

currency USD
 Business Unit=0300 (Social Implications of Tech)

NAME	I N C O M E				E X P E N S E				N E T S U R P L U S (D E F I C I T)			
	YEAR TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE		Y E A R T O D A T E		Y E A R T O D A T E	
	ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INVESTMENT RETURNS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
PERIODICALS	174.7	158.3	115.0	96.0	76.9	85.9	78.7	81.4	29.1	-52.3	81.4	29.1
NEWSLETTERS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
NON PERIODICAL SALES	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.6	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4
MEETINGS/CONFERENCES	28.9	24.0	11.4	-8.2	27.9	7.8	37.1	-3.9	3.7	7.6	-3.9	3.7
GRANTS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ADMINISTRATION	0.0	0.0	0.0	86.2	64.6	64.7	-86.2	-64.6	-64.7	-0.1	-64.6	-64.7
COMMITTEE/OTHER	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.2	1.0	6.3	-0.4	-0.3	-5.8	-5.5	-0.3	-5.8
TOTAL	205.0	183.5	127.1	176.0	171.0	164.9	29.0	12.5	-37.8	-50.3	12.5	-37.8

To: Editorial Board, IEEE Technology and Society Magazine
From: Edward Woodhouse, STS Dept, Rensselaer, woodhouse@rpi.edu, 518-276-8506
Re: Proposal for special issue on Nanotechnology

No one well understands the long-term implications of sociotechnical phenomena emerging under the heading of nanotechnology – “the art and science of building complex, practical devices with atomic precision” with components measured in nanometers, billionths of a meter. But credible observers are beginning to depict plausible scenarios by which the structure of society a century from now might be barely recognizable – and the range of possibilities goes from positively evolutionary (Kurzweil 1999) to utterly dystopian (Joy 2000).

Some of the wildest possibilities were introduced in Eric Drexler’s 1986 science fiction novel, *Engines of Creation*, and nonfiction popularizations began with his 1991 *Unbounding the Future: The Nanotechnology Revolution*. An already-defunct, on-line magazine devoted to the subject, Nanozine.com, informed paying subscribers that “A push is well underway to invent devices that manufacture at almost no cost, by treating atoms discretely, like computers treat bits of information. This would allow automatic construction of consumer goods without traditional labor, like a Xerox machine produces unlimited copies without a human retyping the original information.” “Cheap raw atoms” will allow humanity to “reverse the damage of the industrial revolution,” according to Rice University’s nanotech director, Richard Smalley. Governmental reports on the subject sound only fractionally less “gee whiz.”

Meanwhile, serious analysis of nanotechnology decision making and its potential social impacts remains in short supply, and few of your readers have had an opportunity to obtain moderate, methodologically careful writing on the subject. I think there now are enough social scientists, applied ethicists, and other thoughtful observers of nanotechnology to put together a special issue that would provide just such a sober perspective. Dan Sarewitz of the Columbia University Center for Science, Policy, and Outcomes has agreed to contribute, and I expect a piece from management professor Lois Peters, leader of a Rensselaer Nanotechnology Center team examining “what nanotechnology will do to the socioeconomic fabric of everyday life.” In addition, I would of course put out a well publicized call for papers rather than relying just on my own network of scholars.

Part of the intention for the special issue would be simply to raise nanotechnology a bit higher on the technology-and-society agenda, to describe some of the realistic near-term innovation trajectories, and to assist readers in thinking somewhat dispassionately about longer-term possibilities, positive and negative. A more analytic aim will be to use the emerging nanotechnology (non?)controversy to take a fresh look at perennial issues: science journalism; public opinion about emerging technologies; barriers to timely public debate/choice before technological momentum sets in; public-interest science versus scientists/universities as an interest group; bending of innovation trajectories toward the ends espoused by funding sources; unequal distribution of the benefits of innovation; and many others. I am particularly interested in using the nanotechnology case to examine the prospects for bringing to bear a greater measure of deliberate democratic steering, and the barriers to such an aspiration.

New Editor Sought for T&S

The Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) seeks applications and nominations for the position of Editor of IEEE Technology and Society Magazine (T&S) for a two year term starting in September 2003. T&S is an award-winning magazine with circulation of over 3000, including more than 2000 members and affiliates of SSIT and approximately 800 research libraries. The scope of the magazine includes environmental, health and safety implications of technology; engineering ethics and professional responsibility; history of electrotechnology; technical expertise and public policy; and social issues related to energy, information technology and telecommunications. The magazine publishes both articles of general interest to SSIT members and readers, as well as refereed, scholarly papers. The Editor has ultimate responsibility for maintaining the quantity and quality of the editorial content of the magazine. SSIT also employs and provides the Editor with the services of a professional Managing Editor, who works with and assists the Editor on editorial matters, and who coordinates the production of the Magazine. The position of Editor is a voluntary, non-salaried position. To the extent possible, institutional support for the Editor's expenses is sought from the Editor's employer or academic institution. A modest expense budget is available, if necessary, to supplement such support. The editor is expected to attend at least two of the SSIT's Board of Governors meetings per year. Some financial support for this travel may be available. Questions, applications and nominations should be directed to: