

NEWSLETTER

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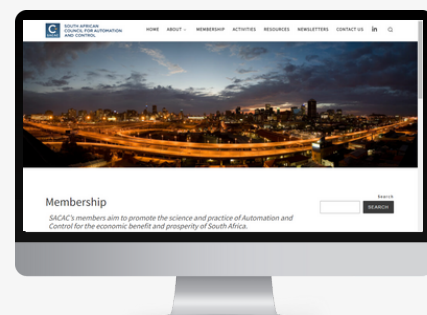
IFAC WEBSITE LINK

www.sacac.org.za



SACAC members are organisations, e.g., universities, engineering societies, corporate bodies or companies interested in research, development, and applications of automation technology.

» Become a Member



President's Address

It's been a busy first half of 2025 for the South African Council for Automation and Control. Our first event was the Annual General Meeting held in Rosebank, where I was honoured to be elected as president of the council. My sincere gratitude to Loutjie Coetzee for his leadership over the past two years, which enabled SACAC to grow from strength to strength. I'm excited to be supported by a dynamic executive committee with a shared vision: to facilitate the interchange and dissemination of information regarding leading research and innovation in the field of automation and control. A special welcome to Marcelle Saffy (Mintek) and Mohlalakoma Ngwako (University of Witwatersrand) who joined the SACAC ExCo for the first time this year, and to Jason Miskin (Opti-Num Solutions) assuming the role of vice-president. Their contributions have already made an impact!

The 2025 budget was also approved during the AGM. The council remains in good financial health with the investment fund reaching a value of R3.78 million, enabling SACAC to continue supporting members to attend IFAC conferences and meetings. Membership fees increased by approximately 7%, bringing the corporate membership fee to R 7 390 per year and the institutional membership fee to R 4 390 per year.

This year, we want to focus on ensuring SACAC members experience the benefits of being part of our organisation. I've already had several discussions with members highlighting our guest lectures, workshops, symposia and conferences, all of which contribute to forming a community of practice in control and automation. I'd like to remind our corporate members in particular that SACAC offers an alternate membership fee of R17 000 per year, which allows members to send three delegates to all SACAC workshops free of charge, thereby reducing the administrative burden associated with payment for individual workshops. This is a win-win situation considering the workshops planned for 2025!

We are particularly excited about our upcoming Model-Based Control workshop which will be held 4-5 August in Pretoria, as well as 7-8 August in Stellenbosch. The workshop will be presented by Anthony Rossiter (University of Sheffield) who is internationally recognized as a leader in the field. He will be joined by Loutjie Coetzee and Kevin Brooks, both of whom have extensive experience in the implementation of advanced process control solutions. The workshop is a must for all interested in understanding and implementing model-based control.

On the international front, we will (as usual) be sending a strong South African contingent to IFAC MMM 2025, held in Lima, Peru. The IFAC World Congress 2026 is also accepting contributions. The congress will take place 23-28 August 2026 in Busan, Republic of Korea, and promises to be one of the premier events in the control community. The deadline for submitting contributions is 26 November 2025. Lastly, I'd like to remind all members that SACAC offers sponsorships for authors to attend IFAC conferences across the globe; please visit our website for more details.

The rest of this newsletter contains much more information on SACAC and IFAC activities, including guest lectures, community outreach, and more. Thank you to all members who participate in and contribute to our community!

Best wishes,
Tobi Louw
SACAC President

Tobi Louw
SACAC President



ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

NAME	AFFILIATION
TOBI LOUW	STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
JASON MISKIN	OPTI-NUM SOLUTIONS
LAURENTZ OLIVIER	ANALYTE
LOUTJIE COETZEE	DRASLOVKA
DERIK LE ROUX	UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
LIDIA AURET	STONE THREE
ANTONY HIGGINSON	UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND
ARNOLD PRETORIUS	UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
SYAMALA KRISHNANNAIR	UNIVERSITY ZULULAND
CALLEN FISHER	STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
PASCAL MOTSOASELE	RAND WATER
JOHAN VENTER	UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG
IAN CRAIG	UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
JOHN BURCHELL	SIBANYE-STILLWATER
KEVIN BROOKS	APC SMART
MARCELLE SAFFY	MINTEK
MOHLALAKOMA THERECIA NGWAKO	UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND



