



Branislav M. Notaroš 
AP-S President

Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society

Welcome to the celebratory Special Issue of the Magazine! This is a special celebratory year for the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S) as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary. The AP-S was founded in 1949 as one of the three oldest IEEE Societies, or professional groups, as the Societies were called at first. Our first official name was the Professional Group on Antennas and Propagation of the IRE (now IEEE), so with the same technical name (AP) as during the following 75 years and now. AP-S is IEEE's third Society; hence, in the nomenclature of all IEEE Societies, our official IEEE designation is AP-03. The first was the IRE Professional Group on Audio, founded in 1948, which is now the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SP-01). In 1973, we became the IEEE AP Society—our current name.

The theme of the AP-S celebration is “Celebrating 75 Years of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society, Looking Forward to the Next 75 Years,” signifying our achievements and activities within 75 years, both technical and professional, in a celebratory spirit, but also addressing an outlook for the future of the Society. We created an extended version of the new AP-S logo for the occasion of the 75th Anniversary and have been exten-

sively using this celebratory logo in our publications, conferences, electronic media, and communications.

The state of our Society is truly outstanding, as described in the article by Notaroš on the State of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society in this celebratory Special Issue of the Magazine. And this is thanks to incredible work and contributions by AP-S leaders, volunteers, and members throughout our history of 75 years. A part of IEEE, the IEEE AP Society is the world's largest organization dedicated to advancing the theory and practice of antennas, propagation, and electromagnetics technology for the benefit of humanity and fulfilling the technical and professional goals of its worldwide membership and the AP community and profession at large.

We have about 11,000 members, organized in about 250 Chapters all over the world. Our Transactions, Letters, Magazine, and Open Journal are performing extremely well, with excellent impact factors and reputations. The next five editions of our flagship conference, popularly referred to as APS, will take place in four different countries around the world. We provide hundreds of research and travel grants and fellowships to students every year as well as sponsorship of many impactful humanitarian projects and workshops worldwide. Our innovative approaches and activities are highly regarded and praised both by our members and by others. A recent

example is our winning the IEEE Young Professionals Hall of Fame Award, highlighted in the article by Reddy which follows after this message.

As described in the Special Issue article by Bird on a Historical Overview of the IEEE AP Society in its 75th Year, our Society led the developments in our field and profession in eight vibrant decades of the two centuries marking the turn of the two millennia. It is remarkable that half of the history of modern Maxwellian electromagnetics, which started with Maxwell's equations 150 years ago, was with the AP-S as one of the leaders in the field and in the profession.

This Special Issue of the Magazine, superbly organized and edited by Andriulli, a part of the Magazine Special Series devoted to the AP-S jubilee, features articles describing our cornerstone technical and professional accomplishments and activities over 75 years, in a celebratory spirit but also in an archival fashion, with potential to be referenced and used in the future. The article by Balanis is just the first edition of a series of articles on Evolution of Antenna Technology, focusing on Dipoles and Loops. The article by Rahmat-Sami outlines Past, Present, and Future Designs and Manufacturing Techniques for Printed Lens and Transmitarray Antennas. The article by Notaroš presents an overview of 75 Years of Research in Computational Electromagnetics (CEM), where both CEM and the AP-S have similar and interwoven histories of 75 years.

The article by Maci provides a Historical Journey through Electromagnetic Metamaterials and Metasurfaces. The article by Furse outlines the History of the IEEE AP-S Education Committee and our related accomplishments and activities. The article by Lombardi describes a History of Our Logo, celebrating both the previous AP-S logo that provided tremendous impact over decades and the newly selected (by AP-S membership) AP-S logo that was implemented this year.

The IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) conducted the IEEE TAB Celebration of the 75-years jubilee of AP-S on 16 February 2024 during the IEEE TAB Meeting as part of the IEEE Meeting Series in Orlando, FL, USA. The celebration involved 12 AP-S leaders onstage and more than 200 IEEE leaders and Society/Council Presidents in attendance, who celebrated with champagne and an anniversary cake, with our new celebratory 75-years AP-S logo in full color covering the top of the cake. My presentation on the history and state of the Society was very well received, and everyone was truly impressed by AP-S accomplishments—successes of all AP-S leaders, volunteers, and members over the years. The celebration culminated with a standing ovation congratulating us on the fantastic 75 years, and a highlight of the event happened spontaneously when a President of another Society started singing the “Happy Birthday to You” song, and the entire ballroom joined.

