

Release to - AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER
Steve Canton, Editor

From - E. K. Gannett, Mngng. Editor IEEE
Box A Lenox Hill Station
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I E E E

by Donald G. Fink, General Manager

More effectively to advance the theory theory and practice of electrical engineering, and the associated arts and sciences; the 78-year old American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the 50-year-old Institute of Radio Engineers merged on January 1, 1963. to form the 150,000-member Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The production of goods and services for the defense and enjoyment of better living by the application of electrical science was the common objective that brought the two organizations progressively closer together during the past decade, and ultimately to consolidation. Deep involvement of both constituents in the Aero-Space Program was an important unifying influence.

Seen from any direction, the dimensions of IEEE are impressive. The total world-wide membership, including about 25,000 students, is approximately 150,000, (making it the largest Technical Society in the world.) United States and Canada comprise seven geographical Regions. Region 8 includes western Europe, the United Kingdom, and parts of the Near East. The rest of the world is the ninth Region. Each Region is presided over by a Director. After consolidation is completed, there will be approximately 180 local Sections and 250 Student Branches.

The governing body is the 25-member Board of Directors. An Executive Committee of nine, meeting monthly, manages the organization through standing committees and a permanent staff of 300 under the General Manager. The Headquarters occupies two separate locations in New York with a common mail address: Box "A" Lenox Hill Station, New York 21, N. Y.

The objectives of IEEE are scientific and educational. It is deeply committed to the advancement of knowledge; its evaluation, organization, dissemination and preservation. Directly involved in the stimulation and sharing of new knowledge are some 70 Technical Committees and 30 Professional Technical Groups. These organizational units are responsible for the technical content of regional, national, and international meetings and expositions attended each year by nearly 120,000 engineers and scientists. About 1500 papers appear on the programs of these meetings. These papers, together with articles contributed to the monthly magazines, account for a total of nearly 20,000 editorial pages published annually.

Through 1963, the publications of IEEE will be essentially the continuation of those of IRE and AIEE. These include the PROCEEDINGS, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, Professional Group TRANSACTIONS (IRE). TRANSACTIONS AND BIMONTHLIES (AIEE) and the various convention records and special publications, standards, and a Student Journal. Some consolidations, reallocations and changes in format will doubtless result from an intensive study of publication policies and procedures now underway.

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Although the formal consolidation of the two Institutes was accomplished in a matter of less than 15 months from the adoption by the two Boards of resolutions "to move actively toward consolidation" to the conclusion of the legal formalities of corporate merger, its evolution has been in progress for some time. Threequarters of the Student Branches in accredited colleges were already on a joint basis. A majority of special Technical Conferences were jointly sponsored. A single Standards Committee was handling material of common interest. An agreement provided for equivalent member grade admission requirements.

However, to the merger each partner brought certain unique features. As a "Founder Society," AIEE brought membership in United Engineering Trustees with headquarters in the new United Engineering Center. Stemming from the same source are other intersociety associations such as Engineers Joint Council, Engineers Council for Professional Development (with which IRE became associated in 1960), ESPS, EUSEC, and various other cooperative relations. IRE was already an international organization with Sections in Europe, the Near East, South America, and the Orient. In keeping with its extensive activity in communications, IRE also had developed many important international technical activities.

In no field, however, have the two constituent Institutes found more common interest than in Aero-Space. There is, of course, hardly any phase of electrical and electronic science that has not been brought to bear in the field. Representing a merger within a merger is the newly organized IEEE Professional Technical Group on Aero-Space. Other PTG's include Space Electronics and Telemetering, Aero-Space and Navigational Electronics, and Military Electronics. Among the Technical Committees, one finds Flight-Vehicle Systems, Aero-Space Support Systems, Aero-Space Energy Conversion, Aero-Space Instrumentation, and Telemetering.

It is early to appraise the full significance of the new IEEE. Before it are many opportunities and challenges. Perhaps, the most important is a reversal of the trend toward fragmentation and disunity is the organized engineering profession.