Exco members from left to right: Jason Miskin (vice president), Laurentz Olivier (Honorary treasurer), Johan Venter (University of Johannesburg), Marcelle Saffy (Mintek), Pascal Motsoasele (Rand Water), Tobi Louw (president), Kevin Brooks (APC-Smart), Derik le Roux (University of Pretoria),

Not pictured: Lidia Auret (Stone Three), Syamala Krishnannair (University of Zululand), Arnold Pretorius (University of Cape Town), and Loutjie Coetzee (immediate past president).

SACAC WORKSHOP: EXPLORATORY DATA ANALYSIS FOR INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

PRESENTERS

Prof Tobi Louw and Lidia Auret



Tobi Louw is a Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Stellenbosch University, and the programme leader for the structured Masters in Chemical Engineering: Data Analytics.

His research focuses on the application of advanced modelling, optimisation, and machine learning in chemical- and minerals processing.



Lidia Auret is a Senior Process Data Scientist at Stone Three, and holds extraordinary/honorary positions at the Chemical Engineering departments of Stellenbosch University and the University of Cape Town.

Her research focuses on process monitoring and modelling of industrial processes, incorporating machine learning techniques.

SACAC again hosted the popular Exploratory Data Analysis workshop on the 23rd of May 2025. The workshop was presented by Tobi Louw and Lidia Auret, and focused on the initial stages of data analysis for industrial processes, as well as the practicalities of working with industrial data. Topics included the nature of process datasets, working with time series data, dimensionality reduction and visualization, as well as clustering and model interpretation using tree-based methods.

Workshop participants appreciated the relevance of the workshop topics, highlighting the structured presentation, the visualisation of concepts, as well as the opportunities for hands-on practice. This year, participants could also earn one CPD point for attending the workshop.

The success of this workshop highlights SACAC's dedication to sharing knowledge and skills with industry professionals. Such events help bridge the gap between academic research and real-world applications, empowering professionals to make better use of data for improving industrial processes.

SACAC ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025



GIRLS IN CONTROL WORKSHOP

The Girls in Control Workshop, hosted by SACAC and inspired by IFAC, empowers girls aged 14–15 through hands-on coding, control theory, science tours, and motivational talks to spark interest in STEM careers.

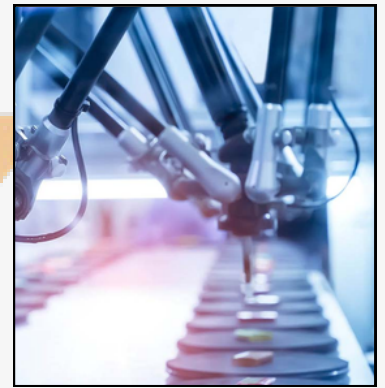
- 10 SEPTEMBER 2025
- 13 AUGUST 2025
- 29 JULY 2025

MODEL-BASED CONTROL: A PRACTICAL APPROACH

This hands-on, two-day workshop blends the theory of model predictive control with practical implementation using industry tools. Delegates will gain a solid grasp of MPC concepts, tools, and the trade-offs between linear and non-linear approaches.

- 04 August 2025 - University of Pretoria
- 07 August 2025 - Stellenbosch University

 REGISTER NOW



SACAC: GENERAL CONFERENCE AUTHOR SPONSORSHIP

SACAC invites members to apply for its Conference Author Sponsorship to support attendance at IFAC-sponsored and co-sponsored international events. The sponsorship contributes towards economy flights, 3-star accommodation, and early-bird registration fees. Only one author per paper will be supported, and a short post-conference report is required for the SACAC newsletter.

