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**Satellite Technical Network Charter**

**IET Satellite Technical Network**

The role of the Satellite Technical Network is to engage with technical professionals both in industry and academia in all areas of the Satellite Sector and through the IET Eng-X platform

<https://engx.theiet.org/about> and Online/F2F events. Community membership is open to both IET and non-IET members.

The engagement takes place at two levels –

* an Executive Committee (also referred to as the Exec) appointed and elected by the Executive team Chairman/Vice Chairman together with the Community Manager
* a Technical Advisory Panel of community members who work more closely with the Executive committee.

**The Satellite Executive**

The role of the Executive team is to engage with members and potential members of the Satellite community wherever they are, online or face to face. They also engage and develop the community through direct action: generating ideas for and leading the creation of events, creating and disseminating information around Satellite topics and attending and speaking to the industry at events as Exec members. The Executive also works with the IET Events Production, Standards and Journals teams.

With regards to event organisation, ideally volunteers will work together either individually or in a small team on either one large event or several smaller activities each year. Volunteering for the TN counts towards CPD hours.

The Executive is an appointed and self-elected team of around 16 individuals who are community members and who may or may not be Members of the IET. It is however strongly encouraged that non-member community members do eventually join the IET. Its also suggested that they should be members, except in special circumstances, or a member of at least one other recognised Engineering Council Institution.

The team gives international and diverse coverage across the scope of Satellites and each member will normally serve for a maximum period of three years, although the Chair/Vice Chair review this and can extend for a further year. The Exec is also responsible for the effective running of the network in terms of strategic direction and implementation.

The Executive’s Chair must be an IET member. There are also roles for Ordinary Members and an Online Specialist:

The Ordinary Members’ responsibilities are:

* Propose and commit to deliver activities
* Contribute to the annual plan
* Maintain a profile and represent the committee where appropriate
* Work with the committee and Community Manager to identify and recruit new volunteers

The Online Specialist’s responsibilities are to:

* Produce TN newsletters promoting content and activities
* Maintain presence on social media platforms
* Maintain the TN’s presence on Eng-X

**Benefits of Membership of the Executive Team**

The volunteer effort may be demanding but being part of the Executive carries with it the following benefits:

* An increased personal network of professional and business contacts
* A raised profile in the engineering community
* A clear demonstration of your continued commitment to the profession by contributing your time and effort voluntarily and towards your annual CPD
* An increased standing within the IET and industry, by representing the community within the Institution and performing an ambassadorial role in external arenas such as at events.
* Enhanced Influence and the opportunity to directly influence the Institution’s coverage in its responses to external bodies
* Enhanced professional development through involvement in topics outside your immediate work interests and experience of being part of a team managing a global network of people.
* Representing and promoting the IET community, whether at work or in other associations including through industry liaisons.

**The Satellite Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)**

The role of the TAP is to provide targeted individual expertise and efforts in the support of the Executive’s programmes including being speakers and advisors. These Volunteer level roles need only a small level of commitment, in the range of some hours of voluntary support per year, as well as engagement with the Executive and Membership via Eng-X.

From providing advice via personal contact, the online community, through to demonstrating views and expertise around Satellites in lectures and conferences, being a TAP member is critical to supporting the efforts of the Exec in their programme of work, as well as being an entry point into future membership of the Exec and a place for past Exec members to continue their support.

This group can contribute to the community in several ways as per personal preferences:

* Writing blogs for Eng-X
* Contributing to online discussion forums on Eng-X
* Suggesting online/offline community activity
* Sharing contacts
* Advising the Executive committee of hot topics/emerging trends
* Helping to promote physical and online events

The TAP may also be used as a natural home for retaining the knowledge and expertise of those members stepping down from the Executive Team.

**Benefits of being an IET TAP member**

The volunteer effort of being a TAP Member carries with it several benefits:

* Opportunities to support the aims of the Satellite Technical Network in furthering the visibility of the importance of Engineering in Satellites and to mentor and support up and coming engineers in the field.
* Take part in lectures towards engineers working within Satellites and to raise the profile of you and/or your company in the industry.
* Educate and inform engineers and the general public regarding your own special interest area and demonstrate your expertise.

**The Community**

As a professional working in Satellites, this is a place to get involved, to shape your expertise, and to develop your knowledge and contacts through an online community, providing opportunities to learn and network with other engineers meet at events face-to-face throughout the year. The Community is the focus of the efforts of the Exec and the TAP teams.

Although it is not within the remit of the TN to get involved in STEM activities, volunteers can sign up to become STEM Ambassadors in their own right if they wish to get involved in this area.