



# Buffalo Section Electrifying News

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If you would like to contribute thoughts or articles please send them to

[sec.buffalo@ieee.org](mailto:sec.buffalo@ieee.org)

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## The IEEE Buffalo Section needs your help!

IEEE Buffalo Section is interested in hosting an educational activity. In the past these events have generated a large member response. We would appreciate your feedback on which topic you might be interested in us arranging. Past seminars have been on the following topics:

1. Industrial lighting
2. Commercial Power Distribution
3. Commercial compliance
4. Intellectual Property
5. Computer Software Development
6. Other

If you would please e-mail [sec.buffalo@ieee.org](mailto:sec.buffalo@ieee.org) with your top choice for an educational event, that would then move the board forward to the next stage

## The New Guy Makes How Much?!

Though finding out that a new hire is earning more than you do can feel like a slap in the face, a Wall Street Journal article says you should not take it personally. Companies often feel compelled to offer new recruits more in order to beat out competing offers from rival companies. These external market pressures tend to push salaries up faster than internal company salary levels rise. Firms also pay a premium for up-to-date knowledge and skills that a recent graduate may have and employees with long tenures may lack. To rectify the matter, the article suggests that you

ask what you need to do in order to gain salary parity. But never should you frame the issue as a matter of fairness; presenting your value to the company puts you in a much stronger negotiating position. Read on at:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120611296397054965.html?mod=CarJMain\\_topmiddle](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120611296397054965.html?mod=CarJMain_topmiddle)

## How to Land On Your Feet If Your Company Crumbles

Maybe the people occupying the executive suite at your company made a series of wild gambles that didn't pay off. Or perhaps they were too conservative. Now the company, at the point of collapse, is on the auction block for a fraction of its pre-blunder value and a huge round of layoffs is as inevitable as the sun rising in the east. How do you keep your career from going down with it? A Fortune Magazine article points to the one thing that a smart professional should always take great pains to maintain: their network. The recent Bear Stearns debacle should be "a wake-up call for anyone who isn't staying in touch with a wide network of contacts," says Rich Gee, an executive coach in Stamford, Conn. "Who knows? Today it's the financial services industry where people are suddenly out in the cold. It could be your company tomorrow." Gee reminds people that most unadvertised openings that are created because of promotions, retirements, and new projects go to those with the best connections. Read on at: <http://money.cnn.com/2008/03/25/news/economy/bear.fortune/index.htm>

## Recognition for a Job Well Done

What's the quickest way to ensure that you do not get the recognition you deserve at work? Get on your boss' bad side. According to James E. Challenger, founder of Challenger,

Gray, and Christmas, an executive outplacement consulting firm, "Being disliked by someone in authority is the single most common reason people are discharged, not their lack of skills or abilities." How do you turn it around? Challenger suggests regularly calling your good work to your superiors' attention in face-to-face presentations. After all, he says, "The company does not necessarily know what you have done for it lately." He also advises workers to keep their own personal performance charts that force them to ask questions about their accomplishments, ways they could improve, and conflicts that have arisen. Read on at:

[http://www.jobjournal.com/article\\_full\\_text.asp?artid=2285](http://www.jobjournal.com/article_full_text.asp?artid=2285)

### **Saudi Wireless Network Will Dial Up New Jobs**

On 23 March, Saudi Arabian wireless carrier Zain Mobile Telecommunications announced that it will pay Motorola US \$335 million to build out and manage part of its nascent second- and third-generation mobile phone network. Zain, which paid US \$6.1 billion for its mobile license, announced in January that it had entered into a similar pact, worth \$935 million, with Nokia Siemens Networks. The Saudi wireless carrier, which operates in more than 20 countries in Africa and Asia, says the two contracts will yield a network capable of servicing up to eight million mobile phone users.