Eligibility:

Applicants must:

- Be the author and presenter of an accepted paper
- Be a student or employee of a SACAC member in good standing

Application Requirements:

Submit to secretariat@sacac.org.za:

- Motivation letter (max 500 words)
- Conference details
- Submitted paper and proof of acceptance
- Employer/supervisor details
- Budget (flights, accommodation, registration)

Deadlines:

- 31 July 2025 – for events between 1 Aug–31 Dec 2025
- 30 Nov 2025 – for events between 1 Jan–30 Apr 2026

**CONTACT THE SACAC
SECRETARIAT**

Note: If paper acceptance is confirmed after the deadline, please notify the Secretariat. Your application may still be considered pending final confirmation.

GIRLS IN CONTROL WORKSHOP

7TH "GIRLS IN CONTROL" WORKSHOP – ZULULAND REGION (19 MARCH 2025)

The 7th "Girls in Control" (GIC) workshop for the Zululand Region was successfully held on 19th March 2025 at the UNIZULU Science Centre. The event aimed to inspire 30 high school girls from Grades 8 and 9 at Bhekeshowe High School to explore opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) with a particular focus on Control Engineering.

Recognizing the importance of this developmental stage, the workshop focused on challenging gender stereotypes, empowering young girls, and introducing foundational STEM skills through engaging, hands-on experiences. The day's programme included interactive presentations, live demonstrations, coding sessions, and mentorship from accomplished women working in STEM fields.

The first session introduced the concept of a feedback loop, with real-world examples of its application in control systems. This was followed by a practical session on Scratch coding, which was translated into isiZulu to enhance accessibility and understanding. This gave participants a clearer picture of the exciting career paths within Control Engineering and related STEM disciplines.

In the second session, participants were inspired by a motivational talk from Ms. Nocolé Seumangal, an engineer at Tronox Sands. She shared her personal journey from high school to her current role as a lead engineer, highlighting the importance of choosing STEM subjects in school to pursue a career in engineering. Her words deeply resonated with the girls, who found the session both inspiring and enlightening.

The final session featured a science exhibition, guided science tour, and a hands-on Robotics workshop. These interactive activities introduced the girls to the fundamentals of Control Engineering and sparked curiosity about STEM. For many of the participants, this was their first meaningful exposure to STEM fields.

The success of the workshop was made possible through the generous support of SACAC and IFAC, and the crucial logistical assistance from UNIZULU ICT, who ensured that the technological resources were in place. The group photo stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts aimed at nurturing the next generation of women in STEM.



Empowering Girls in STEM: 'Girls in Control' Workshop

GUEST LECTURE SERIES

SACAC is proud to continue with our Guest Lecture series. The series, which is presented online on a monthly basis, explores various aspects of process automation and control. The series provides an opportunity for students and industry practitioners alike to benefit from leading local experts in the field. Recent guest lectures included:

CHRIS NIEWOUDT

14 March 2025

How does a gas-cooled nuclear reactor work and how do we control it? Cycle models and controller strategies



This presentation explores the operation and control of a gas-cooled nuclear reactor through detailed cycle modelling and some discussion of control strategies.

The study focuses on key components, including the reactor neutronics, thermal-hydraulic behaviour, cycle gas circuit with blower dynamics, the main heat exchanger, and control rod mechanisms. Using mathematical and physical models, we analyse the interactions between these subsystems and their impact on cycle stability and performance.

The goal of the presentation is to explain how a reactor works, why it is controllable and some control strategies we would like to implement.

PROF NICO WILKE

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

04 APRIL 2025

The Subtle Art of Mismatch: Data, Multi-Fidelity, Models, Latent Spaces, Objectives and Proxies



The Subtle Art of Mismatch" investigates the challenges of aligning data with model forms in data science. Multi-fidelity data further complicates this by introducing variation in epistemic uncertainty, adding layers of complexity to modelling efforts. Mathematical proxies are often used to define latent spaces and optimisation objectives to fit models onto data, enabling the construction of models that compress data for generation—such as surrogates or variance-driven latent variable models—or for interpretation and insights, as in interpretation-driven latent variable models.

