESS Plans for 2023 New Initiatives -- New Initiative for Distributed Sensing Technology and Education For Under Represented Regions

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**Background:** IEEE has a process for funding New Initiatives in line with IEEE’s Advancing Technology for Humanity. At the June 2022 Technical Activities Board (TAB) meeting, several initiatives were approved to advance technology to Under Representative Groups, especially in Region 9 through Region 10. AESS has been very active in opening Student Branches in South America and India; and helping developing Students and Young Professionals to further their capabilities in our Fields of Interest. The FOI for these Regions include: drone applications, cyber security, and distributed remote sensing. There is a strong incentive for an AESS 3 percent Rule Funding for 2023-2025 time frame to construct an New Initiative for Distributed Sensing Technology Innovation and Education (DSTIE), meeting “Advancing Technology for Humanity”.

**Evaluation Committee:** The AESS DSTIE Evaluation Committee made up with the AESS President as Chair and four Vice Presidents (President-Elect, VP Finance, VP Membership, VP Education) as Members. The proposals are to be evaluated by the Board of Governors Members and ranked following the criteria below. The proposal for a New Initiative has been presented to the IEEE TAB in mid-August, in order to get approval for early 2023 funding with IEEE Finance 3 Percent Rule, based on the AES Society 2022 surplus.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The New Initiative proposals will meet evaluation criteria below are aligned to the corresponding sections of the application form. The four criteria are weighted equally.

* Description of the aims/goals of the proposed project to strengthen the AESS technical capabilities of the Region(s) for growing technology and education within the under resourced Regions.
* Description of a successful outcome of this project, including the quantitative measures of success in technology growth for Students and Young Professionals
* Potential increase in AESS Membership in the Region within the selected AESS Fields of Interest, along with the amount of funding requested.
* Interaction within the AESS Regional Chapters to incubate new Industry, providing positions for AESS Young Professionals’ business capabilities.

Each of the above criteria will be scored on a 0-10 scale (10 being the highest score) giving a maximum attainable score of 40. Once evaluation by the individual Committee Members is completed a meeting of the Evaluation Committee will be held to discuss and rank the proposals. Following this the Chair will provide a recommendation to the AESS Board of Governors regarding successful proposals to be funded.

**Approval Process:** The AESS Board of Governors has voted to approve the project proposals. Following the AESS New Initiative for Education and Distributed Sensing Technology proposal selection, project applicants will be contacted with information and feedback. For unsuccessful applicants, project feedback will be constructive and informative, and some applicants will be encouraged to re-apply.

**Follow up:** The approved projects will submit mid-term and final progress reports. If needed, the AESS administration will remind the approved Project Teams about the semi-annual report submission. A VP will be assigned to review the progress reports and present the status to the Board of Governors.

**Note:** The Committee aims to ensure that the projects strongly align with the Society’s objectives and goals with potentially high increase in Membership and transition of projects satisfying the IEEE objectives for Technology for Humanity. This criteria is rather than funding projects solely due to funding availability.