[http://www.news.com/Motorola-wins-335-million-Saudi-contract/2110-1039\\_3-6232765.html?tag=item](http://www.news.com/Motorola-wins-335-million-Saudi-contract/2110-1039_3-6232765.html?tag=item)

### **Patent Bill: Still No Floor Action Scheduled, But Non-Controversial Amendments Released**

Earlier this month, Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), sponsor of the 2007 Patent Reform bill; co-sponsor and committee member Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), and cosponsor Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) released 15 amendments to S. 1145, currently waiting to be scheduled for a floor vote. Rumors

suggested that the bill might be brought to the floor on April 3rd; that remains to be seen. All the amendments are benign, technical in nature and none addresses the most contentious aspects of S. 1145 which are still far from resolved. Of paramount concern is language that addresses a formula for damages in infringement cases; rules for the "venue" where patent lawsuits can be brought; and procedures for determining "inequitable conduct" on the part of applicants who file misleading statements or omit material with the intent to deceive the patent office. Instead, the package deals with subjects such as grounds for invalidating a patent, codification of earlier court rulings and rules for appointments of patent and trademark judges. Leahy called the effort "the first step forward in perfecting our bill and ensuring it has the support needed to become law."

### **Congressional Visits Day 2008: Ongoing Contact with Politicians a Key to Promoting Federal Funding for R&D**

4-5 MAR: More than 250 scientists, engineers, researchers, educators, and technology executives from across the US came to Washington to meet with their senators and congressmen during this year's annual Congressional Visits Day (CVD). The Science, Engineering and Technology Work Group (SETWG) - a coalition of S&T groups including IEEE-USA, universities, scientific societies, and companies - organizes the CVD.

### **IEEE-USA presents the George Brown award to Congressman Gordon**

Gordon has been a tireless champion of the need to invest in America's future through strong federal funding for science, technology, engineering and mathematics research and education. He was the lead House negotiator for the "America Competes Act" (H.R. 2272), authorization legislation that is designed to help the United States maintain its global leadership in science and technology. The president signed the bill into law on 9 August 2007.

## On Committee's 50th Anniversary, Microsoft's Bill Gates Addresses America's Global Leadership in Science & Technology

Speaking of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the House Science Committee - which Congress created in response to the Russian's launch of Sputnik in 1958 - Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates testified during a hearing marking the anniversary on the state of American innovation and competitiveness, and the future challenges we face.

### Eco-Patent Commons

An interesting new initiative from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development is seeking to generate and disseminate new ideas for sustainable development. The Eco-Patent Commons is an on-line database of existing patents that corporations and individuals have made available, without royalties, to anyone with an interest in using the new technologies in ways that benefit the environment. The website contains a searchable database of eco-friendly patents that are available for public use. Learn more about World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Eco-Patent Commons program.

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### World Patents Hit New Records

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) recently announced that international patents filed under the international WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty

reached a record high of 156,100 in 2007. The record total represents a 4.7 percent increase from 2006. US inventors and companies filed the most patent applications, accounting for 33.5 percent of total applications. Northeast Asia, especially Korea---was the fastest growing region in terms of new patent applications. Overall, the region accounts for 24.8 percent of applications. Telecommunications, information technology, and pharmaceuticals were the three largest sectors for patent applications. While the US topped the list in raw numbers of applications, US firms were not the most aggressive in 2007. Matsushita, Philips, and Siemens accounted for the highest numbers of corporate patent applications. WIPO also announced that trademark applications also hit a record high in 2007. Last year's 39,945 trademark applications represented an increase of 9.5 percent from the previous year. For more info, visit:

[http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2008/article\\_0006.html](http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2008/article_0006.html)

### Rambus Wins Long-Running Patent Lawsuit

Chipmakers mull appeal of Rambus verdict - Memory chip makers including Hynix Semiconductor Inc are considering filing appeals in a long-running court battle over Rambus Inc's patents after a U.S. jury verdict favoured the U.S. technology developer. See Reuters article here:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9f3dc7d4-fb9d-11dc-8c3e-000077b07658.html>

### IEEE-USA's Recent Policy Communications

-7 APR: Coalition letter to the President and Congressional leaders urging restoration of FY 2008 funding for key science and technology agencies in supplemental appropriations legislation.

