



IEEE Sections Congress 2008 Recommendation Response form

1. IEEE Sections Congress Recommendation #4
The MGA Board to assign staff to develop, a user-friendly system and support to enable Sections, Chapters and Affinity Groups to deliver, at low cost, teleconferencing, collaborative technologies, and webinars as a free member benefit. (IT Operations)
2. Provide a project description or statement of the work being conducted in support of this recommendation.
This is a complex project to provide a matrix of services that meet stated and validated section and chapter requirements for electronic collaboration. The solution must effectively trade 1) service type 2) quality 3) usability 4) geographic availability and 5) geographic interoperability against cost. No single one-size-fits-all service exists; the solution has many components. One component will be recommended procedures and training to employ existing free and very low cost services for IEEE section and chapter collaboration purposes. Another will be specific, centrally contracted commercial services where a known level of need and return-on-investment potential exists. Current developments: CIO has appointed a project manager, MGA staff have reviewed existing survey information and conducted a supplementary IEEE-wide survey in order to fill in the solution matrix and set priorities for implementation. Analysis is in progress. Gartner Group and Forrester have each been consulted for summaries of the solution space of suitable collaboration tools. Specific tools (such as Google Groups, Google Academic, Central Desktop, and others) are being evaluated.
3. Next Milestone or expected completion date of this recommendation.
Completion of a proposed services matrix, indexed by service type, quality/usability level, and geographic availability, which will be the basis for implementation planning: 1 November 2009.
4. What outcomes do you expect, what are the potential impacts on IEEE and what metrics can be used to measure success?
Enhanced section, chapter, and affinity group (SCAs) operations and activities resulting from free or very low cost availability of tools for communication and collaboration. Reduced operating costs for SCAs by replacing physical meetings with electronic ones. Greater numbers and variety of SCA member events by eliminating need for physical attendance in order to achieve benefits.
5. Please provide any additional information that will be helpful in providing an update on this recommendation.
Though the survey of section, chapter, and affinity group needs is complete, additional information about needs is welcome. Look for publication of plans with requests for comments in future months.
6. Submitted by and Date
Eugene Ressler 4 May 2009