

IEEE'S GLOBAL STANDARDIZATION MODEL

TYPES OF STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS

Standards developing organizations (SDOs) fall in several categories. One type centers around **geographic distinctions** (e.g., regional, national, and international standards bodies). These SDOs typically function under a nation-centric standardization approach where governments, or bodies closely coupled to government, set or mandate standards. Some examples include ISO, ITU and CEN/CENELEC.

Another main SDO category, formed in response to needs in our digital era, is distinguished by its **technical or industry focus**. Several professional and technical organizations function in this decentralized, pluralistic, and industry-led manner, and typically do not involve national representation, being thus exempt from state intervention. The IEEE Standards Association (IEEE SA) falls in this category, along with IETF and W3C, for example.

Because of its agility, this second category of globally open, industry-led standardization has become a key means to help create and expand markets in our quickly evolving, technology-driven world. Further, SDOs operating within this model have taken the lead in addressing serious challenges we face with respect to climate, energy, security, health, and well-being.



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IEEE SA embraces this global model which has become a vital component of the international standardization ecosystem, as it:

- **Enables rapid implementation and promotes innovation through its agility.** Because of its industry-led, globally open standards model, IEEE standards empower the rapid economic implementation of high-value, high-demand products and services, with societal benefits.
- **Facilitates broad collaboration among stakeholders from around the world and creates an environment in which companies can succeed worldwide.** IEEE SA provides equal access to standards setting, regardless of nationality or geopolitical constraints, thus contributing to a broadly representative standardization environment. IEEE SA processes facilitate direct, open participation, and embrace different perspectives and interests to reach common goals.
- **Prioritizes technical merit.** IEEE SA processes facilitate direct, open debate and participation to arrive at broadly accepted and interoperable standards based on technical merit.
- **Excels at embracing new participants and communities, especially in the context of the acceleration and convergence of technology, the emergence of new disruptive innovations, growing markets, and increased global challenges.** These factors bring needed new actors and bodies into the standardization arena to address rapidly evolving and changing dynamics in the standards ecosystem to ensure innovation and creativity for market growth and society's benefit.
- **Fosters cooperation in tackling global challenges.** SDOs operating within this model have taken the lead in addressing serious challenges we face with respect to climate, energy, security, health, and well-being.

IEEE SA has a unique position in the standardization landscape, as its standards development work resides within an organization of over 46 Technical Societies with approximately 400,000 members from around the globe, including from a broad spectrum of industry sectors. The structure of its standards development program draws both individual technical experts and entities to participate in standards development enabling cross-sector collaboration.

IEEE SA also coordinates with standards bodies around the world through membership and liaisons, or through formal agreements, which can have many purposes, including to facilitate partnering on joint efforts, promote adoption and/or distribution of standards in different regions or countries, encourage closer cooperation between organizations, and facilitate coordination and collaboration between technical communities.

ABOUT THE IEEE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION

The IEEE SA is a globally recognized standards-setting body within IEEE. We develop consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. IEEE SA has a portfolio of over 1,500 active standards and over 650 standards under development. IEEE standards are made available for implementation in products and services as needed by businesses and governmental bodies and many are foundational for entire ecosystems. IEEE standards are available to other SDOs for direct adoption at the international, regional, or national level.

This public policy communication was developed by the IEEE SA and represents the considered judgement of a group of IEEE members with expertise in the subject field. The statements taken by IEEE SA do not necessarily reflect the views of IEEE or its Organizational Units.

**GLOBAL, CONSENSUS
STANDARDS, DRIVEN
BY TECHNICAL MERIT,
ARE CREATED THROUGH
PROCESSES THAT
ENSURE DIRECT AND
OPEN PARTICIPATION,
WHICH IN TURN FOSTERS
INNOVATION.**

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IEEE STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