-3 APR: Letter to Rep. Dennis Moore endorsing The Independent Health Record Trust Act of 2007 (H.R. 2991), legislation that encourages the development of independent

(non-governmental) repositories for electronic medical records owned by the patient.

-27 MAR: Letter to Presidential candidates urging them to accept an invitation to discuss Science and America's Future at Science Debate 2008 on 18 April 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

-12 MAR: Testimony by Region 2 Director John Dentler before the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee urging repeal of the Maryland computer services tax.

-11 MAR: Letter and statement submitted for the hearing of Senate Subcommittee on Technology, Innovation and Competitiveness on the FY 2009 budget request for basic research.

-28 FEB: Letter to Rep. George Miller endorsing the "School Building Enhancement Act," (H.R. 3197), which seeks to improve the energy efficiency of public school buildings.

-26 FEB: Coalition letter to House and Senate leaders urging Congress to enact full funding for the American Competes Act S&T authorization in supplemental appropriations.

### Leading RFID Engineers and Researchers to Convene in Las Vegas for 2nd IEEE International RFID Conference

The second IEEE International Conference on RFID (IEEE RFID 2008) will address the technical and policy challenges of RFID technologies - systems that use tags and readers to transmit the identity of an object or person through radio waves - and examine job opportunities at the Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino, 16-17 April. IEEE RFID 2008 is co-located with RFID Journal Live! Executive conference and exhibition <http://www.rfidjournaevents.com/live/>. IEEE-USA and the IEEE TAB New Technology Directions Committee [http://www.ieee.org/web/volunteers/tab/tab\\_50\\_7.html](http://www.ieee.org/web/volunteers/tab/tab_50_7.html) are financial co-sponsors for IEEE RFID

2008. IEEE-USA President Russ Lefevre chairs the committee.

### IEEE Launches MemberNet Online Directory

The IEEE has launched an online member directory designed to encourage peer-to-peer networking within IEEE membership. memberNet is the first step in a series of next-generation capabilities that will encourage virtual collaborations between members with similar technical interests, regardless of geography. While the basic member profile in memberNet contains every member's name and membership grade, each member can indicate by check mark what additional information they would like to also have appear. These may include technical interests, local Section, or IEEE Society affiliation. The memberNet directory, and its opt-in management, is accessible from myIEEE, at <http://www.ieee.org/myieee>. For more information about IEEE memberNet, visit <http://www.ieee.org/membernet>

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## **Registration Now Open - IEEE Sections Congress 2008**

As a reminder, IEEE Sections Congress 2008 will be held 19 – 22 September at the Quebec City Convention Center in Quebec City, Canada. The theme of the event is "Celebrating Volunteer Achievements Worldwide." The three program tracks are: Membership; Section Management; and Section/Chapter Activities. The registration web site for SC08 will be now available. If you are planning on attending, please ensure that you have the appropriate travel documents. Visit <http://www.ieee.org/sc2008> for more information.

### **OU Website Verification Request**

Today, IEEE has over 1,300 websites hosted on the IEEE web hosting server. Some of these websites have not been updated to reflect the current year activities. In order to ensure that our websites are providing relevant information, each Region, Council, Section, Subsection and Chapter is being asked to check the lists of their organizational unit websites and verify if whether or not they are outdated. Please visit <http://ewh.ieee.org/ewh/> and select your Region from the "OU Websites" menu. If you do not see your Organizational Unit's website listed, please contact [ewh-webmaster@ieee.org](mailto:ewh-webmaster@ieee.org) so that the link to your website can be added to the list. If your website is not listed please contact [ewh-ebmaster@ieee.org](mailto:ewh-ebmaster@ieee.org) and include the link to your website.

### **February Membership Highlights**

IEEE membership reached 302,260 in February 2008, an increase of 1.3 percent compared to February 2007. Specifically, higher grade memberships are up 1.3 percent, student memberships have increased 1.1 percent. Society membership decreased 1.0 percent. Complete details are available in the Membership Development Report at <http://www.ieee.org/mdprogreport>. In order to access this site, you must use your IEEE Web

Account. If you do not have an IEEE Web Account, please go to <http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/web/accounts/index.html>.

