



# MTT World

## The MTT-S Budget Committee—Balancing Income and Expenses

■ Dylan Williams

You may be wondering why I, as this year's IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) president-elect, am writing this short piece about the Budget Committee. It is because the MTT-S bylaws specify that the president-elect serves as chair of the Budget Committee. In fact, this is the only committee in the Society whose chair is not chosen by the president.

If you think about it, this makes perfect sense: the first job of the president-elect as chair of the Budget Committee is to develop the budget for his or her own term. Woe be unto the Budget Committee chair who does not take this job seriously, as that person must live with the consequences the following year during his or her term as president!

Developing the budget for the next year is a daunting task for the newly elected and generally ill-prepared chair of the Budget Committee. The new chair has only one year to understand the previous year's budget and plan the



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following year's budget—all the while ensuring that spending throughout the current year is tracked accurately, analyzing what is happening, and advising the Administrative Committee (AdCom) on the fiscal impact of proposed activities. Here, the standing Budget Committee quickly becomes the president-elect's best friend. The dedicated volunteers do much of the real work of the committee, from analyzing to preparing to tracking the complicated MTT-S budget.

Fortunately, the tradition is to pack the Budget Committee with real experts on the internal workings of the Society. These members are usually a mixture of past presidents, long-term members of the Budget Committee, and, most importantly, the treasurer and his or her two assistant treasurers. This year, I am lucky to have Alaa Abunjaileh as treasurer and Mohammad Madihian and Greg Lyons as assistant treasurers, as well as Mark

Gouker, Tim Lee, Nick Koliass, John Barr, Dick Sparks, and Sergio Pacheco as committee members.

The Society is a not-for-profit organization and seeks to serve our members as well as possible while balancing our income and expenses with a goal of achieving a net surplus close to zero each year (Table 1). With total expenses and income of close to US\$9 million, this is not an easy task. Even not-for-profits have a "business" side that cannot be ignored.

With the income our Society generates from conferences and publications, we support a plethora of committee activities,

**TABLE 1. MTT-S 2015 income and expenses.**

MTT-S 2015 Income	
Publications	US\$2,475,000
Meetings	US\$6,576,000
Total	US\$9,050,000
MTT-S 2015 Expenses	
Publications	US\$1,848,000
Meetings	US\$4,942,000
Administration	US\$762,000
Committees	US\$1,228,000
Other Projects	US\$243,000
Total	US\$9,028,000

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many of which are described in this issue of the magazine. In the structure of the Society, these committees sit under the AdCom. The Budget Committee must serve all of these committees equally, assisting with setting and tracking their budgets throughout the year. It is a very busy committee indeed!

This year is particularly challenging for the Budget Committee. Over the past decade, the Society has become

more engaged in a number of very exciting but sometimes costly new initiatives. As our spending has begun to overtake our earnings, as Table 1 shows, it is becoming more and more important to prioritize Society goals and objectives and to take the budget picture into account when doing this.

To address this, I have been working with the Budget Committee on instituting an increasingly transparent

and inclusive budgeting process that we hope will help all of our Society's committees to better set their priorities with the global budgetary constraints of the Society in mind. This promises to be most rewarding: working together with our energetic and dedicated volunteers on a jointly derived, transparent, and open budgeting process to make the MTT-S the best-run and most productive Society in the IEEE.

## The MTT-S Electronic Information Committee—Enhancing Communication

■ Joy Laskar

The past year has been an exciting time for the MTT-S Electronic Information Committee (EIC). As stated in the MTT-S bylaws, the EIC is responsible for developing electronic communications facilities and software for the benefit of MTT-S members and to increase administrative efficiency. The EIC is responsible for updating the MTT-S website and coordinating web access at AdCom meetings. Members of the EIC review AdCom operating procedures to find new opportunities for electronic enhancements.

The EIC has certainly taken this mission to heart: to modernize the MTT-S web presence and coordinate with all aspects of the Society to establish a strong foundation for all forms of electronic communications. The year 2015 was a year of implementing new platforms; in 2016, we are working hard to propagate our new platforms for as many MTT-S activities as possible with a focus on content curation.

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For the website development, the infrastructure aspects have been accomplished in partnership with Handmade Interactive and MTT-S volunteers. The EIC currently deals with a complex and fast-changing set of interfaces or venues, as will be briefly summarized here.

We now have an e-newsletter working group and will soon have an MTT-S website working group. Both will need dedicated volunteers to author blog articles and breaking news and keep our primary electronic

communications channel to the microwave community strong.

### The MTT-S Website

The content on [www.mtt.org](http://www.mtt.org) (see Figure 1) is led by our MTT-S webmaster. He or she gets input from each responsible AdCom subcommittee and coordinates publishing, updating, and content curation. The site was originally established as the vision of Past President Tim Lee and is currently in the very capable hands of Ryan Miyamoto. We recently completed a



Figure 1. The MTT-S website home page.