

ment of new groups and project activities within the governmental domain, and identifies the needs of governmental bodies and helps incorporate them into INCOSE's long-range and annual operating plans.

By way of completeness, the INCOSE working groups are led by chairs (also known as project leaders); these positions are elected by the members of a working group, unless it is necessary for the Technical Director, or someone whom the Technical Director designates, to appoint working-group chairs. A working-group chair holds a three-year term of office. Each working group is assigned to an assistant director for oversight and support. This individual is responsible to the assistant director for the leadership, technical direction, coordination, and implementation of the working group's activities. This person maintains a database of active and liaison members, and provides a copy to the overseeing assistant director. The chair also ensures compliance with the procedures of Technical Operations and provides all results to the assistant director for promulgation to all INCOSE members.

An INCOSE working group may be established by Technical Operations or by a local chapter. Chapter working groups are still required to coordinate with a Technical Operations assistant director so that their results can be made available to all INCOSE members. INCOSE working groups must prepare charters and technical project plans to ensure concurrence with INCOSE leadership. This also ensures that the members share a common vision and that none of their time is wasted. These documents further enable coordination through the assistant director with other working groups that are focusing on related matters, and with relevant INCOSE initiatives that the INCOSE Board of Directors establishes for special projects. ❶

Technical Communications without Technical Obstructions!

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Many of you may wonder what exactly Technical Operations Communications can and will do. First, it can provide a repository for members to collaborate openly and with leading experts in the systems-engineering domains. Second, it can be a conduit to link like-minded individuals to each other and enable them to participate in specific domains that are driving research, product development, and product deployment. Finally, Technical Operations Communications can provide a place to understand and realize that you have a valuable membership in a world-class organization.

Now you may be asking, how will Technical Operations Communications accomplish our objectives? Mainly, we will accomplish our aims with visionary leadership as well as by using the tools we have with e-mail and our SharePoint portal. In the past, we have predominately used our sites as repositories for documents, and not for collaboration. Now, we will be fully utilizing the tools we have for collaboration to encourage our members at large to take a proactive stance in the organization they are a part of.

Additionally, we will be opening up sites for members to view what is happening in the working groups so that they may see the great technical content that is being produced by these active groups. In the future months, you can look forward to changes in the structure of content; expect to see e-mails announcing further changes. Also, please take a look at what is available to you as a member. We need active members. Thus, if you want to help implement these or other changes or if you have an idea, please pass it on. Since communication only works effectively if information is passed on and distributed, I promise to do my best not only to pass on Technical Operations information to you, our members, but also to listen to you so that we may continue to improve all the processes and systems for communications within INCOSE. ❷



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