IFAC
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AUTOMATIC CONTROL
NEWSLETTER

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IFAC Fellows 2023-2026

first in a series

In this and upcoming issues of the IFAC Newsletter readers wil have the opportunity to learn about the winners of the IFAC Fellows & Major Awards for the 2023-2026 triennium. In this issue we will begin with some of the 25 IFAC Fellows. The full list of IFAC Fellows and winners of the IFAC Major Awards was published in the August 2025 issue of this Newsletter. This information, as well as past award winner information, is available on the IFAC website.

IFAC Fellow: Dawn M. Tilbury

Dawn M. Tilbury is the inaugural Ronald D. and Regina C. McNeil Department Chair of Robotics at the University of Michigan, and the Herrick Professor of Engineering. She received the B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research interests lie broadly in the area of control systems, including applications to robotics and manufacturing systems.

From 2017 to 2021, she was the Assistant Director for Engineering at the National Science Foundation while maintaining her position at the University of Michigan. She has published more than 200 articles in refereed journals and conference proceedings. She is a Fellow of IEEE, a Fellow of ASME, a Life Member of SWE, and a Member of the National Academy of Engineering. And now also an IFAC Fellow!

IFAC Fellow: Naira Hovakimyan

Naira Hovakimyan received her MS degree in Theoretical Mechanics and Applied Mathematics in 1988 from Yerevan State University in Armenia. She got her Ph.D. in Physics and Mathematics in 1992 from the Institute of Applied Mathematics of Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, majoring in optimal control and differential games. Before joining the faculty of UIUC in 2008, she spent time as a research scientist at Stuttgart University in Germany, French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation (INRIA) in France, Georgia Institute of Technology and she was on faculty of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering of Virginia Tech during 2003-2008. She is currently a W. Grafton and Lillian B. Wilkins Professor of Mechanical Science and Engineering and the Director of AVIATE Center of UIUC, funded through NASA University Leadership Initiative (ULI) award.

She has co-authored two books, thirteen patents, and more than 500 refereed publications. She was the recipient of the SICE International scholarship for the best paper of a young investigator in the VII ISDG Symposium (Japan, 1996), the 2011 recipient of AIAA Mechanics and Control of Flight Award, the 2015 recipient of SWE Achievement Award, the 2017 recipient of IEEE CSS Award for Technical Excellence in Aerospace Controls, and the 2019 recipient of the AIAA Pendray Aerospace Literature Award. In 2014 she was awarded the Humboldt Prize for her lifetime achievements. In 2015 and 2023 she was awarded the UIUC Engineering Council Award for Excellence in Advising. In 2024 she was recognized as the winner of the College Award for Excellence in Translational Research, and in 2025 she was recognized for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring. She is a Fellow of AIAA, IEEE, ASME, and a senior member of National Academy of Inventors.

Naira Hovakimyan is a co-founder and chief scientist of Intelinair. Her work in robotics for elderly care was featured in the New York Times, on Fox TV, CNBC, and her recent NASA ULI award on flying cars led her to a

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The IFAC Journals

Automatica
journals.elsevier.com/automatica

Control Engineering Practice
journals.elsevier.com/control-engineering-practice

Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence
journals.elsevier.com/engineering-applications-of-artificial-intelligence

Journal of Process Control
journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-process-control

Annual Reviews in Control
journals.elsevier.com/annual-reviews-in-control

Journal on Mechatronics
journals.elsevier.com/mechatronics

Nonlinear Analysis: Hybrid Systems
journals.elsevier.com/nonlinear-analysis-hybrid-systems

IFAC Journal of Systems & Control
journals.elsevier.com/ifac-journal-of-systems-and-control

IFAC-PapersOnLine
journals.elsevier.com/ifac-papersonline

live interview on Cheddar Innovates and many other media platforms. Her research interests are in control and optimization, autonomous systems, machine learning, neural networks, game theory, and their applications in aerospace, robotics, mechanical, agricultural, electrical, petroleum, biomedical engineering, and elderly care.

IFAC Fellow: Vijay Gupta

Vijay Gupta is the Elmore Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Associate Head for Graduate and Professional Programs in ECE at Purdue University, having joined the faculty in May 2022. He received his B. Tech degree at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and his M.S. and Ph.D. at California Institute of Technology, all in Electrical Engineering. He previously served as a research associate in the Institute for Systems Research at the University of Maryland, College Park, a consultant at the United Technologies Research Center, and as a faculty member and Associate Chair in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Notre Dame. He is a Fellow of IEEE and IFAC.

He received the 2018 Antonio Ruberti Young Research Award from the IEEE Control Systems Society, the 2013 Donald P. Eckman Award from the American Automatic Control Council, an 2009 National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award, and the 2001 Best Thesis Award by the Indian National Academy of Engineers. He has been a co-author on multiple Best Student Paper award winning papers and is a distinguished lecturer for IEEE Control Systems Society. His research and teaching interests are at the interface of learning, game theory, and distributed systems, with applications to transportation networks, power grid, and parallel computing.

