

4. Making the Most of your ISA Membership: ISA Automation & Technology Technical Divisions

By Graham Nasby

This article is part of a series of articles about taking advantage of the resources and opportunities that come with your ISA membership.

In last issue's column we gave an overview of the ISA's Industries and Sciences technical divisions. In this article we will be covering the second group of ISA technical divisions: The Automation and Technologies Divisions. ISA members have the option of joining two technical divisions (one in I&S and one in A&T) at no extra cost as part of their ISA membership. ISA members can also join additional divisions for a small annual fee.

Overall, the ISA has two groups of technical divisions. The first grouping is the "Industries and Sciences" department which hosts divisions is focused on the needs of specific industries. The second grouping is the "Automation and Technology" department which hosts divisions is based on individual technologies and technical aspects of automation.

Today's article provides an overview of the ISA's "Automation and Technology" divisions. Listed in alphabetical order, the divisions in the Automation & Technology Department are as follows:

- [Analysis Division](#)
- [Automatic Controls and Robotics Division](#)
- [Communications Division](#)
- [Management Division](#)
- [Process Measurement & Control Division](#)
- [Safety Division](#)
- [Test Measurement Division](#)

The **Analysis Division** contributes to the careers of professionals who are involved in every aspect of process stream and laboratory methods of analysis—from theory and development to application, training, calibration, and more. The analysis division's role at ISA is to facilitate program development, implementation and effectiveness through integrated

planning, measurement, evaluation and interventions; and to support your specialty; such as spectroscopy, chromatography, electrochemistry, and sample handling. The analysis division hosts the annual ISA Analysis Division Symposium.

The **Automatic Controls and Robotics Division (ACARD)** of ISA aims to address the control demands of complex systems by exchanging knowledge with leader's regarding new and innovative solutions that are relevant to industrial applications, geological processes, and principles and practices of automatic control.

This **Communications Division** is focused on the equipment, software, and protocols involved with transmitting, reporting, and processing of real-time data, including concepts relating to data acquisition, processing, storage and transmission, information theory, and industrial IT. The work includes data transmission to/between sensors and real-time computing/control systems via analog, serial, fieldbus, Ethernet, and wireless methods. In reality, this means the communications division is concerned with all the "magic" that makes it possible for control systems to work. The Communications Division hosts its own annual symposium and related wireless technology workshops.

The **Management Division's** mission is to support ISA membership, from all industry segments, who are involved (or having an interest) in management as it relates to instrumentation, systems and automation assets to help them compete more effectively both professionally and personally in today's global marketplace. It also provides an organizational structure and environment where members can develop their skills, knowledge, as well as, share their knowledge and experience with those currently in management or preparing for a future management role. The Management Division hosts the annual ISA Marketing and Sales Summit.

The **Process Measurement and Control Division** (also known as PMCD) is organized within the Automation and Technology Department of ISA. The primary goal of PMCD is to advance the interests and knowledge of its members. PMCD supports its nearly

6,000 members by operating Technical Committees, publishing an industry-specific newsletter and participating with other ISA divisions in technical symposia. PMCD focuses on primary sensors, control hardware and software, and final control elements. The Process Measurement and Control Division, along with the Test and Measurement Division, hosts the annual ISA International Instrumentation Symposium (IIS).

The **Safety and Security Division (SAFE)** is concerned with the safety and security aspects of automation, including the application of ISA84 and ISA99. It programs safety and security related sessions at ISA conferences, maintains a website, runs a listserv, and publishes a newsletter. Division also has the following subcommittees: Alarm Management, Burner Management Systems, Control Systems Security, Fire and Gas Protection and Detection Systems, Medical Safety, Nuclear Safety, Offshore Safety, Safety Field Equipment, Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS), and Safety Management.

The **Test and Measurement Division (TMD)** promotes the technical areas associated with measurements for tests including instrumentation and sensor development, application of instrumentation and measurements to test, calibration of instrumentation systems, accuracy of the instrument output, and design of instrumentation system data acquisition and processing architecture that turn the measurement or sensor output into knowledge of the test article's performance, operability, structural integrity, maintainability and functionality. Along with PMCD, the Test and Measurement Division hosts the annual ISA International Instrumentation Symposium (IIS).

Make sure to make use of the two free division memberships that come with ISA membership!

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