

# *Competitions*



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## Introduction

Competition programs are an integral part of STC's activities at the local, regional, and international levels. This section provides an overview of these programs. Each year, *Intercom* publishes specific information about that year's competitions.

STC sponsors a number of other programs designed to recognize outstanding chapter achievements, to confer fellow and associate fellow status, and to recognize individuals who have served their chapters with distinction. These programs are discussed in the Special Programs chapter of this handbook.

Individuals wishing to participate as judges in any of the competitions are encouraged to contact the international competition manager (listed in the *STC Administrative Directory*).

## Professional Achievement Competitions

There are four professional achievement competitions:

- ◆ International technical art competition (ITAC)
- ◆ International technical publications competition (ITPC)
- ◆ International online communication competition (IOCC)

These competitions are designed primarily to recognize outstanding efforts of individuals or teams. Added benefits include:

- ◆ establishing professional standards for our work
- ◆ providing visibility for the profession
- ◆ adding to chapter revenues to help sponsor activities
- ◆ creating leadership and volunteer opportunities
- ◆ providing a forum for sharing ideas and approaches to new technologies

The ITAC, ITPC, and IOCC are two-tier competitions. That is, chapters sponsor them at the local or regional level, and the winners advance to the international level. Both small and large chapters can successfully sponsor these competitions. They can be sponsored by a single chapter or a group of chapters that combine efforts. Early each summer, the Society office mails a packet of competition information to chapter presidents about the ITAC, ITPC, and IOCC. The packet contains

a cover letter from the assistant to the president for competitions that highlights important information and dates, as well as the current rules for each competition, the entry forms, and a sample call for entries. The *Competitions Handbook*, which has detailed information on conducting the competitions, is available from the Society office Web site at [www.stc-va.org](http://www.stc-va.org). Locate the *Competitions Handbook* by using the "Search" feature on the home page. Among other things, this handbook includes information on organizing responsibilities, promoting the competitions, recruiting and training judges, and planning recognition events.

In all four competitions, teams of experienced professionals judge the entries and return their evaluations to the submitters. International winners are displayed at STC's annual conference and become part of traveling exhibits that journey around the world.

To generate interest in sponsoring a competition, consider scheduling the traveling exhibits of international technical publications, art, video, and online communication winners for display at a chapter meeting or regional event. Contact the assistant to the president for competitions for exhibit information.

## Student Achievement Competitions

There are three student achievement competitions:

- ◆ International student technical writing competition (ISTWC)
- ◆ International science and engineering fair technical communication competition

### *International Student Technical Writing Competition*

The primary goal of the ISTWC is to encourage students in grades 10 through 12 to develop skills in technical writing. The contest is designed to:

- ◆ encourage objective and critical thinking
- ◆ prepare students for entering scientific and technical professions
- ◆ share with educators information about the role and importance of technical writing in society

The competition offers tremendous potential for the future growth of STC and increases the scope of recognition for the Society.

Information and guidelines for the competition are mailed to chapter presidents in early fall of each year. Chapters that sponsor the competition at the local level send their top winners to the international level. Prize money goes to winners at this level. Students may send their entries to the nearest chapter competition within their region.

### **International Science and Engineering Fair Technical Communication Competition**

This competition recognizes excellence in communicating technical information in the science and engineering projects submitted by high school students to the international science and engineering fair. The international science and engineering fair is not an STC-sponsored competition, but every year, STC participates in this joint professional endeavor by providing judges who evaluate the students' posters and technical reports. Prize money goes to the top winners. The fair is usually held in May. For more information, contact the competition manager listed in the *STC Administrative Directory*.

## **Chapter and SIG Achievement Competitions**

There are two chapter and SIG achievement competitions:

- ◆ STC newsletter competition
- ◆ STC public relations competition

### **STC Newsletter Competition**

This competition recognizes excellence in chapter and special interest group (SIG) newsletters in communicating news about and developing interest in STC at the chapter, SIG, and Society levels.

The competition manager mails a packet of information about the competition to chapter presidents each year in late summer or early fall.

### **STC Public Relations Competition**

This competition recognizes the effectiveness of a chapter's or SIG's public relations program in informing the public or members about activities.

The competition manager mails a packet of information about the competition to chapter presidents each year in late summer or early fall.

## **Resources**

Each competition has a manager, who is listed in the *STC Administrative Directory*. A call to this person will bring you help in abundance, including advice, contact information of experienced coordinators in other chapters, and answers to your questions.

STC's annual conference includes presentations, forums, and opportunities to share experiences and concerns with other competition individuals.

The following competition rules are available from the Society office Web site:

- ◆ *Rules for the STC Newsletter Competition* (AD-39-2000)
- ◆ *Rules for the STC Public Relations Competition* (AD-54-2000)
- ◆ *Rules for the International Student Technical Writing Competition* (AD-57-2000)
- ◆ *Rules for the Online Communication Competitions, Technical Art Competitions, and Technical Publications Competitions* (AD-94-99)
- ◆ *Rules for the International Science and Engineering Fair Technical Communication Competition* (AD-97-99)

Chapter presidents can expect to receive notifications of all competitions from the Society office or competition manager well in advance. Check your *Tieline* publication for announcements of mailings and for important competition deadlines.

Finally, the Society office Web site is a source for most of the competition information mentioned in this section—for example, competition rules and entry forms and the *Competitions Handbook*.

## Summary of Important Competition Dates

June	Receive survey from the STC office of chapters intending to sponsor the ITAC, ITPC, and IOCC competitions and request for contact information. (Results published in <i>Intercom</i> and on the Society office Web site.)
July	Receive packet of information from the STC office for the ITAC, ITPC, and IOCC.
August/ September	Receive packets of information about the STC newsletter competition, the STC public relations competition, and the international student technical writing competition.
October 15	Deadline for submitting the first of three issues for the STC newsletter competition to the competition manager.
January 10	Deadline for submitting second and third issues for STC newsletter competition to the competition manager.
January 15	Deadline for submitting local/regional winners in the ITAC, ITPC, IOCC, and international student technical writing competition to the international manager.
February 28	Deadline for submitting STC public relations competition entries to the competition manager.

