



Connecting the Mobile World

Instructions for Authors

VTS News is the quarterly newsletter of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society (VTS). The VTS is the society within the IEEE for electronic engineers interested in mobile radio, automotive electronics and land transportation, with the former being the main interest of about half the membership, and a fairly even split of the rest between automotive electronics and other land transportation. Roughly three quarters of the society's 5,500 members live in North America, with the remainder coming from across the globe.

The VTS publishes an archival journal for technical papers, the Transactions in Vehicular Technology, which members can subscribe to. All members receive the VTS News, and given the wide range of background of the Society's members, articles in this publication are of a more general review-type nature. They would tend to be more similar to articles in magazines, having fewer references and few, if any, equations. Unlike articles in the transactions, articles in the VTS News are not peer reviewed, although they are subject to editorial review by the Editor-in-Chief and/or Senior Editors.

The VTS News solicits material including feature articles, book reviews, technological reports on recent developments, historical or review features, chapter reports, reports on other VTS activities, articles on Government or regulatory developments and conference reports.

Authors with ideas for feature articles should contact the Editor in Chief, Dr James Irvine (j.m.irvine@ieee.org) in the first instance. Intimations of recent developments should be sent to the following

- Automotive Electronics, Bill Fleming, Senior Editor, william.fleming@trw.com
- Land Transportation, Harvey Glickenstein, Senior Editor, h.glickenstein@ieee.org
- Mobile Radio, Javier Gozalvez, Senior Editor, j.gozalvez@ieee.org
- Chapter Reports, Gaspar Messina, Senior Editor, GMESSINA@fcc.gov

All other material should be sent to James Irvine, j.m.irvine@ieee.org

Feature articles should ideally be around 3000 to 3500 words in length. With figures, this results in a printed length of about 6 pages. However, smaller (down to 1500 words) or larger (up to 5000 words) can be accommodated. Articles shorter than 1500 words are welcomed and will be printed as technical notes. Opinion pieces of between 500 and 1500 words arguing a particular point of view on relevant subjects will also be considered for publication. Feature articles may contain appendices or sidebars to give further background on specific points. This can be discussed with the relevant editor.

Author Information

It is our standard practice to include an author photograph in the feature banner, although it is optional. Author photos should be 400 by 600 dpi or better. If you provide continuous tone photographs we will scan and return them. We also like to include a short (2 to 4 sentence) biography.

Photographs

Photographs are normally printed in black and white, and diagrams either in black and white or in two colour. Some limited use of full colour is possible in specific parts of the publication. Decisions on the use of colour will be taken by the VTS News staff.

Copy is produced electronically in the UK, and then typeset and printed in the USA, so graphical material is sent to the printers electronically. They are normally sized for a single column (85mm width), and ideally should be 600dpi or better at final printed size. We can cope down to 300dpi, but quality suffers a bit. If you provide continuous tone photographs we will scan and return them. If your photographs were originally colour it is best to supply them to us that way, since it is easier to adjust to tone so that they print best in black and white.

Acceptable file formats are JPEG (*.JPG), TIFF (*.TIF), PCX, Kodak Photo-CD (*.PCD) and GIF.

Diagrams

We normally use Corel Draw for diagrams (*.CDR), but files in Adobe Illustrator format (*.AI or *.EPS) are also OK. If you use something else, the chances are we can cope if you let us know. In any case, please also supply an encapsulated postscript file (*.EPS) as a 'format of last resort'. Diagrams supplied in hard copy only will be redrawn by us, and we normally also redraw any graphics submitted in bitmap format to ensure a higher printed quality.

Fonts within diagrams are normally changed to suit the house style, which is Helvetica. We try to avoid anything less than 8pt text. If you need to use non-standard fonts (for example, in logos), please convert them to curves. Ideally, all line weights and outlines should be .5 point in weight. White boxes should not be used to "break" lines (or cover any unwanted aspect of your drawing) as this makes tinting a graphic impossible. Use a dotted line or separate lines to draw a broken line. Avoiding putting in your own tints if for appearance only; such decisions are better made by the design staff.

Footnotes

Footnotes should be avoided and incorporated into the body of the text whenever possible. If they are used, the text should be placed at the end of the article with a note in the text where they should be referenced. Please do not use the automatic features of a word processor.

References

The VTS News uses numbered references in square brackets ordered by the first use of the reference in the article. Please do not use the automatic numbering features of word processors. The style used is the same as that used for IEEE Magazines, and full details of the referencing style can be found on <http://www.ieee.org/pubs/magazines>

Submitting Copy

Text and graphics should be sent separately. The preferred format for text files is rich text format (*.RTF), although Microsoft Word or ASCII is also OK. If you use ASCII, use two carriage returns between paragraphs (i.e. leaving a blank line between paragraphs). Each graphic should be in a separate file.

Files should be sent by email to j.m.irvine@ieee.org with a covering note explaining the purpose of each one. They can be bundled in a zip or tar file.

Please also send a PDF (preferred) or postscript file of the complete article to allow for checking of the electronic files. Alternatively, please send a hard copy along with a floppy disk or CD.

Proofs

Proofs are provided in PDF, usually during the second week of the month prior to publication. Due to the tight production schedule, any corrections must be notified within 4 working days of delivery. Our preferred method of proof distribution is by email. We can fax a hard copy, but the resolution is poor making any errors difficult to spot. The VTS News is printed and dispatched during the last week of the month before publication, so that members start receiving it in the first week of the publication month (February, May, August & November).

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