### **New Bill Will Simplify Tax Credit**

Many of America's leading innovative companies use the popular R&D tax credit, but unfortunately, the process for using the credits has become much too complicated and cumbersome. A new legislative plan from Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-CA) - who also happens to be a wind energy entrepreneur - seeks to remedy this situation. His bill, the Innovation Tax Credit Act (H.R. 5681) would address these challenges by making the R&D tax credit permanent.

### **MGA Award Nominations**

The MGA Board is soliciting nominations for Outstanding Small and Large Sections. Additionally, nominations are being accepted for the MGA William W. Middleton Distinguished Service Award. Nominations for the Outstanding Section award are due on 15 May 2008 and nominations for the William W. Middleton Distinguished Service award are due on 31 May 2008. Additional information is available at the following URL: <http://www.ieee.org/web/volunteers/mga/home/Awards/index.html>

### **Housing Bill Could Mean 1000s of Job in the Energy Industry**

Last week, the Senate overwhelmingly passed H.R.3221 (84 to 11), a bipartisan housing package by Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and Richard Shelby (R-Ala.). Despite some negative comments from White House Press Secretary Dana Perino indicating that H.R. 3221 "is not a bill that we could support," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said he received assurances from the president that he would not veto the bill. The House is assembling its own mortgage and housing package, which includes provisions that provide for zero-interest loans for first-time home buyers and tax credits to spur

development of more low-income housing. Both bills include tax breaks for the renewable energy industry. The Senate adopted 88-8, an amendment by Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and John Ensign (R-Nev.) to extend expiring tax breaks for renewable energy and energy efficiency for one year at a cost of \$6 billion, which would not be offset. The House supports extension of the expiring renewable energy tax breaks but has insisted repeatedly that the cost must be offset. Staff at the American Wind Energy Association estimate that without an extension of the tax breaks, 116,000 jobs are at risk -- 76,000 in wind and 40,000 in solar -- along with \$19 billion in clean energy investment.

### **Subcommittee Examines How to Effectively Commercialize Nanotechnology Research for Public Good**

As part of the Committee's reauthorization process for the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), the House Committee on Science and Technology's Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing to examine how well the initiative is supporting activities to make sure that the results of nanotechnology research are translated into commercial products and processes. The 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2003 authorized the NNI and the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO) to provide technical and administrative support to the NSET for this coordination. The total estimated NNI Budget for FY2008 was \$1.49 billion.

### **2008 EPSCOR Grants Announced**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced it will invest up to \$5.2 million in basic research projects with 12 universities from across the country. In an effort to ensure America remains the world leader in scientific research and innovation, universities selected will pair with a DOE national laboratory to maximize expertise.

### **Reducing the Impact of Disaster**

The National Science and Technology Council's Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) released a series of hazard-specific implementation plans that identify opportunities to reduce the impact of disasters through a greater scientific understanding and technology application.

### **U.S. Court Puts Rules That PTO Rules Exceeded the Agency's Authority**

A Virginia federal court backed pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline in its challenge of new rules which the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office unveiled in late 2007. The rules were aimed at streamlining the patent processing by limiting the number of continuation patent applications and claims that can be presented to the agency during a given examination. U.S. District Judge James Cacheris decided that the changes are substantive in nature, and since the PTO's mandate does not extend to making sweeping modifications, the agency exceeded its rulemaking authority.

### **Maryland Repeals Computer Services Tax**

IEEE-USA helped IEEE member and Region 2 Director John Dentler provide testimony in favor of repealing A Maryland state tax on computer services. Read his testimony [here: http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/policy/2008/0312\\_08.pdf](http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/policy/2008/0312_08.pdf). Should we be offended that the Washington Post referred to engineers as "propeller heads" while reporting on this issue?

### **National Governors Association Clean Energy Initiative**

As part of the National Governors Association's (NGA) Securing a Clean Energy Future Initiative (SCEF Initiative), NGA Chair Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and Washington Gov. Chris regoire convened a summit in Seattle to promote clean energy research,

development and demonstration (RD&D) in the states.