IFAC Fellow: John Lygeros

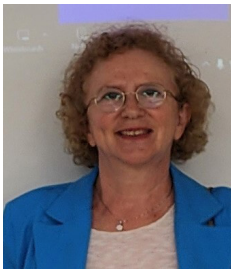
John Lygeros completed a B.Eng. degree in electrical engineering in 1990 and an M.Sc. degree in Systems Control in 1991, both at Imperial College, London, U.K.. In 1996 he obtained a Ph.D. degree from the Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences Department, University of California, Berkeley. During the period 1996-2000 he held a series of research appointments at the National Automated Highway Systems Consortium, Berkeley, the Laboratory for Computer Science, M.I.T., and the Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences Department at U.C. Berkeley. Between 2000 and 2003 he was a University Lecturer at the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge, U.K., and a Fellow of Churchill College. Between 2003 and 2006 he was an Assistant Professor at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Patras, Greece. In July 2006 he joined the Automatic Control Laboratory of ETH Zurich, first as an Associate Professor, and since January 2010 as a Full Professor.

Since 2009 John Lygeros is serving as the Head of the Automatic Control Laboratory; between 2015 and 2018 he also served as the Head of the Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering of ETH Zurich. Between 2013 and 2023 he served as the Vice President for Finances and a Council member of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC), and on the Board of the IFAC Foundation. Since 2020 he serves as the Director of the National Centre of Competence in Research "Dependable Ubiquitous Automation" (NCCR Automation).

His research interests include modelling, analysis, and control of hierarchical, hybrid, and stochastic systems, with applications to biochemical networks, transportation systems, energy systems, and industrial processes. He teaches classes in the area of systems and control both at the undergraduate and at the graduate level, notably the 4th semester class Signals and Systems II, which he delivers in a flipped classroom format. John Lygeros is a Fellow of the IEEE, and a member of the IET and the Technical Chamber of Greece.

IFAC Fellow: Emilia Fridman

Emilia Fridman received the M.Sc and Ph.D in mathematics in Russia. Since 1993 she has been at Tel Aviv University (IL), where she is currently Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering - Systems. She has held numerous visiting positions in Europe, China and Australia.



Her research interests include time-delay systems, networked control systems, distributed parameter systems, robust

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From the IFAC President

Dear IFAC Friends and Colleagues,

The previous two editions presented the outcome of three Presidential TFs related to IFAC technical areas and a study on the Two-Year vs. Three-Year Cycle. There have been three more TFs: two related to Societal Harmony and Challenges, and the other about IFAC Awards.

The TF on "Societal Harmony" (since 2020) is chaired by Shinji Hara (JP). This TF has three subgroups. One researched how to advance science and technology for a super-smart society by innovating Systems of Systems with human-in-the-loop, addressing CPS governance, AI, automation, resilience, and dynamic complexity. The second researched future directions in systems and control for environmental challenges, focusing on climate change across infrastructures, energy, transport, and agriculture. The third studied how to advance international standardization for future societal systems like smart cities. The TF plans to make proposals at the Council Meeting together with special session(s) at the 2026 World Congress in Busan.

The TF on "Strategy for Societal Challenges, Including Industry Involvement" (since 2023) is chaired by Maria Prandini (IT). The task force plans to identify key societal challenges for IFAC, gather input from relevant groups, and recommend actions such as new committees or awards. Current discussions focus on challenges like environmental sustainability, including the impact of conference travel; cybersecurity; transportation; AI's societal impact; ethics; healthcare; and political instability. Further work will evaluate IFAC's current efforts and propose measures at the 2026 Busan World Congress.

The other TF concerned IFAC Awards and Prizes. These awards can change: new ones may be created, and existing ones may be modified or discontinued. To make this process transparent and democratic, a Task Force was established in 2024, chaired by Janan Zaytoon (FR) and composed of four current and past IFAC Presidents. The Task Force presented a process to the Council in 2025, which was approved. The new process is as follows: anyone may propose a change; the Executive Officers and the Awards Committee Chair then evaluate it; and finally, the Council decides whether to approve the change.

Through this Newsletter, the outcomes of all six Task Forces are now reported to the IFAC community. Additional details will be presented and discussed at the 2026 IFAC World Congress in Busan. I extend my sincere gratitude to the many dedicated individuals who have contributed their time and expertise to these Task Forces, helping to strengthen and advance IFAC.

Sincerely,

Dong-Il "Dan" Cho,
IFAC President 2023-2026

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control and extremum seeking. She has published more than 200 journal articles and 3 monographs. She serves/served as Associate Editor in Automatica, SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization and IMA Journal of Mathematical Control and Information and as Senior Editor in Systems & Control Letters. She is IEEE Fellow. She was an IFAC Council member for 2017-2023.

In 2021 she was recipient of the IFAC Delay Systems Life Time Achievement Award and of Kadar Award for outstanding research in Tel Aviv University. In 2023 her monograph ``Introduction to Time-Delay Systems: Analysis and Control" (Birkhauser, 2014) was the winner of IFAC Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize. She is IEEE CSSS Distinguished Lecturer for 2023-2025.