The AP-S 75 Years IEEE TAB Celebration in Orlando was featured in the *IEEE Technical Activities Society Sentinel* (Newsletter), sent on 28 February 2024 to all IEEE Societies and Councils and their leadership and volunteers as well as all IEEE TA Committees, staff, and so on. The Newsletter included a link to my 75th Anniversary presentation to TAB.

The Spring 2024 Edition of the IEEE TA Spotlight featured a full article on “Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society and Its Accomplishments.” The Spotlight and AP-S article went, on 16 April 2024, to all IEEE Members. This

was a unique opportunity to reach some 450,000 Members and tell them about AP-S and what we have done from our founding to our global impact today.

The main anniversary events will take place at our flagship conference, IEEE AP-S/URSI 2024, in Florence, Italy, on 17–18 July, with a 75 Years Plenary Session, AP-S Past Presidents Panel, Intersociety Collaboration Panel, 75 Years Celebratory Lunch, 75 Years Celebratory Gala, IEEE AP-S Awards Ceremony, Conference Banquet-Social Dinner, and more.

The 75 Years AP-S Plenary Session, in Cavaniglia Hall at Fortezza da Basso Convention Center, will feature the following plenary talks: 75th Anniversary of AP-S and Its Accomplishments (Notaroš); 140th Anniversary of IEEE and Future Challenges (Coughlin, IEEE President and CEO); Presidential Greetings from Sister IEEE Societies and International Organizations; 75 Years of AP-S (Bird); 75 Years of IEEE AP-S Research and Applications with focuses on Antennas (Balanis); CEM (Mittra); EM Design (Rahmat-Sami); Materials and Devices (Maci); Propagation and Scattering (Moghadam); Communications, Defense, and Medicine (Fumeaux); and Past, Present, and Future of AP and AP-S—Panel Discussion and Q&As.

The IEEE AP-S Past Presidents Panel on “IEEE Antennas & Propagation Society Past, Present, and Future: Technical and Professional Activities” will involve about 20 AP-S Past Presidents who will provide highlights of their terms, for both the AP Society professionally and AP technically, with wisdom based on their experiences and vision and guidance for the future of the Society and the profession, and will include invaluable personal memories and moments.

The Intersociety Collaboration Panel will have as many as nine Presidents of sister IEEE Societies and Councils and six Presidents or Chairs of sister international organizations, along with the IEEE President and CEO, IEEE TA VP-Elect and IEEE TAB Vice Chair, and IEEE TAB Treasurer and TAB Finance Committee Chair, which

promises interesting and fruitful discussions and interactions. The panel will discuss commonalities and unifying threads as well as differences and unique features of various Societies and organizations, with both commonalities and differences providing opportunities for collaboration, interaction, communication, and leveraging that we want to identify and pursue.

The Celebratory Lunch at Fortezza da Basso will involve all guests, AP-S members, and conference attendees, with a gigantic anniversary cake with the AP-S celebratory logo and champagne (Italian prosecco). The Celebratory Gala will be held at Palazzo Vecchio, Salone dei Cinquecento (“Hall of the Five Hundred”), the most historic and artistic building and hall in Florence and the largest hall by volume in Italy. The Social Dinner will take place at Stazione Leopolda, another historical landmark of Florence.

It is indeed a fascinating time to be an AP researcher, practitioner, educator, or student, and it is even more fascinating, in the celebratory year, to be an IEEE AP-S member. The AP-S has extraordinary history and a laudable present. Looking to the future, the needs for antennas and antenna systems as the eyes, ears, voice, and brain and propagation as the means for action at a distance of communication, security, defense, medical, transportation, computing, and industrial devices and systems of next generations of technology will be pronounced even more than now. The need and impacts of professionally organizing will grow the same. Hence the unparalleled potential that AP and the AP-S promise for the future.

Congratulations to All on a phenomenal AP-S jubilee! The AP-S accomplishments are those of all AP-S leaders, volunteers, and members in many generations over 75 years of our history—we owe a particular debt of gratitude to all of them. And Best Wishes for the Next 75 Years of AP and the AP-S! They are guaranteed to be equally rich, fascinating, and intense!

Branislav

