



Letter from the Editor

..... By ALFRED D. COOK

DEAR READER:

The late John V. L. Hogan, one of the founders and a past president of the Institute of Radio Engineers, is credited with the statement that the institute "can well be considered to be the Federal body which unites an increasing number of autonomous professional groups."

Dr. Hogan's observation could be brought up to date by saying that the IRE, when merged with the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, will be an international federation of professional groups.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, which will sprout from the expected merger between IRE and AIEE, will be a worldwide organization. It is expected that the I Triple E will rest upon a base made up of its Professional Technical Groups. These will be, within the merged organization, the equivalent of the present IRE professional groups.

The success of the professional group concept is probably what has made the IRE so successful in a world of changing scientific concepts. It seems to be the main force which holds 100,000 members (many with varying interests except for a common preoccupation with the electron) together.

The introduction of the professional group system in 1948 was an almost revolutionary move for the institute. It provided for groups within IRE along lines of technical specialization of the members.

Officials of IRE state that "The successful development of the professional group system is proving to be an effective means of counteracting the centrifugal tendencies that otherwise might have accompanied the rapid expansion of the institute."

In other words, there would have been a number of spin-offs from the Institute if the professional group idea had not been made to work. Instead of having one organization with about 100,000 members, we might otherwise have had many technical societies in this industry and the strongest would probably have had about 10,000 members.

Under the professional group system, IRE members who are interested in a specific technical field join together and elect a chairman, vice-chairman and administrative committee. They hold meetings either of a national type or come together as chapters associated with an IRE section.

There are now 29 professional groups within IRE and their size and history is shown in the table below which is a slightly edited version of one that appeared in the 50th Anniversary Issue of the Proceedings of the IRE in May:

PROFESSIONAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP

At End of Year	No. of Groups	Total Paid Members
1948	2	
1949	8	
1950	10	
1951	16	
1952	17	12,482
1953	20	21,797
1954	21	28,158
1955	23	36,562
1956	24	53,015
1961	29	87,060

The future of the merged organization may hinge upon the success or failure of the Technical Professional Groups. If they work, the parent organization has a fine chance to be successful.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Industry Health Good, Climate

The health of the electronics industry is good, but the climate, a summer sampling of (business conditions indicate) so high as they should be, and the slight element of caution into the industry had new highs in sales and profits. This was mentioned as a factor in the increase in sales, the climate of the market not being conducive to the plans of those doing well stated though that the present state of their plans or operations. [1]

Research and development, considered a key factor in the country and for that matter particular areas of the country, was mentioned by Senate Labor Committee by Jerome W. Science and Technology. Questioned on and contracts in the Northeast and Far West. Mr. Weisner said the placement of the educational facilities. Industries in the scientific and engineering the top universities. The geographical distribution of these the next decade, he commented. [1]

A 13 per cent increase in sales by 1965 for the French close cooperation of industry, universities and the Government proposed by the Permanent Electronic Commission of the representatives of both industry and Government, the program and research in the areas of microminiaturization and materials.

Despite the success of Nike-Zeus last week, Department skepticism that additional funds would be requested. [1]

Telstar telemetry data being rapidly analyzed — ready late this week. [1]

Defense & Aerospace Systems

Following in the wake of the Federal space agency's decision to use lunar orbital rendezvous for the manned mission to the moon, Sperry Gyroscope Co. told of its new laser doppler radar system to measure velocities as little as 0.0001 inch per second in space. [14]

The challenge to the electronics industry posed by Mariner I was dramatically illustrated by its need too approach within 10,000 miles of Venus and transmit all data within 30 minutes. The space trip will take 100-140 days. [16]

Government Procurement

A House Committee cleared Collins Radio Co. of any wrongdoing in the case of Rep. Earl Wilson (R.Ind.) versus the Navy. The Congressman had charged improprieties in the awarding of a sole-source procurement contract to Collins for Marine Corps UHF radio sets. [17]

The giant Nova rocket moved another step on its journey into space with the awarding of twin study contracts by the Federal space agency. Receiving the \$1 million pacts were General Dynamics Astronautics and Martin-Marietta Corp. [17]

Awards of contracts by Government agencies and prime contractors. [17]

Communications

Television manufacturers, in general, hope to have enough time to engineer and field test TV sets with all-channel tuners before the mandatory switchover to UHF-VHF tuners becomes effective, a survey

Conference on Data Acquisition Processing in Biology and Medicine held at the University of Rochester. [30]

A large multipurpose data processing system will be developed by a research group supported by three Japanese computer manufacturers and the Japanese Government. [32]

A cross-licensing agreement has been reached between Minneapolis-based Honeywell Regulator Co., Minneapolis, and Nippon Electric Co., Ltd., Tokyo, for an exchange of technical agreements. [32]

Purchasing records of a cooperative society are now being processed by a data processing system developed by Svenska Datareg AB (Sweden), Stockholm. [33]

Data Topics column. [35]

Components

Fairchild Semiconductor will begin production of its planar transistor line in the United Kingdom around the end of the year. The firm is currently looking for a plant. The new facility will be known as S.G.S. Fairchild, and will be managed by Dr. J. Kendall. [36]

Bowmar Instruments has formed a new subsidiary in Canada to manufacture military and industrial components. Alfred A. Panke, former Bowmar production engineer, has been named vice-president and general manager of the new operation. [36]

New Components. [40]