IFAC Fellow: Daniel Abramovitch

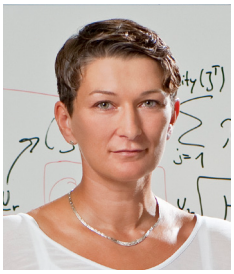
Daniel (Danny) Abramovitch is a research engineer and system architect at Agilent Technologies. He earned degrees in Electrical Engineering from Clemson (BS) and Stanford (MS and Ph.D.), doing his doctoral work under the direction of Gene Franklin. He has spent most of his career at Hewlett-Packard Labs and Agilent Labs, moving to Agilent's Mass Spectrometry Division in 2014 to work on improved real-time computational architectures for mass spectrometers.

Danny is a Fellow of the IEEE and has held leadership positions at multiple American Control Conferences, including serving as Program Chair in 2013 and General Chair in 2016. Since then, he has led outreach efforts from the controls field including a highly popular set of "practical methods" and "computation for real time control" workshops. He is the holder of over 25 patents and 65 reviewed technical papers. For these efforts, he recently received the American Automatic Control Council's inaugural Babatunde A. Ogunnaike Control Practice Award, recognizing significant contributions to the advancement of control practice (formerly known as the Control Engineering Practice Award). He will serve as General Chair/NOC Chair for the 2032 IFAC World Congress in Honolulu, Hawai`i.

Danny has spent his years in industrial research working with mechatronic control problems (optical and hard disks, atomic force microscopes) and instrumentation systems, from Agilent's award winning first 40bps BERT to the award winning Ultivo Tandem Quad Mass Spectrometer. A consistent theme has been the need to modernize the connectivity between test benches, instrumentation, and CAD software. The need to have personally connected the pieces "from the physics to the web page" has given him a highly utilitarian view of the foundational work that needs to be done to make physical systems truly data driven. Over the past decade he has focused much of his effort on how to teach the principles, limitations, and requirements of feedback systems to people outside the traditional controls community including high school and college STEM students, scientists and practicing engineers, as well as the general public.

IFAC Fellow: Sandra Hirche

Sandra Hirche holds the TUM Liesel Beckmann Distinguished Professorship and heads the Chair of Information-oriented Control in the School of Computation, Information and Technology at Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany (since 2013). She received the diploma engineer degree in Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering in 2002 from the Technical University Berlin, Germany, and the Doctor of Engineering degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2005 from TUM, Germany. From 2005-2007 she has been a PostDoc Fellow of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science at the Fujita Laboratory at Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. Prior to her present appointment she has been an Associate Professor at TUM.



Her main research interests include learning, cooperative, and networked control with applications in human-robot interaction, multi-robot systems, and general robotics. She has published more than 200 papers in international journals, books and refereed conferences. She has received multiple awards such as the Rohde & Schwarz Award for her PhD thesis, the IFAC World Congress Best Poster Award in 2005 and – together with students – Best Paper Awards of IEEE Worldhaptics and IFAC Conference of Manoeuvring and Control of Marine Craft in 2009 and the Outstanding Student Paper Award of the IEEE Conference on Decision and Control 2018. In 2013 she has been awarded with an ERC Starting Grant on the "Control based on Human Models" and in 2019 with the ERC Consolidator Grant on "Safe data-driven control for human-centric systems".

Sandra Hirche is Fellow of the IEEE and received the IEEE Control System Society Distinguished Member Award. She has served as IEEE Control System Society (CSS) Vice-President for Member Activities (2014/15), as Chair for Student Activities in the IEEE CSS (2009-2014), as Chair of the CSS Awards Subcommittee on "CDC Best Student-Paper Award" (2010-2014), and has been elected member of the Board of Governors of IEEE CSS (2010-2013). She has been Co-Chair of the IFAC TC 1.5 "Networked Control Systems" (2010-2017) and the Co-IPC for the 2020 IFAC World Congress.

Editor's Note: 2023-2026 IFAC Fellows who have yet to submit a bio and headshot photo for *Newsletter* publication should please submit these materials to newsletter@ifac-control.org at their earliest convenience.

The IFAC Story E-book is available!
ISBN 978-3-902823-73-1

ifac-control.org/about/the-ifac-story

October 2025 IFAC Affiliates Statistics

As of the date of September 23, 2025, the IFAC database contained 8707 affiliates, which is an increase of +774 affiliates compared to last year.

•4393 of the affiliates (51%) are people who were listed in the old database that was maintained manually before 2023, but did not connect yet to the new interactive portal. This data is considered as outdated and will be removed in a near future.

•4314 of the affiliates (49%) registered to the new IFAC Portal, which is an increase of +1356 compared to last year. This figure combines the +774 new affiliates and those who were in the old list of affiliates and activated their registration in the new portal. IFAC has the possibility to make statistics with the data from these registered affiliates, statistics which enable to better understand the interests of the control community.

