

EDITOR'S UPDATES: JUNE 2021

Welcome to the June 2021 Edition of *IEEE Communications Standards Magazine*. This edition features the inaugural Special Issue in this magazine, the Special Issue on Ultra-low Latency and Reliable Communications for 6G Networks. It has been a great success with overwhelming responses from academia and industry. The Special Issue includes 16 articles, the largest number of articles ever published in a single edition of this magazine. Congratulations to the Editors, Shahid Mumtaz, Varun G. Menon, and Muhammad Ikram Ashraf, who introduce the articles in a separate editorial later.

In addition, two articles have been accepted from the Open Call that address hot topics in 5G systems from standards veterans.

The first article "5G Authentication and Key Management for Applications," is presented by a group of industry players in the 3GPP security working group. The article introduces an important security feature that has been standardized in Release 16, Authentication and Key Management for Applications (AKMA), which holds the promise to secure vertical applications by leveraging 3GPP credentials provisioned by network operators.

The title of the second article is "5G URLLC: Evolution of High-Performance Wireless Networking for Industrial Automation," which is also contributed from industry. It provides a holistic view of various URLLC features adopted in 3GPP 5G New Radio in support of industrial automation applications.

Apart from the peer-reviewed articles, an invited commentary, "IEEE SA Processes for International Standards," is included and penned by the President of the IEEE Standards Association (SA), James E. Matthews III. After reviewing the six principles outlined by the World Trade Organization for good regulatory practices in the development of interna-



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tional standards, it elaborates on the IEEE standardization processes and practices that fully comply with the six principles.

Last but not least, five short articles are included in the Standards News column, updating the standardization activities in the following standards development organizations (SDOs):

- Zigbee Alliance: re-branded as Connectivity Standards Alliance (CSA), with re-branded project "Matter"
- Bluetooth Special Interest Group: milestones and new initiatives
- ITU-R IMT-2020: IMT process and systems

beyond IMT-2020

- IEEE 802.11 Enhanced Data Privacy Task Group (802.11bi): User Privacy in Medium Access Control
- ITU-T Study Group 15 Question 13: Timing and Synchronization Network Performance

I would like to thank all the authors for submitting their papers to *IEEE Communications Standards Magazine*, and the peer reviewers for reviewing the manuscripts. Joseph Milizzo and Jennifer Porcello of the Communications Society staff have been limitless in their support of this publication. Glenn Parsons, the Founding EiC, has been helping pull together articles for the Commentary Column, and Carlos Cordeiro, the AEiC, has been handling the News Column.

BIOGRAPHY

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