

From the Editor-in-Chief

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Michael Rice

The new year is accompanied by some important changes in IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON AEROSPACE AND ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS.

The first change is a significant update to one of the technical areas. The old “Robotics System” area has been updated and renamed “Autonomous Systems.” The update includes an increased emphasis on the modern problems in the area: autonomous flight control for UAVs, UAV navigation, path planning, swarming, and path control. In addition, the space systems focus has also been updated to emphasize space systems that support autonomy. Prof. Gokhan Inalhan, the Technical Editor for Autonomous Systems, has been instrumental in updating the descriptions and names for the area. Thank you, Gokhan!

The second change is the start of term limits for all Associate Editors. Term limits for the Editor-in-Chief and the Technical Editors were phased in several years ago under the able leadership of Lance Kaplan, my predecessor.

Term limits for Associate Editors began on January 1, 2019. We are taking a phased approach to avoid all terms ending at the same time.

The final change is shortened durations for reviews and revisions. The long review and revision times for submissions was the norm before the internet age. Most journals have shortened their review and revision times in recognition of the increased pace enabled by the internet. (And no, it is not clear to me that the increased pace is a good thing.) The AESS Publications Board felt that to continue to attract good-quality submissions, our review cycles and revision cycles should be aligned with those of the best journals.

Although Associate Editor term limits are an IEEE-mandated change, all of the changes have their foundation in a common theme: evolving with the discipline. Just as our research areas are dynamic, so also should TAES be dynamic. To remain the leading journal in our area, we need to evolve with the discipline and update our practices and procedures.

The TRANSACTIONS is only as good as its published papers, and our published papers are only as good as our submissions. Our hope is these changes will contribute, in their own small ways, to TAES’s position as the best quality destination for the best manuscripts in our areas. It is our desire to treat the excellent manuscripts written by the creative and capable researchers in our field with the best-qualified volunteers serving as editors. The hard work of all of our editors is what makes TAES possible.

Finally, I ask you to consider making a nomination for the 2015 Barry Carlton Award. If you read a paper that you like or makes a difference, nominate it! Just send me an email (mdr@byu.edu) with a short justification and a list of distinguished colleagues willing to write letters of support.

M. RICE, Editor-in-Chief