•2359 of the registered affiliates (55%) are "IFAC public" meaning that at least their names are visible to the other affiliates when connected to the portal. Most often they share more information such as their affiliation, their fields of interest and their contacts. These IFAC public affiliates can interact about their fields of interest.

•1134 of the "IFAC public" affiliates (48%) are "Web public" meaning that at least their names are visible to any visitor of the IFAC portal. Doing so they advertise IFAC affiliation to non-affiliates and contribute to promote Automatic Control.

New affiliates register regularly and are ac-

cepted manually by the IFAC Secretariat after a quick verification aiming at avoiding (a) duplicate profiles for the same person, (b) artificial affiliations of people outside of the Automatic control field. For fast processing of your affiliation, it is recommended that you provide a link to a web page that illustrates your activities in the field.

Affiliates are invited to select among all provided data, what data is kept Private (visible only to Secretariat for statistics), made IFAC Public (visible to all registered affiliates) or Web Public (visible to any visitor of the IFAC Portal).

If you are interested in any statistics for the future Newsletter issues, do not hesitate to suggest a topic on which to focus by writing to newsletter@ifac-control.org. As mentioned in earlier issues of the Newsletter, IFAC will erase the data concerning affiliates who never connected to the Portal. This was initially planned for January 2025 and is postponed for technical reasons but will apply in the near future.

Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize: Call for Nominations

The Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize is presented at each triennial IFAC World Congress for the best control engineering textbook for which the first edition(s) occurred not later than the Congress just prior to the one at which the award is presented. It recognizes the author(s) of the textbook(s) judged to have most contributed to the education of control engineers.

The prize consists of a monetary prize and a certificate. This prize was created in 1986 and renamed the Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize in 2002, in honor of IFAC's first president.

Each nomination must be made by a nominator who is responsible for providing full and accurate information. Any person is eligible to serve as a nominator, with the exception of the chair/s and members of the Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize Selection Committee (Chair: Christopher Edwards, Vice-Chair: Bozenna Pasik-Duncan Members: Antonio Visioli, Francoise Lamnabhi-Lagarrigue, Miroslav Krstic, Iven Mareels, Henk Nijmeijer, Si Zhao Joe Qin, Joao Manoel Gomes da Silva) and the IFAC Awards Chair (Frank Allgöwer). Please note that self-nominations are not allowed.

The Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize Selection Committee of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) calls for nominations for the Triennial Harold Chestnut Prize.

The Prize is awarded to the author(s) of a control engineering textbook that has most contributed to the education of control engineers. The Prize, consisting of a monetary award and a certificate, will be presented at the 23rd IFAC World Congress that will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea from 23-28 August 2026.

To be considered, nominations must relate to books that are:

1. Written in English (the official IFAC working language)

2. Published between 1 September 2017 and 31 July 2023.

3. No more than one IFAC Control Engineering Textbook Prize may be given for any particular textbook.

4. Textbooks (co-) authored by the chair/s and members of the Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize Selection Committee and by the IFAC Awards Chair are not eligible.

Nominations should include:

a) A nomination letter that states the full title, name(s) and address of the author(s), name of the textbook, date of publication, and name and address of the textbook's publisher;

b) Evidence of the contribution/s of the textbook to the education of control engineers; and

c) Any additional information that may support the judging process, as per the selection criteria listed below.

All nominations will be evaluated using the selection criteria:

- Originality and innovation
- General content in terms of the topics covered
- Clear applications to real problems
- Style:
  - Presentation, readability and clarity in relation to the content
- Meeting educational objectives:
  - Clear statement of what students should be able to do
  - Worked examples and exercises
  - Software support
  - Multi-disciplinary examples (cross-boundary applications of control)
  - Use by practicing engineers

To be considered, nominations must be received by 1 February 2026. All submissions should be sent via e-mail as a single PDF file containing all required information to the selection committee chair Christopher Edwards at C.Edwards@exeter.ac.uk.
If the prize-winning textbook is written by more than one author, the monetary component of the prize will be equally split among the authors with each author receiving a certificate.

The winner(s) will be notified well in advance to allow for planning their attendance in Busan. Winner/s are kindly requested to not inform anyone of the win prior to the Congress, in particularly the textbook's publisher.

IFAC Foundation: Calls for Kwon and Diversity & Inclusion Awards

IFAC Foundation Kwon Award: Call for Nominations
Recognizing contributions to advances in sustainable development

The IFAC Foundation solicits award nominations for papers published in IFAC journals in the broad area of sustainable development.
One of the aims of the IFAC Foundation is to promote the awareness and dissemination of the social relevance of automatic control. The IFAC Foundation recognizes at each IFAC World Congress the contributions of individuals or a group of individuals who through their work have shown how automatic control science and technology can contribute to significant advances in the broad area of "sustainable development". This includes work on the topics of renewable and clean energy, management of energy, water and resources in general, control in agriculture, pollution control, climate control, and related topics.

All papers published in any of the IFAC Journals during the period from 01.02.2023 until 31.01.2026 are eligible for nomination. The IFAC Foundation Kwon Award is made in honour of Professor Wook Hyun Kwon whose initial donation fostered the creation of the IFAC Foundation.

