

IFAC Industry Committee Newsletter, 21 October 2022

Announcing the next IndCom chair!

We are pleased to announce that Kevin Brooks has been approved by the IFAC Council as the Industry Committee Chair for the next triennium, starting with the 2023 IFAC World Congress in Yokohama. Final and formal approval is expected at the World Congress by the IFAC General Assembly. Kevin will take over from Tariq Samad, who will complete two terms as the founding chair of IndCom. Kevin has been leading the Communications and Metrics subcommittee of IndCom for the last few years.

Kevin has had a long career in process control and automation in South Africa, with leadership positions in Honeywell and BluESP. In 2021 he founded APC Smart to mentor, train, and consult in advanced process control. He is also an Honorary Adjunct Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg. He holds a B.Sc in Chemical Engineering and a Ph.D., both from Wits.

Kevin was the president of the South African Council for Automation and Control (IFAC NMO) in 2013 and 2014, a period which included the hosting of the very successful IFAC World Congress in Cape Town. He is one of the industrial vice-chairs of TC6.2 on Mining, Mineral and Metal Processing.



Kevin (right) with Wits Vice-Chancellor Zebulon Vilakazi at the University's Centenary Celebrations

A new Task Force proposal – call for participation

As you know, most of the work in IndCom occurs through task forces. We are planning to launch a new task force, focused on open-access continuing-education resources for control practitioners. A proposal and call for participation for this task force is attached separately to this newsletter. We encourage you to review the document and we hope several of you will be interested in participating.

We are hoping to initiate another task force soon too, so watch your e-mail for another proposal.

2023 IFAC World Congress – a new industry-friendly category for submissions

A new submission category is in effect for the 2023 IFAC World Congress that should appeal to industry participants. “Discussion papers” can be submitted that are up to four pages long, are less rigorously reviewed, and only appear in the preprints, not the proceedings. These papers can be submitted until 28 February 2023. See the World Congress website (<https://www.ifac2023.org/>) for more details.

Seeking a new Communications & Metrics Subcommittee chair . . . and Executive Committee member

With Kevin’s “promotion” to IndCom Chair, we would like to appoint a new chair for the Communications & Metrics subcommittee. This role includes being responsible for occasional updates to the website. Please let Kevin know if you’re interested. You’ll automatically be on the IndCom ExCom and play a leadership role in this exciting organization!

Updated best-practices guide for IFAC conference organizers and technical committees

One of the IndCom task forces, led by Philippe Goupil (Airbus), is focused on identifying and disseminating best practices and lessons learned for attracting greater industry participation in IFAC events and TCs. An updated version of a guide prepared by the task force is now available. We especially encourage members of organizing committees of workshops, symposia, and conferences to review the guide. It's available [here](#).

Next Industry Connect webinar

The next IFAC INDUSTRY CONNECT webinar, on "Digitalization—victories and failures," is planned for the last week of November (date to be confirmed). The confirmed panelists are: Iven Mareels (Federation University, AU), Ahmed Ragab (CanmetENERGY- Natural Resources Canada, CA), Alisa Rupenyan (ETH Zurich, CH), and Georg Weichhart, (Primemetals, AT).

Please watch your e-mails for more details and registration/attendance information.

New IndCom flyer

We have produced a flyer for the Industry Committee—an effort spearheaded by Kevin Brooks. You've received it along with this note. Please feel free to distribute it to colleagues, friends, and strangers! Comments welcome!

Next IndCom meeting

We will hold our end-of-year Industry Committee meeting on December 5, 2022, 14:00 – 15:00 UTC. As usual, we'll repeat the programming at a different time too, to enable more of our members to attend. Watch for meeting invitations with a Zoom link.

More information and contact information:

The IFAC Industry Committee website is at <https://sites.ifac-control.org/industry>.

Please get in touch with news and suggestions!

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