### **Running for Public Office?**

Across the country, engineers are helping improve their communities by serving in elected offices from school board on up to the United States Congress. Have you thought of joining them? On May 10th, IEEE-USA - along with Scientists and Engineers for America (SEA), a coalition of engineering and scientific organizations - will host a Campaign Education Workshop to teach engineers and scientists how to run for public office. This one day workshop to be held at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, will involve people from across the political and scientific spectrum.

### **IEEE Technology Management Council Chapters**

As of 1 January 2008, the IEEE Engineering Management Society became the IEEE Technology Management Council (TMC). All IEEE Engineering Management Technical Chapters have been renamed IEEE Technology Management Chapters. The reporting requirements for Technical Chapters of IEEE Technical Councils are same as those for Technical Chapters of IEEE Societies.

IEEE Technical Councils do not have individual members as Societies do. Instead, they are supported by IEEE Societies. The IEEE Technology Management Council consists of the following member societies: Aerospace & Electronic Systems, Broadcast Technology Society, Circuits & Systems Society, Communications Society, Computer Society, Electron Devices Society, Industrial Electronics Society, Lasers and Electro-Optics Society, Professional Communication Society, Reliability Society, Signal Processing Society, Solid State Circuits Society, Systems Man and Cybernetics Society, Vehicular Technology Society. If your Section has members of any of the above societies and if your Section has an IEEE Technology Management Chapter these

members are now members of the local TMC Chapter. These individuals may begin to receive communication from the TMC Chapter informing them of their activities.

### **IEEE Award That Recognizes Ethical Practices**

Do you know of an IEEE member or an organization employing IEEE members that has shown exemplary ethical behavior or practices, or successfully advocated them? Then consider nominating that person or company for the IEEE Award for Distinguished Ethical Practices. The deadline for nominations is 1 July.

Nominations must come from the general membership of the IEEE. Members of the IEEE Board of Directors, the IEEE Awards Board, The IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (EMCC), and IEEE staff may not submit nominations. Nor are self-nominations permitted.

The nomination form is available on the EMCC Web site at <http://www.ieee.org/ethics> and through the "Other Awards Programs" link on the IEEE Awards Web site at <http://www.ieee.org/awards>.

### **New IEEE Annual Election Deadlines**

The IEEE Board of Directors approved several deadline changes related to the IEEE annual election, beginning in 2008. Most, but not all, of the annual election deadlines have been moved up by one month.

All ballots will be mailed to eligible voting members by 1 August and completed ballots must now be received by the election vendor by 1 October, 12:00 noon Central Daylight Time USA (17:00 GMT). Review the new IEEE Annual election deadlines at <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/corporate/election/index.html>. For more information, contact Carrie Loh, Corporate Activities, [atc.loh@ieee.org](mailto:atc.loh@ieee.org).

## Job Hunting?

The IEEE Job Site, available exclusively to IEEE members, can help you locate career opportunities easily and confidentially. Just complete a profile of your qualifications and requirements, and you'll be notified via email when a suitable job becomes available. IEEE Job Site was named one of the top online recruitment sites by Weddle's Guide to Employment Web Sites. And top employers know that IEEE members are the most qualified electro technology and information-technology professionals in the world. Take a few minutes to register with the IEEE Job Site and check out your career options today! <http://www.ieee.org/jobs>

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## Volunteer Members Needed

We need your help. We are looking for help with the following tasks: organizing events, website management, taking reservations, helping with the directory or speaking in public. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Also the IEEE Buffalo Section is in need of new board of director members. The time commitment is approximately six hours per month. This time can roughly be broken down into an hour monthly board meeting and a three hour section meeting. There are vast opportunities to network through the Western New York area. Additionally, IEEE can issue a letter to your employer about the work that you have done. If you are looking to give yourself an advantage over your fellow electrical engineers, think about becoming an officer or helping out today. If you have questions, contact us at [sec.buffalo@ieee.org](mailto:sec.buffalo@ieee.org) or Judy Moskal at 716 689 6689

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