<u>Overview of IISE Technical Interest Groups</u>

IISE offers many ways to connect with other ISE professionals. One way is based on area of technical interest. The Technical Operations Board is responsible for supporting the ways in which ISE professionals connect. There are currently four means: Societies, Divisions, Technical Interest Groups, and Body of Knowledge.

What is a Technical Interest Group (TIG)?

The TIGs are a relatively new IISE offering. They were introduced as a means to initiate and test new networking groups without the formality and administrative burden of creating Divisions. This enables agility and responsiveness to trends in the marketplace and provides a means for members to connect on hot topics that may not fall within the domain of one of the existing Societies and Divisions. It's a failsafe way to find others who may have similar interests and create a community for sharing and networking.

How is a TIG different from a Division?

A TIG is different from a Division in many ways. From a leadership standpoint, a TIG has at least one person who can serve as the leader of the group on IISE Connect. Unlike a Society or a Division, a TIG does not have an elected board or any committees. From an operations standpoint, a TIG is required to produce far less content (e.g., Connect posts, newsletters, podcasts, webinars etc.) for members. A TIG may choose to facilitate a Track at the Annual Conference, but it's not required. Finally, a TIG is also not required to submit annual documentation, which is required for Societies and Divisions.

The key characteristics & expectations from a TIG are as follows:

- Have one leader or a small leadership team (non-elected) responsible for TIG operations with a 2-year commitment
- Maintain a IISE Connect group with at least 1 post/discussion thread every 2 months
- Have at least 4 membership interfaces/activities every year. Examples include:
  - Newsletters
  - Webinars/podcasts
  - Technical articles in ISE or Industrial Management Magazine
  - Contributions to ISE BoK
- Conduct a membership meeting annually (virtually or at one of the IISE Conferences)
- May choose to work with the Program Chairs to facilitate a Track at the IISE Annual Conference (not required)

How much does it cost to become a member of a TIG?

Membership in TIGs is free to all IISE members. IISE members can sign up for TIG through the membership portal at any time.

What is the process to start a new TIG?

If you'd like to start a new TIG, please submit an application to the Senior Vice-President of Technical Operations (https://www.iise.org/details.aspx?id=25652). The application should highlight the following:

- Name of the Proposed TIG (please ensure that the TIG name and its focus do not significantly overlap with existing Societies, Divisions, and TIGs: https://www.iise.org/details.aspx?id=928)
- Brief description of the TIG
- Brief motivation for initiating the TIG as a new standalone technical group (the proposed TIG should not be redundant with existing technical groups)
- Examples of proposed activities in Year 1
- Name(s) and brief biographies/resumes of TIG leader or leadership team members and confirmation of 2-year (minimum) commitment
- List of members (15 or 5X of leadership team, whichever is greater) that have committed to participating in the TIG

The application will be discussed and voted on by the Technical Operations Board, and the outcome, feedback, and next steps will be shared with the applicant.

What are the future pathways for a TIG?

Each TIG will be reviewed by the TOB, annually. A TIG that consistently provides value-added content and activities that support and promote members' interests resulting in a growing membership trend will have an option to transition to a Division after 3 years. Conversely, TIGs that do not demonstrate satisfactory activity for a year will be put on probation. If the activities are not back on track within this period, the TIG will be dissolved. The TIG leader/leadership team can also choose to dissolve the group if its intended purpose has been met by formally notifying the TOB.

Can a Division transition to a TIG?

TIGs can serve as way for Divisions that have declining interest or leadership to remain viable groups for members to interact. In Divisions with limited volunteer leadership, changing the Division to a TIG can remove a lot of administrative requirements and allow limited volunteer resources focus on the core of what provides value to members – networking and sharing knowledge. Signs that a Division may benefit from considering changing to a TIG include:

- Low score on the annual Technical Health Report
- Insufficient number of volunteer leaders to conduct a contested election for all positions on the board or "recycling" of past leaders
- Lack of board leadership
- Limited number of annual newsletters, webinars, podcasts and other value-added technical content
- Less than monthly presence/posting on the Division's Connect group
- Shortage of volunteer leaders to support the Track at the IISE Annual Conference
- Board meetings less frequently than every other month; minutes not published timely
- No committees working on special interest under the board

If you'd like to explore changing the status of your Division to a TIG, please contact your Division's Technical Vice President.