

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) by Governments

The IEEE Government Engagement Program on Standards (GEPS)

This FAQ document is intended to address questions that prospective or current government program participants in the IEEE Government Engagement Program on Standards (GEPS) may have. It will evolve as this program evolves, and will be updated with additional questions, as relevant.

Q*1: What is the IEEE GEPS program?

A**1: IEEE GEPS, the IEEE Government Engagement Program on Standards, is a program that was created by the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE SA).

Q2: Why did IEEE SA create the GEPS program?

A2: IEEE SA collaborates with members and stakeholders to advance global technologies, and interested stakeholders (including academia, civil society, governments and industry) are actively engaged in IEEE SA's standards development activities/processes, which are coordinated and overseen by the IEEE SA Standards Board (SASB). Since global standards are critical instruments in innovation, trade and public policy areas, IEEE SA created GEPS to provide a platform for governments from around the world to help increase their understanding of – and support for – IEEE's standards process, and to facilitate input regarding government priorities into IEEE's standardization ecosystem.

Q3: What are IEEE SA's goals for the program?

A3: IEEE SA's key goals for the program are to:

- Increase governments' understanding for open and global standards, including IEEE standards;
- Inform governments about IEEE SA's key initiatives;
- Gain input from government experts to the Standards Board and other standards-related discussions;
- Engage with countries from around the world to receive global perspectives.

Q*4: What will government entities gain by participating in the program?

A**4: Appointed representatives help shape IEEE SA activities, leading to mutual benefits for government entities participating in IEEE GEPS and IEEE SA.

Other opportunities for government entities include:

- First-hand, timely information from IEEE SA about its activities and plans (when attending IEEE SA Standards Board meetings);
- Inform the direction and priorities of IEEE SA;
- Interact and share views with technology thought leaders;
- Direct interaction with IEEE SA volunteer leadership, experts and staff (locally and globally);
- A dedicated IEEE SA staff contact to answer questions and assist with program participation;
- Public recognition as a program participant on the [IEEE GEPS website](#) and the [IEEE SA website](#).

Q5: Is there a financial commitment involved to joining GEPS?

A5: No. There is no fee involved in joining the GEPS program.

Q6: What will the role of the appointed representative be?

A6: Through GEPS, government entities, via their appointed representative, have an easy entry point into IEEE SA and its activities where they will learn about IEEE's standardization activities, including its WTO-adherent process and the technical areas of standards work. Appointed GEPS representatives have the following opportunities to engage in:

- Specific webinars on IEEE initiatives and topics of interest,
- Participate in IEEE GEPS roundtables to meet fellow IEEE GEPS representatives and exchange on mutual topics of interests,
- Provide verbal feedback or written information reports on national standardization initiatives to IEEE SA and/or the Standards Board, when relevant,
- Have direct dialog with IEEE SA experts on topics of interest (facilitated by the IEEE SA staff contact),
- Attend IEEE SA Standards Board meetings (three times per year). Additionally, when in attendance, IEEE SA will aim to familiarize appointed representatives with IEEE SA, the Standards Board, standardization activities, and answer questions.

Q*7: What level should the appointed representative hold in his/her ministry department to qualify for participation in the program?

A**7: As the Standards Board focuses on oversight of the standardization process and ongoing standardization work, an appointed representative at the level of Director or Head of Unit is expected to gain the most benefit from engaging in the program. However, at times, it may be appropriate for a Director or Head of Unit to delegate to a subordinate. We aim to invite one appointed representative who will regularly participate in the program and build knowledge of IEEE's standardization and technical activities.

Q8: How long will a GEPS representative be nominated for?

A8: Each participating entity will typically appoint one representative until otherwise communicated. Appointments are renewable. Typically, the GEPS representative remains the participating entity's representative in GEPS until further notice.

Q9: What happens if there is interest in nominating two persons from the same entity for the program?

A9: Although each participating entity will typically appoint one representative for a calendar year, in exceptional cases there may be a special interest in nominating two persons – one official and one operational nominee – from the same entity, which IEEE will accommodate upon request.

Q*10: Is there an option to nominate a government staff person to participate on behalf of a government official who simply does not have the time to attend?

A**10: We understand that it is not always possible for a government ministry/agency to participate in GEPS. In that case, it is possible for the government agency/ministry to authorize another representative, e.g., somebody who may already be active in IEEE's work, to join the GEPS program as the government ministry/agency nominee.

Q11: What happens if there is interest from multiple ministries within a country?

A11: Generally speaking, the ministry appointing the representative should be responsible for standardization, or for a range of technologies in the fields of IEEE. Should more than one ministry from the same country be interested, IEEE SA can accommodate that to ensure relevant participation.

Q12: Are the appointed representatives able to attend Standards Board meetings?

A12: Appointed representatives are encouraged to attend any and all Standards Board meetings, especially when in their country, to build knowledge of the process, share information, and engage with the global standardization community. The [IEEE SA Standards Board meets](#) in person three times per year.

Q13: Does IEEE SA provide funding support for appointed representatives to attend the Standards Board meeting?

A13: No. IEEE SA does not provide funding support for Standards Board members, other liaisons, or appointed government representatives to attend Standards Board meetings.

Q*14: What are the responsibilities of the Standards Board and its committees?

A**14: The IEEE SA Standards Board (SASB) is responsible for the following:

- Encouraging and coordinating the development and revision of IEEE standards,
- Approving the initiation of IEEE standards projects,
- Reviewing standards projects for consensus, due process, openness, and balance,
- Giving final approval to IEEE standards prior to publication,
- Processing all necessary appeals.

SASB has established committees to do some of this work:

- Audit Committee (AudCom): This committee reviews policies and procedures of the technical standards working groups with the goal that all IEEE standards committees follow fair and open processes and procedures, and that they comply with them.
- New Standards Committee (NesCom): This committee reviews Project Authorization Requests (PARs) before a new standards activity can start to ensure the activity is within the scope and purpose of IEEE, and that it is assigned to an appropriate technical standards committee.
- Standards Review Committee (RevCom): This committee reviews the process documentation (votes on a standard, comment resolution, etc.) for the development of a proposed standard. Committee recommendations to approve a standard for publication are based on an assessment that all procedural requirements have been satisfied.
- Procedures Committee (ProCom): This committee drafts new procedures or refinements to existing procedures of IEEE-SA, as necessary.

- Patent Committee (PatCom): This committee recommends updates to the IEEE SA patent policy, provides educational material related to the patent policy, and reviews conformity with the patent policy procedures.

We encourage appointed representatives to monitor all of the meetings that are of interest to them.

Q*15: Who can be contacted for more information?

A**15: Please sign up [here](#) for more information. For information about SASB and its meetings, please contact David Ringle (d.ringle@ieee.org), Director, IEEE SA Governance.

Q16: How can my organization join the program?

A16: Ministry entities interested in joining GEPS are invited to send an email to Constance Weise (constance.weise@ieee.org) by providing the contact name, professional title, and email address that the official IEEE GEPS invitation letter should be sent to.

Q17: How many appointed GEPS nominees from one ministry will be required?

A17: Although IEEE accepts one GEPS nominee per government ministry, interested government entities have the opportunity to appoint a primary (official) GEPS nominee and an alternate (operational) GEPS nominee from the same ministry entity.

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