However, these mathematical proxies are frequently poorly aligned with our true goals. This talk explores the art of reconciling these mismatches based on foundational concepts, offering clarity for navigating the complexities of imperfect data, imperfect models, and the realities of data science in practice.

GUEST LECTURE SERIES

PASCAL MOTSOASELE RANDWATER

09 May 2025

Industrial Automation Engineering in Water Infrastructure Asset Management : A Rand Water Case Study



This case study highlights the role of Industrial Automation Engineering in water infrastructure asset management at Rand Water, a major South African bulk water utility. It outlines Rand Water's operations and how automation enhances efficiency and reliability in water delivery. Key technical challenges and use cases—such as SCADA, PLCs, and remote monitoring—are discussed. The study also presents best practices in asset management, including predictive maintenance and lifecycle tracking. Finally, it explores emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and digital twins that are shaping the future of water infrastructure management.

LEAD SPEAKER: DORON JOFFE WEBINAR FACILITATOR: JASON MISKIN

21 May 2025

Joint Webinar

Computer Vision for Safety



The "Computer Vision for Safety" webinar, presented by SAIMM and SACAC in partnership with Opti-Num Solutions, examined the application of deep learning and computer vision technologies to improve industrial safety systems. Led by Doron Joffe, the session addressed key topics including model selection, iterative training, real-time system performance, and integration with safety interlocks. A practical case study of a virtual fencing solution highlighted how AI-driven vision can enhance workplace safety by proactively monitoring hazardous areas. This webinar provided valuable knowledge for engineers and safety professionals interested in leveraging AI for safer industrial operations.

CHARIS HARLEY UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG 06 June 2025

Bridging the Gap: Myths, Misconceptions, and the Untapped Power of Academia-Industry Collaboration



This presentation explores the longstanding challenge of bridging the gap between industry and academia. It addresses common misconceptions about the current level of engagement between the two, evaluates the impact of past collaborations on higher education and industrial innovation, and discusses strategies for fostering successful, long-term partnerships. The presentation concludes by highlighting how the field of AI is a key driver pushing industry and academia to evolve together and support one another.

THE 20TH IFAC SYMPOSIUM ON CONTROL, OPTIMIZATION AND AUTOMATION IN MINING, MINERALS AND METAL PROCESSING (MMM 2025)



Background and Scope

The 20th IFAC Symposium on Control, Optimization and Automation in Mining, Minerals and Metal Processing (MMM 2025), will be held in Lima, Perú, 22-24 October 2025, organized by Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) and sponsored by International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC).

The aim is to provide a platform for academy and industry to build up new networks and strengthen existing collaborations. In this event high-level speakers will present the global spectrum of control, optimization and automation in mining, minerals and metal processing, in this way the attendees will gain insights into state-of-the-art applications, and emerging research directions. This symposium is an opportunity for researchers, practitioners and students from various fields to present their research findings and discuss advancements in a context of global audience.

Key topics of focus for MMM 2025 include, i.e., energy optimization, process safety, waste treatment, autonomous vehicles and artificial intelligence in industry. Special sessions, plenary lectures, tutorials and roundtables will highlight industrial-academic projects, challenges, and applications.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to

- Control and Automation in MMM
- Process optimization and modelling
- Mineral processing and beneficiation
- Metallurgical processes and smelting
- Metal processing and recycling
- Artificial Intelligence in industry
- Cybersecurity and cyber-physical systems
- Process safety
- Autonomous vehicles in industry
- Integration of technologies
- Sensor technologies and instrumentation
- Waste treatment
- Environmental impact management
- Case studies and industrial applications
- Education in process control and automation



**14th IFAC Symposium on Dynamics
and Control of Process Systems,
including Biosystems
DYCOPS 2025**
June 16-19, Bratislava, Slovakia



Dynamics and Control of Process Systems, including Biosystems - 14th DYCOPS 2025™

More Information



The 14th IFAC Symposium on Dynamics and Control of Process Systems, including Biosystems (DYCOPS 2025), was held in Bratislava, Slovakia, from June 16 to 19, 2025. The symposium took place at the Radisson Blu Carlton Hotel, located in the historical center of Bratislava. The objective of the symposium was to unite experts in theory and practitioners in process dynamics and control systems, with the aim of evaluating new methods, designing processes, and exploring tools in the field.