The award winner(s) will receive a certificate and cash prize of 2000 euro (total) at the time of the IFAC World Congress. Moreover, the awardee(s) will deliver a semi-plenary talk during the IFAC World Congress in Busan.

Nominated papers should be of the highest technical quality and demonstrate evidence of significant potential future impact on one or more of the sustainable development topics outlined above. The award selection criteria include:
(i) The quality of the paper,
(ii) the interest and impact of the topic on sustainability,
(iii) the relevance of the control solution to the problem, and
(iv) previous results and the forecasted evolution of the proposed methodology.

In particular, the nomination form should include a summary of how these criteria are addressed by the work described in the nominated paper. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2026. Further details on preparing the nomination package can be found at the IFAC Foundation website: foundation.ifac-control.org/projects/ifac_foundation_award

The selection committee for the award will be chaired by Poo Gyeon Park (KR).

The winner and nominator will be notified by the Chair of the IFAC Foundation Board in April 2026. Note that members of the Selection Committee and the Foundation Board cannot

be nominees or nominators. Self-nominations are possible. The names of the Selection Committee and the IFAC Foundation Board are listed at: foundation.ifac-control.org.

IFAC Foundation D&I Award: Call for Nominations

Recognizing contributions to diversity and inclusion within IFAC

The IFAC Foundation Diversity and Inclusion award is given to an individual or a team that has made outstanding contributions to the scientific promotion and/or the advancement of diversity and inclusion within IFAC (conference/event, technical committee, publications, NMO, etc). The contribution could represent a single activity, or a sustained effort over multiple years.

The award winner(s) will receive a certificate and cash prize of 2000 euro (total) sponsored by Elsevier at the time of the IFAC World Congress. Moreover, the awardee(s) will deliver a semi-plenary talk during the IFAC World Congress in Busan.

The nomination statement should describe the contributions, and what the impact has been within IFAC, and should mention specific outcomes, for example via qualitative or quantitative metrics. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2026. Further details on preparing the nomination package can be found at the IFAC Foundation website: foundation.ifac-control.org/projects/the-ifac-foundation-diversity-and-inclusion-award.

The selection committee for the award will be chaired by Lidia Auret (ZA). The winner and nominator will be notified by the Chair of the IFAC Foundation Board in April 2026. Note that members of the Selection Committee and the Foundation Board cannot be nominees or nominators. Self-nominations are possible. The names of the Selection Committee and the IFAC Foundation Board are listed at: foundation.ifac-control.org.

This Newsletter may be reproduced in whole or in part.

We encourage electronic distribution of this Newsletter, as well as reprinting in national and local automatic control periodicals.

Acknowledgement to IFAC would be appreciated.

The IFAC Conference App is available!

The App is paid for by IFAC and can be used free of charge by IFAC conference organizers and attendees.

How to download:
App Store apple.co/3mpaER7
Google Play bit.ly/3lazFjx
Web version ifac.floq.live

You can also search for 'IFAC' in the Apple App Store or in the Google Play Store.

Log in is shared with the IFAC Affiliates Portal. There is no need for double registration.

IFAC 2026 Update

Update of the 23rd IFAC World Congress: Currently receiving submissions until November 26!

Submissions are now underway, and deadlines are approaching fast. While this may feel like added pressure, it's also exciting—it means our gathering is drawing closer, with still some time left to get ready together. The organizing team is very much looking forward to showing you the beauty of Busan, Korean food, and exciting events, balanced with a rich technical program.

Updates: These are the new updates since the June issue of the IFAC Newsletter.

Plenary/Semi-plenary speakers

Plenary speakers have been announced. Listed in alphabetical order, they are Alessandro Astolfi (Imperial College, UK), Ken Goldberg (UC Berkeley, US), Lei Guo (Chinese Academy of Sciences, CN), Maurice Heemels (Eindhoven University of Technology, NL), and Jun Ho Oh (Samsung Electronics, KR). Six semi-plenary speakers are Laura Albert (University of Wisconsin–Madison, US), Alessandro Chiuso (University of Padova, IT), Ulrike Krewer (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, DE), Sonia Martinez (UC- San Diego, US), Ying Tan (University of Melbourne, AU), and Lihua Xie (Nanyang Technological University, SG).

Two additional semi-plenary talks: Two special speeches will be delivered by the recipients of the Kwon Award and the D&I Award of the IFAC Foundation.

Open Invited Tracks (OITs)

More than 100 OIT topics have been announced. OITs offer an excellent opportunity to bring together researchers from around the world working on a common theme. Unlike invited sessions, OITs are open to all contributors, and anyone can submit a paper to a suitable track. Topics of all tracks are listed on the website: Submission - List of OIT Themes.

Featured guests of "inControl"

The guests for the live recording of inControl have been announced. The theme of this episode is *"So You Want to Write a Classic,"* featuring Mathukumalli Vidyasagar, Hassan Khalil, and Stephen Boyd. This will be an informal and engaging conversation, followed by a moderated Q&A from the audience.

