

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 and their appointed representatives 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?

A1:** IEEE GEPS, the IEEE Government Engagement Program on Standards, is a program that was created by the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA), IEEE's standards-developing unit. 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.

Q2: What are IEEE-SA's goals for the program?

A2: 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.

*Question

**Answer

Q3: What are the benefits for government entities participating in the program?

A3: Appointed representatives help shape IEEE-SA activities, leading to mutual benefits for government entities participating in GEPS and IEEE-SA.

Other benefits include:

- An opportunity to obtain first-hand, timely information from IEEE-SA about its activities and plans;
- An opportunity to inform the direction and priorities of IEEE-SA;
- The ability to interact and share views with technology thought leaders (optional);
- An opportunity for direct interaction with IEEE-SA volunteer leadership and staff – both locally and globally;
- An IEEE-SA staff contact person for the appointed representatives, to answer questions and assist with program participation;
- Public recognition as a program participant by being listed on the IEEE-SA web site: <https://standards.ieee.org/about/sasb/>

Q4: What will the role of the appointed representative be?

A4: Through GEPS, government entities, via their appointed representative, have an easy entry point into IEEE-SA and its activities, and will be able to engage in the following ways:

- Learn about IEEE's standardization activities, including its WTO-adherent process and the technical areas of standards work, through: an orientation webinar at the beginning of the year, relevant email communications, and topical webinars on IEEE initiatives and topics of interest,
- Provide written information reports on national standardization initiatives to IEEE-SA and/or the Standards Board, when relevant (optional),
- Provide verbal input or feedback upon the appointed representative's request (optional);
- Have direct dialog on topics of interest – to be facilitated by the IEEE-SA staff contact,
- Optionally, and especially encouraged when the Standards Board meets in the appointed representative's country; attend meetings and share views. Additionally, when in attendance, we will aim to arrange a meeting for appointed representatives to familiarize them with IEEE-SA,

the Standards Board, standardization activities, and to answer questions.

Q5: What level should the appointed representative hold in his/her ministry department to qualify for participation in the program?

A5: 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.

Q6: What happens if there is interest in nominating two persons from the same entity for the program?

A6: 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.

Q7: What happens if there is interest from multiple ministries within a country?

A7: 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.

Q8: Are the appointed representatives able to attend Standards Board meetings?

A8: 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.

Q9: Does IEEE-SA provide funding support for appointed representatives to attend the Standards Board meeting?

A9: No. IEEE-SA does not provide funding support for Standards Board members, other liaisons, or appointed government representatives to attend Standards Board meetings.

Q10: What are the responsibilities of the Standards Board and its committees?

A10: 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.

- Industry Connections Committee (ICCom): This committee reviews activities under the Industry Connections Program, which helps incubate new standards and related products and services by facilitating collaboration among organizations and individuals as they refine their thinking on rapidly developing technologies. Deliverables of this program include:
 - Proposals for standards,
 - White papers,
 - Peer-reviewed guides and position papers,
 - Conferences, workshops, and other events,
 - Databases and registration services,
 - Software, tools, and web services,
 - Other jointly developed results.

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

Q11: Who can be contacted for more information?

A11: For information about GEPS, please contact Ms. Moira Patterson (m.patterson@ieee.org), Program Director, IEEE-SA Global Affairs. For information about SASB and its meetings, please contact Mr. David Ringle (d.ringle@ieee.org), Director, IEEE-SA Governance.

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