The symposium focused on recent theoretical advancements and practical control applications across various industries, including those related to biosystems.



Technical Areas

- Bioprocess Technology
- Metabolic Engineering and Systems Biology
- Environment, Energy and Sustainability
- Modeling and Identification
- Model-based Control and Optimization
- AI for Process Data Analytics and Monitoring
- AI for Control and Optimization
- Industrial and Manufacturing Applications

Sponsorship:

The symposium was sponsored by the following IFAC Technical Committees:

- TC 2.4. Optimal Control (A. Mesbah, G. Pannocchia, S. Lucia)
- TC 6.1. Chemical Process Control (R. Gunawan, A. Mesbah, S. Lucia)
- TC 8.4. Biosystems and Bioprocesses (R. Gunawan, O. Bernard, I. Smets, P. Bogaerts, D. Oyarzún, I. Queinnec, M. Rodríguez García, A. Vignoni, M. Pons)
- TC 9.4. Control Education (J. L. Guzmán Sánchez)





IFAC NEWS

CONTROL APPLICATIONS IN MARINE SYSTEMS, ROBOTICS AND VEHICLES - 10TH CAMS 2025

25-28 August 2025

More Information

Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) and the IFAC Technical Committee in Marine Systems welcome you to the 16th IFAC Conference on Control Applications in Marine Systems, Robotics and Vehicles. The conference aims at defining the research, development and innovation agenda within the areas of marine automation, control and robotics bridging the prominent views of academia and industry.



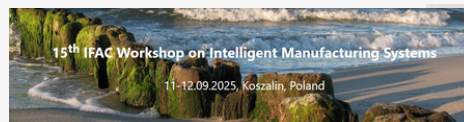
Sensing, Control and Automation Technologies for Agriculture - 8th AGRICONTROL 2025

27-29 August 2025

More Information

AGRICONTROL 2025 is a peer-reviewed conference organized under the auspices of IFAC (International Federation of Automatic Control), sponsored by IFAC TC 8.1 (Control in Agriculture), and co-sponsored by TC 4.2 (Mechatronic Systems), TC 7.5 (Intelligent Autonomous Vehicles), and TC 8.4 (Biosystems and Bioprocesses).

This conference aims to provide an international forum for new methods and developments in sensing, control, and automation research and emerging results in agricultural production and automation.



INTELLIGENT MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS - 15TH IMS 2025

11 - 12 September 2025

More Information

The main focus of the workshop is on methods, techniques, and approaches related to the integration of advanced technologies and artificial intelligence into manufacturing processes. The goal is to enhance efficiency, productivity, flexibility, adaptability, and decision-making in manufacturing operations.

The workshop will allow researchers and practitioners to share their achievements, innovations, and insights on intelligent manufacturing systems. Participants can be involved in discussions covering models, approaches, formal solutions, case studies, and real-life implementations.



THERMODYNAMICS FOUNDATIONS OF MATHEMATICAL SYSTEMS THEORY - 6TH TFMST 2025

19- 21 September 2025

More Information

The TFMST (Thermodynamics Foundations of Mathematical Systems Theory) series aims to discuss approaches to combine tools from mathematical systems theory and irreversible thermodynamics. It is held every three years and has been successfully organized four times so far.

The fifth workshop will be held in hybrid (in-person/remote) mode in September 2025, with the in-person component held in Hangzhou (China).