Competitions

Three competitions will be held during the Congress: the 2026 RoboRacer Grand Prix Competition, the MathWorks Minidrone Competition, and the IFAC Wearable Robot Challenge. To participate, please visit the website: Submission- Competitions.

Workshops and Tutorials

Pre-congress workshops are ideal opportunities for in-depth discussion of technical, application, and community issues. All workshops will be held on Sunday, August 23, 2026, followed by the Welcome Reception. Tutorials, on the other hand, are part of the main congress program and presented as 2-hour sessions dedicated to disseminating state-of-the-art developments on selected topics. The deadline for both proposals is January 31, 2026.

Benchmark problems

Two benchmark problems have been prepared, and anyone is welcome to take on these challenges with their own control skills, competing with other participants. Winners will be announced during the Congress. For details, please refer to the website: Submission - Benchmark Problems.

Remaining due dates

26 November 2025: All regular papers
31 January 2026: Workshop/Tutorial proposals
28 February 2026: Late-breaking/Discussion/Dissemination papers
Notification of acceptance: mid-April 2026
23–28 August 2026: Congress dates

More information can be found in the June issue of the IFAC Newsletter or at the Congress website: https://ifac2026.org.

Submitted by: Hyungbo Shim (General Chair), Hyo-Sung Ahn, and Hyoun Jin Kim (IPC Co-chairs), IFAC 2026

**Coming in the December issue of the IFAC Newsletter:
Calls for IFAC Journal Awards.
The nomination deadline is planned for 15 April 2026.**

IFAC Symposium on Automatic Control in Aerospace (ACA 2025)

2-6 August 2025

Harbin, CN

The 23rd IFAC Symposium on Automatic Control in Aerospace was held in Harbin, China, from August 2 to 6, attracting more than 750 experts and scholars from over 20 countries and regions, including China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Russia.

This is the first time the symposium was held in China, making a historic milestone in the symposium's history. This symposium was organized by the International

Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) and the Chinese Association of Automation(CAA), and was jointly hosted by Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) and Beijing Institute of Control Engineering (BICE). Prof. Carlos Eduardo Pereira (vice-president of IFAC), Prof. Zengguang Hou (the vice-president of CAA), Prof. Jiecai Han(the president of HIT), Prof. Yong Li (the director of BICE, Prof. Guangren Duan (General chair of the symposium), Prof. Xibin Cao (Co-chair of the symposium), Prof. Paolo Castaldi(Chair of IFAC technical committee on aerospace, Chair of the international program committee), Prof. Ligang Wu(Chair of the program committee), Prof. Chengfei Yue(Chair of the national organizing committee), Prof. Klaus Schilling(Germany), Prof. Olga Leonardovna Starinova(Russia), Prof. Yongchun Xie(China), Prof. Radhakant Padhi(India), Prof. Lixian Zhang(China), Prof. Jinjun Shan (Canada), Prof. Weidong Zhang(China), Prof. Haibin Duan(China), Prof. Liqun Chen(China), and Prof. Yonghe Zhang(China) and other experts, engineers and scholars attended the symposium.

ACA 2025 Opening Ceremony

The symposium set several new records, including the highest number of submissions, accepted papers, and attendees in its history. This outstanding success is attributed to the guidance of IFAC and CAA; the substantial support from Harbin Institute of Technology and Beijing Institute of Control Engineering; the dedicated partnership of our sponsors; the active engagement of authors and attendees; and the tireless efforts of the International Program Committee (IPC), National Organizing Committee (NOC), and volunteers. We express our deepest gratitude to all Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Speakers, Valued Sponsors, Dedicated Volunteers, and Participants for their indispensable contributions.

This symposium received 527 submissions. Following a rigorous peer-review process, 461 paper were accepted, comprising 262 oral presentations and 169 poster presentations. The International Awards Committee selected 5 posters to receive the “Best Poster Award”, nominated 2 papers for the “Best Paper Award”(Finalists) and awarded 4 papers the “Best Paper Award”.

The conference aims to provide an academic exchange platform for domestic and international experts, scholars, and engineering and technical personnel engaged in the research of aerospace control, to showcase the latest theoretical and technological achievements. During the conference, eleven domestic and international experts and scholars were invited to give invited reports and share their insights in the aerospace control forum, focusing on hot issues in the fields of aerospace and automatic control. Additionally, the symposium featured 27 parallel sessions and 2 poster sessions for discussion.

Submitted by: Chengfei Yue, NOC Chair, IFAC ACA 2025

IFAC Symposium on Nonlinear Control Systems (NOLCOS 2025)

23-25 July 2025
Reykjavik, IS

The 13th IFAC Symposium on Nonlinear Control Systems (NOLCOS 2025) was hosted by the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland, from July 23 to July 25, 2025. The symposium was focused on the design of nonlinear control systems and aimed to explore current theoretical developments as well as their latest applications to advanced engineering problems. The goal of the symposium was to gather leading experts from academia, active in the field of nonlinear control systems, to present and discuss papers describing new design methodologies for the control of nonlinear plants.

