

From the Vice President for Publications:

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The Business Model for JAIF

The *Journal for Advances in Information Fusion* (JAIF) was started following the announcement in 2002 at the International Conferences on Information Fusion (ICIF or FUSION Conference) in Annapolis, Maryland. Like every system start, it had a time delay, which in this case was more than anticipated. The first issue was published this year and a hard copy of it was distributed as part of the registration package at the FUSION Conference.

The plan was to have an on-line journal, which is what the ISIF flagship publication is. The primary credit for making this plan into reality goes to W. Dale Blair who, with his extensive experience as Editor-in-Chief of the *IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems*, managed to put together the publication mechanism and orchestrate, together with Robert Lynch and Mahendra Mallick, the operation of the Editorial Board consisting of seven Area Editors and eight Associate Editors.

However, there is more to it.

The business model for this journal, as decided by the ISIF Board of Directors, is, using the terminology from the time I used to be in control, “zero-high-zero”. This can be translated as follows: “no (input) fee for authors, no (output) fee for readers, only strict quality control (the transfer function—a high-pass filter)”. In other words, the journal, posted on the ISIF website, is open access to anyone and, unlike other free e-journals, it will not charge the authors any publication fee. Recently, I had the experience of having a paper published in an open access e-journal, but the fee we had to pay was US\$1,500.00 (this is not a typo).

The third part of the business model is to ensure the high standards of this flagship publication, as appropriate for an archival publication that is worth of this designation. While it is easier said than done, this requires a dedicated Editorial Board as well as reviewers, who can operate so that the manuscripts submitted are refereed by qualified reviewers and this should happen in a timely manner.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire Editorial Board (all volunteers) for their work and solicit additional volunteers for both editorial work as well as reviewers.

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