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF AUTOMATIC CONTROL

IFAC NEWS

J3C 2025

IFAC Joint Conference on Computers,
Cognition and Communication
15th September – 18th
September 2025
Padova | Italy

[Download Call For Papers \(pdf\) ↓](#)

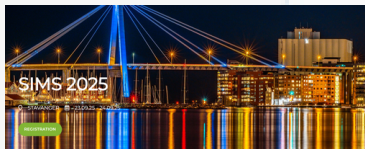
ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURES OF AUTOMATION SYSTEMS - 1ST EAAS 2025

15- 18 September 2025

The IFAC Joint Conference on Computers, Cognition and Communication (J3C) is a premier international conference that aims to promote the recent advances in the control and automation of complex systems. The conference provides a unique opportunity to bring together researchers, practitioners, and students to exchange ideas and experiences in the field of control and automation. The conference will feature plenary sessions, workshops, tutorials, and technical sessions. The conference will also feature keynote speeches by leading experts in the field of control and automation.

This year the conference will be held in Padova, Italy.

[More Information](#)



Scandinavian Simulation Society - 66th SIMS 2025

23- 24 September 2025

[More Information](#)

The University of Stavanger (UiS) in collaboration with the Norwegian Society of Electric and Automatic Control (NFEA), Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet), and the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) invite you to submit a paper to SIMS 2025.

SIMS 2025 will cover broad aspects of recent research and industrial development work in modelling, simulation and optimization in engineering applications. The scientific program will include technical sessions with submitted papers and industrial sessions with discussion contributions. In addition there will be keynote presentations, technical tours to industrial sites and research facilities at the organizing university and possibly one poster session.

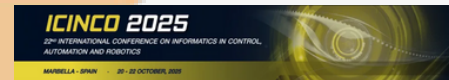


MODELING, ESTIMATION AND CONTROL - MECC 2025

5 - 8 October 2025

[More Information](#)

MECC is an annual conference of the American Automatic Control Council (AACC), the U.S. national member organization of the International Federation for Automatic Control (IFAC). National and international society co-sponsors of MECC include member societies of AACC, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), IEEE Control Systems Society (IEEE-CSS), Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), International Society of Automation (ISA), Society for Modeling & Simulation International (SCS), and Society for Industrial & Applied Mathematics (SIAM).



INFORMATICS IN CONTROL, AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS - 22ND ICINCO 2025

20-22 October 2025

[More Information](#)

The purpose of the International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics (ICINCO) is to bring together researchers, engineers and practitioners interested in the application of informatics to Control, Automation and Robotics, covering topics related to Intelligent Control Systems, Optimization, Robotics, Automation, Signal Processing, Sensors, Systems Modelling and Control, and Industrial Informatics.

Conference Areas

1. Intelligent Control Systems and Optimization
2. Robotics and Automation
3. Signal Processing, Sensors, Systems Modelling and Control
4. Industrial Informatics

*Extract from the IFAC Newsletter - 02 April 2025



IFAC NEWS

Performance of the IFAC Control Orchestra at IFAC 2026

We are excited to announce the comeback of one of the highlights of the IFAC World Congress 2020 & 2023: The IFAC Control Orchestra! Sign up to learn more!

After the virtual performance in 2020, the IFAC World Congress 2023 featured the first live performance ever by the IFAC Control Orchestra. At the closing ceremony, 33 musicians from the automatic control community performed three pieces live on-stage in front of an estimated audience of 2000 attendees: the festive ballad "You Raise Me Up" by Norwegian composer Rolf Lovland ([Watch here](#)), the fast-paced modern pop song "Blinding Lights" by Canadian singer The Weeknd ([Watch here](#)), and the well-known rock classic "Don't stop believin'" by the American band Journey ([Watch here](#)).

- Music written by Jonathan Cain, Steve Perry, Neal Schon in 1981
- Performed by Journey

The organizers of the 23rd IFAC World Congress 2026 in Busan, KR are now planning a comeback of the IFAC Control Orchestra. Once again, the plan is to form an orchestra ensemble including only musicians from the automatic control community, to practice on site during the IFAC World Congress, and to put on a live performance during the congress.

For this event, we are looking for interested people from the automatic control community who have some previous musical experience and who are interested in being part of a highly dynamic, distributed, nonlinear, adaptive, fuzzy, MIMO, fault-tolerant, learning-based feedback control system with experimental verification and validation.

IFAC Control Orchestra Performance 2023 in Yokohama

If you would like to join the IFAC Control Orchestra, or would just like to be informed about the next steps, then subscribe to our e-mail list at [click here](#).

Further information on the orchestra including links to the IFAC 2020 performance can be found on ifac-control.org/about/ifac-controlorchestra.

Submitted by: Julian Berberich (DE), IFAC Control Orchestra Organizer

THE IFAC STORY E-BOOK IS AVAILABLE!

ISBN 978-3-902823-73-1

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

*Extract from the IFAC Newsletter - 3 June 2025

IFAC 2026 World Congress Update



A diverse and engaging array of technical and social programs is rapidly taking shape for the 2026 IFAC World Congress. We invite you to take this opportunity to visit Busan, Korea, and participate in the largest gathering of our community, held every three years. The paper and proposal submission opens in June and closes on November 26. For the latest updates, please visit ifac2026.org.



Renewed Keywords for Technical Committee (TC), and Cross-cutting/New Areas: The 2026 Congress will feature updated keywords for all 39 TCs. Since 2023, the Technical Board (TB) has undertaken a comprehensive reevaluation of IFAC's technical activities, leading to a renewed focus for each TC. In addition, the TB, in collaboration with a Presidential Task Force (TF), has identified topics that span multiple TCs, such as AI and data-driven methods, as cross-cutting areas.

Furthermore, the TF and the Congress's IPC have highlighted additional emerging technical areas for IFAC to explore. These new and updated topical areas will be available when the submission site launches in June, with the keywords directly accessible from the site.

Back-to-Basics Tutorial: The field of control engineering has seen remarkable progress over the past 60 years, driven by groundbreaking research and innovation. Along the way, pioneering experts have established the foundational principles that shape the field today. Now, it is time for the next generation to stand on the shoulders of these giants. Yet, it is not always easy to decide whose shoulders to stand on – or how quickly one should climb up. This tutorial is designed to address that challenge. It takes the form of an overview, much like Chapter 1 of a monograph of specific topics. We are currently inviting these leading experts to serve as speakers.

Journal options: We are currently working with several IFAC-affiliated journals to offer a journal option, which allows papers reviewed for the Congress to also be considered for publication in a special issue of the journal. This coordinated review process enables authors to benefit both from presenting their work at the Congress and from publishing it in prestigious IFAC journals through an accelerated review timeline. Once the policy is finalized, details will be posted on the Congress website.

Benchmark problems and Competitions: Benchmark problems will be posted on the Congress website. Anyone is welcome to participate by solving the posted problem and submitting a short discussion paper. The winners will be recognized by the organizing committee during the Congress. One confirmed benchmark problem so far is titled "Thermal Management Problem for Connected EVs", organized by Prof. Tielong Shen and collaborators from both academia and industry, including Toyota Motor Corporation, Hyundai Motor Company, and Hitachi Astemo. Competitions will also take place during the Congress, allowing the audience to watch the events live on-site. One confirmed competition program is the Mini Drone Competition, hosted by MathWorks. We still receive the proposals for benchmark problems and competitions.

Gala Dinner: The banquet will feature a live performance by a popular K-pop singer, turning the evening into a memorable dinner show. To make it feel like a mini concert, we are currently coordinating the singer's schedule with her TV commitments.