One of the conference highlights was a series of outstanding keynote talks delivered by distinguished academics in the field of nonlinear systems. Specifically, four plenary talks given by Francesco Bullo (University of California Santa Barbara, USA), Moritz Diehl (University of Freiburg, Germany), Maurice Heemels (Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands), and Sophie Tarbouriech (LAAS-CNRS, France), four semi-plenary talks given by Peter Giesl (University of Sussex, UK), Simona Onori (Stanford University, USA), Ian Manchester (University of Sydney, Australia), Ricardo Sanfelice (University of California Santa Cruz,

IFAC Affiliates portal

The portal gives access to IFAC services:

- Share with and consult information about other Affiliates
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- Participate in IFAC Technical Activities
- Organize IFAC Conferences
- Participate in IFAC Journals
- Be nominated to IFAC Awards
- Apply to the IFAC Activity fund
- More to come in the future!

Any individual interested in Control Engineering should sign up at affiliates.ifac-control.org!

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Detailed instructions are available at:
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For any additional information, or if you require any assistance, please contact secretariat@ifac-control.org

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IFAC Cartoon Archive is available!
ifac-control.org/publications/cartoons

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Das Sekretariat der IFAC befindet sich seit 1978 aufgrund eines Übereinkommens mit der Österreichischen Bundesregierung und mit der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Laxenburg und wird derzeit aus Mitteln des Bundesministeriums für Innovation, Mobilität, und Infrastruktur „BMIMI“ gefördert.

Federal Ministry
Innovation, Mobility
and Infrastructure
Republic of Austria

USA), and an evening lecture given by Robert N. Shorten (Imperial College London, UK) were held during the three-day conference. These sessions provided a unique opportunity to showcase recent advances in nonlinear control systems by contributors from diverse backgrounds, leading to numerous fruitful discussions among the attendees.

The conference concluded with a warm farewell reception during which the Young Author Award was announced to recognize emerging talents in the field. The five finalists of the award were Sotaro Fushimi (Kyoto University), Alessandro Cecconi (University of Bologna), Maedeh Izadi (Eindhoven University of Technology), Robert H. Moldenhauer (University of Melbourne, CRAN, CNRS, Université De Lorraine), and Anna Bavarsad (Reykjavik University). The winner was Robert H. Moldenhauer for the paper titled *"Robust Recurrence of Discrete-Time Infinite-Horizon Stochastic Optimal Control with Discounted Cost".*

Submitted by: Alessandro Astolfi, Imperial College London

All material proposed for publication in the IFAC Newsletter should be sent to NEWSLETTER@IFAC-CONTROL.ORG.

Emails to this email address are seen by Dimitri Peaucelle (Newsletter EiC) and Elske Haberl (IFAC Secretariat).

The latest edition of the IFAC Newsletter is available on the IFAC homepage, as well as an online archive dating back to the early 2000s.

IFAC Activity Fund Report

"The Control Engineering Exercises Journal: IT infrastructure costs for the startup period"

Activity Organizer:

Damiano Varagnolo (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway, and University of Padova, Italy)

IFAC Sponsor: Education Activities Committee

Description: We are currently piloting a mechanism aimed at promoting the sharing of open-access control education resources. This initiative revolves around a journal-like publication of conceptual exercises accompanied by their solutions. The ultimate objective is to establish a framework where exercises are published with Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), making them citable and interconnected within the academic community. Authors will be able to reference related exercises, thereby fostering a network of educational content that can serve multiple purposes:

Source of Inspiration and Assessment: The platform will provide educators with a diverse repository of assessment materials linked to concepts in automatic control.

Peer Sharing Mechanism: Contributors will be able to share high-quality assessment materials, promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange among educators.

Learning Resource for Students: Students will have access to well-structured educational exercises, enhancing their learning experiences.

Platform Development and Funding

The IFAC grant has been instrumental in supporting the operational aspects of the platform, particularly through funding the web hosting costs of https://faceittools.com/. This platform functions as the searchable database that underpins the envisioned journal. While the grant has not directly funded the development of the journal itself, it has ensured the stability and accessibility of the essential database infrastructure.

Additional developments to enhance user experience have been supported by funds from other projects, alongside voluntary contributions from students primarily from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and the University of Padova. Their efforts have significantly advanced the platform's capabilities, ensuring a more intuitive and engaging user experience.

Progress and Innovations

The project is progressing toward its goal of establishing a high-quality, user-friendly journal. A notable advancement introduced in January 2024 is the feature that enables educators to search for relevant assessment materials by simply uploading a PDF or text document. This innovation is guided by the user story: "As a teacher, I want to find questions related to my slides with just a click."

Furthermore, the initiative maintains strong ties with the Control Advent Calendar project. This collaborative endeavor involves authors submitting materials, which are then reviewed by nominated reviewers before being accepted or rejected. This process mirrors the peer-review mechanism envisioned for the journal, thereby reinforcing quality standards and community engagement.

