



## Two New Technical Committees

**T**he IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS) Board has recently approved the formation of two new technical committees: the 1) Transportation Systems and 2) Renewable and Sustainable Energy Conversion Systems Committees. You will find more details about each of these new committees in this issue and hear more about them and their work as time progresses. In this column, I will briefly explain the reasons for this move, what is expected from these new groups, and encourage you to get involved.

Working on these two subjects is nothing new for the IAS. In fact, many of our existing committees have been involved with and promoted such work for a number of years. The focus has often been at the component level, mostly in machines, drives, and power electronics. It also involved work at the system level, be it marine applications or renewable energy for industrial and commercial power systems. In the past few years, however, there has been an unprecedented growth in those fields. The widespread electrification of transportation, on the one hand, and the irruption of renewable energy sources and sustainable themes onto the mainstream, on the other hand, are pushing the technical envelope in ways we have never seen before in our professional careers. As a result, the need for engineers in those fields is so great that many universities and academics are developing new pro-

with recruitment, education of current engineers, and system understanding and issues.

As a technical society, it is our mission to accompany and help nurture such changes. New technical committees will provide useful focal points for individuals and organizations. Outsiders or people gaining an interest in these subjects will quickly find a community of like-minded individuals and a variety of tools to help them grow professionally.

In particular, we anticipate these groups to involve themselves with conferences and meetings on these subjects. Actually, they already have: both committees come in large part out of the IEEE Energy Conversion Conference and Exposition (ECCE), where the papers that used to be component focused are increasingly expanding to address system issues. These subjects are growing so much now, although some of our other meetings, or new conferences for that matter, may provide better venues to present, discuss, and learn the state of the art.

Two new conferences on transportation started this year: the International Electric Vehicle Conference (IEVC) in South Carolina, which was held in March ([electricvehicle.ieee.org](http://electricvehicle.ieee.org)), and the IEEE Transportation Electrification Conference and Expo (ITEC) in Detroit, Michigan, to be held in June ([itec-conf.com](http://itec-conf.com)). IAS will also cosponsor the IEEE Power Electronics and Machines in Wind Applications in Denver, Colorado, in June. Whether for an existing conference or a new event, we can expect these committees to develop specialized meetings, paper tracks, panel

discussions, and tutorials of interest to the community.

Now these new committees will provide a better framework for transactions review or standards development by bringing together individuals with the right understanding of the system context for the related technological development. In addition to our regular transactions and magazines, for instance, IAS is also involved with the new *IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy*, which may be of interest to some of our members.

**L**ater in this magazine (in the "Society News" column on p. 73), you will see more details about each of these two committees presented by Iqbal Husain (transportation) and Dan Ionel (sustainable and renewable energy). Iqbal and Dan are the first chairs of these committees, and they both have assembled great teams and, with them, have already charted an initial direction for these committees. Their teams are diverse, bringing together academics and industry practitioners from every continent.

In short, these committees will provide IAS with a vision and the tools to help our members develop professionally in the exciting new fields of transportation and renewable and sustainable energy. The next step, though, is in part up to you. If you have an interest in those technologies, from preparing a paper or a tutorial, attending a conference, to being more active and helping chart the new committees, please participate. The future will be what you make it.

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