Calendar of IFAC Conferences

Title	Year	Place	Dates	Further Information
23rd IFAC Symposium on Automatic Control in Aerospace ACA 2025	2025	Harbin China	August 02 – 06	
17th IFAC Symposium on Large Scale Complex Systems: Theory and Applications LSS 2025	2025	Dublin Ireland	August 12 – 14	
16th IFAC Conference on Control Applications in Marine Systems, Robotics and Vehicles CAMS 2025	2025	Wuhan China	August 25 – 28	https://conferences.ifac-control.org/cams2025/
8th IFAC Conference on Sensing, Control and Automation Technologies for Agriculture AGRICONTROL 2025	2025	Davis, CA USA	August 27 – 29	https://agricontrol25.sf.ucdavis.edu/
15th IFAC Symposium on Intelligent Manufacturing Systems IMS 2025	2025	Koszalin Poland	September 11 – 12	ims2025.pl/
7th IFAC Symposium on Telematics Applications TA 2025	2025	Padova Italy	September 15 – 18	j3c.org/ info@j3c.org
1st IFAC Workshop on Engineering and Architectures of Automation Systems EAAS 2025	2025	Padova Italy	September 15 – 18	j3c.org/ info@j3c.org
7th IFAC Conference on Intelligent Control and Automation Sciences ICONS 2025	2025	Padova Italy	September 15 – 18	j3c.org/ info@j3c.org
5th IFAC Workshop on Thermodynamics Foundations of Mathematical Systems Theory TFMST 2025	2025	Hangzhou China	September 19 – 21	tfmst2025.net/#/ gaochou@zju.edu.cn
66th International Conference of Scandinavian Simulation Society SIMS 2025	2025	Stavanger Norway	September 23 – 24	nfea.no/arrangementter/sims-2025/ damiano.rotondo@uis.no
5th AACC Conference on Modeling, Estimation and Control MECC 2025	2025	Pittsburgh, PA USA	October 5 – 8	mecc2025.a2c2.org/
Optimization and Automation in Mining, Minerals and Metal Processing MMM 2025	2025	Lima Peru	October 5 – 8	conferences.ifac-control.org/mmm2025/ mmm2025@pucp.edu.pe

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: www.ifac-control.org/events/

Title	Year	Place	Dates	Further Information
IFAC Workshop on Control Aspects of Multi-Satellite Systems CAMSAT 2025	2025	Würzburg Germany	October 5 – 8	informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de/camsatfrankenberger@informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de
22nd INSTICC et al International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics ICINCO 2025	2025	Marbella Spain	October 20 – 22	icinco.scitevents.org/icinco.secretariat@insticc.org
16th INSTICC et al. International Workshop on Enterprise Integration, Interoperability and Networking EI2N 2025	2025	Marbella Spain	October 23 – 24	https://in4pl.scitevents.org/EI2N.aspx
6th INSTICC et al International Conference on Innovative Intelligent Industrial Production and Logistics IN4PL 2025	2025	Marbella Spain	October 23 – 24	https://in4pl.scitevents.org/
3rd IFAC Workshop on Control Methods for Water Resource Systems CMWRS 2025	2025	Douai France	November 6 – 7	https://conferences.ifac-control.org/cmws-imt-nord-europe/
1st IFAC Workshop on Blockchain Intelligence and Knowledge Automation BIKA 2025	2025	Macao China	November 8 – 9	
16th IFAC Symposium on Analysis, Design and Evaluation of Human -Machine Systems HMS 2025	2025	Beijing China	November 18 – 21	https://conferences.ifac-control.org/hms2025/
19th IFAC Workshop on Control Applications of Optimisation CAO 2025	2025	Krakow Poland	December 10 – 13	
13th IFAC Conference on Fractional Differentiation and its Applications ICFDA 2025	2025	Algiers Algeria	December 18 – 21	
Title	Year	Place	Dates	Further Information
AACC, IFAC, et al. Conference on American Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC)	2026	New Orleans, LA USA	May 25 – 29	acc2026.a2c2.org/
EUCA/IFAC Conference on European Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC)	2026	Reykjavik Iceland	July 7 – 10	https://ecc26.euca-ecc.org/ecc26@euca-ecc.org
23rd IFAC World Congress	2026	Busan, Republic of Korea	August 23–28	ifac2026.org ifac2026@ifac2026.org

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THE PORTAL GIVES ACCESS TO IFAC SERVICES:

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- Receive alerts about the IFAC Conferences in your field/s of interest



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- Be nominated to IFAC Awards.
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