Community Engagement and Future Plans

We have actively contributed to the academic discourse by submitting two papers to the IFAC Symposium on Advances in Control Education. Additionally, we are organizing a dedicated four-hour, free workshop at CODIT 2025, targeting educators interested in innovative pedagogical tools. The workshop will provide participants with hands-on experience using the database and the integrated AI features, further fostering engagement and practical knowledge-sharing.

This initiative is designed to be a long-standing contribution to the control education community. Consequently, we do not anticipate a definitive "completion" but rather envision continuous evolution and periodic advertisement activities to sustain and expand community involvement.

Financial Overview

The operational costs for maintaining the platform, including web hosting, AI services, and domain reservations, have averaged around USD 70 per month. However, these costs may increase with the anticipated growth in user activity and platform utilization.

IFAC co-sponsorship "light" for NMOs: IFACX

For the past three years, IFAC has been providing a new service for NMOs, named "IFACX" (pronounced "IFAC-ex"). This service allows NMOs to give an IFAC label to some domestic technical events organized under their supervision.

IFACX COUNTRY/REGION Events: Each NMO can request the IFACX COUNTRY/REGION label for at most 2 domestic events.

IFAC NMOS are reminded that they can apply by 30 November 2025 for 2026 IFACX events. The full mailing with application information was sent to NMOs via email in October 2025, with info on the IFAC Cloud.

The list of approved IFACX events for 2025 is available at:
ifac-control.org/conferences/ifacx-labeled-conferences-for-2025

We are looking forward to receiving many excellent IFACX applications from our NMOs!

IFAC is on social media!

Facebook
facebook.com/IFAC.Automatic.Control/

Instagram
instagram.com/ifac_control/

LinkedIn
linkedin.com/company/international-federation-of-automatic-control/

X
x.com/IFAC_Control

Bluesky (recently added!)
bsky.app/profile/ifac-control.bsky.social

YouTube
www.youtube.com/@ifacyoutube3132

Calendar of IFAC Conferences

Title	2025	Place	Further Information
3rd IFAC Workshop on Control Methods for Water Resource Systems CMWRS 2025	November 6 – 7	Douai France	conferences.ifac-control.org/cmwrs-imt-nord-europe/
1st IFAC Workshop on Blockchain Intelligence and Knowledge Automation BIKA 2025	November 8 – 9	Macao China	2025.ifacbika.org/ ifacbika@gmail.com
16th IFAC Symposium on Analysis, Design and Evaluation of Human -Machine Systems HMS 2025	November 18 – 21	Beijing China	conferences.ifac-control.org/hms2025/ yinzhong@usst.edu.cn
19th IFAC Workship on Control Applications of Optimisation CAO 2025	December 10 – 13	Krakow Poland	conferences.ifac-control.org/cao2025/
13th IFAC Conference on Fractional Differentiation and its Applications ICFDA 2025	December 18 – 21	Algiers Algeria	conferences.ifac-control.org/icfda2025/
Title	**2026**	**Place**	**Further Information**
AACC, IFAC, et al. Conference on American Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC)	May 25 – 29	New Orleans, LA USA	acc2026.a2c2.org/
EUCA/IFAC Conference on European Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC)	July 7 – 10	Reykjavik Iceland	hecc26.euca-ecc.org/ ecc26@euca-ecc.org
International Symposium on Mathematical Theory of Networks and Systems (in cooperation with IFAC) MTNS 2026	August 17 – 21	Waterloo, ON Canada	uwaterloo.ca/international-symposium-mathematical-theory-networks-systems
23rd IFAC World Congress WC 2026	August 23– 28	Busan Republic of Korea	ifac2026.org ifac2026@ifac2026.org
6th AACC/IFAC Conference on Modeling, Estimation and Control MECC 2026	October 25 – 28	Phoenix (AZ) USA	
6th IFAC Workshop on Cyber-Physical Human Systems CPHS 2026	December 11 – 12	Redondo Beach, CA USA	

The IFAC Calendar of Conferences is constantly updated as additional IFAC Conferences (Workshops, Symposia, and Conferences) are approved. Please check back often for the current status.

The complete version of the IFAC Calendar of Conferences is available online at: ifac-control.org/events/

The IFAC Activity Fund invites applications for financial support of initiatives that foster and promote the control community. The fund sponsors initiatives that:

-Maximize control community engagement;

-Promote inclusion and diversity in alignment with the IFAC guidelines;

-Increase control engineering influence in public discourse and decision-making.

Applicants can request financial assistance of 2,500€ to 12,500€.

For further information on the Activity Fund and to submit an application, please visit https://sites.ifac-control.org/activityfund. Note that the latest version of the application form must be used.

A committee of five members from different geographical regions and technical backgrounds administers the fund. The committee currently comprises Tariq Samad (USA, Chair), Charlotta Johnsson (Sweden), Ayoung Kim (South Korea), Paul Goulart (UK), and Carlos Eduardo Pereira (Brazil).

The next application deadline is October 31, 2025. For any questions please visit the website or email activity-fund@ifac-control.org.