

IEEE SMCS Convenes 2025 Executive Workshop to Define Strategic AI Initiatives

On 15 February 2025, the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society (SMCS) convened its Artificial Intelligence (AI) Executive Workshop in Santa Monica, California, USA. Held at the Huntley Hotel upon the recommendation of SMCS President Adrian Stoica, the intensive, one-day workshop adopted a hybrid format, accommodating both in-person and online participation. The event was strategically scheduled to precede the SMCS Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting (Fig. 1).

Under the direction of Co-Chairs Robert Kozma and Fei-Yue Wang, with coordination by Yan Wan and Valeria Garai, the workshop's agenda was structured around presentations from 19 speakers. Discussions were concentrated on five pivotal domains:

- Strategic planning for academic conferences, with a particular focus on the forthcoming IEEE Conference on AI (IEEE CAI 2026) to be organized by the SMCS.
- The exploration of strategic technological dimensions of AI.
- The identification of key governmental and industrial stake-holders.
- The society's publication strategy.
- The societal impact and public perception of artificial intelligence.

Following the presentations, participants were organized into two focus groups to facilitate in-depth discussion and formulate concrete recommendations for each of the five core areas. These recommendations were subsequently presented to the SMCS Executive Committee on the following day. To ensure their implementation, the SMCS Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning, Foresight, and Strategic Initiatives, chaired by Fei-Yue Wang, has

been tasked with developing detailed short- and long-term action plans.

The workshop underscored the unique position of the SMCS at the nexus of human-machine interaction, grounded in the principles of cybernetics and systems science. A central objective articulated was the transformation of the society into a “digital and smart organization” by leveraging new AI technologies. This vision aims to enhance the society's capacity to advance research and professional exchange in areas including algorithmic intelligence, agentic intelligence, and autonomous intelligence.

The event featured a keynote address by Ashitey Trebi-Ollennu from Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), who spoke on the topic of autonomy. The roster of onsite speakers included Okay Kaynak, Ferat Sabin,

Ming Hou, Eddie Tunstel, Enrique Herrera-Viedma, Yo-Ping Huang, Vladik Kreinovich, Yan Wan, Shun-Feng Su, Maria-Pia Fanti, Mike Smith, Sam Kwong, Tadahiko Murata, Daoyi Dong, and Olga Kosheleva. Online presentations were delivered by Tiago Falk, Martha Takacs, and Charlie Yang.

A comprehensive report detailing the workshop's outcomes and subsequent activities is anticipated for future release.

Adopted from IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Magazine: “New Artificial Intelligence for IEEE SMCS: A Brief on 2025 AI Executive Workshop [Conference Reports]”.

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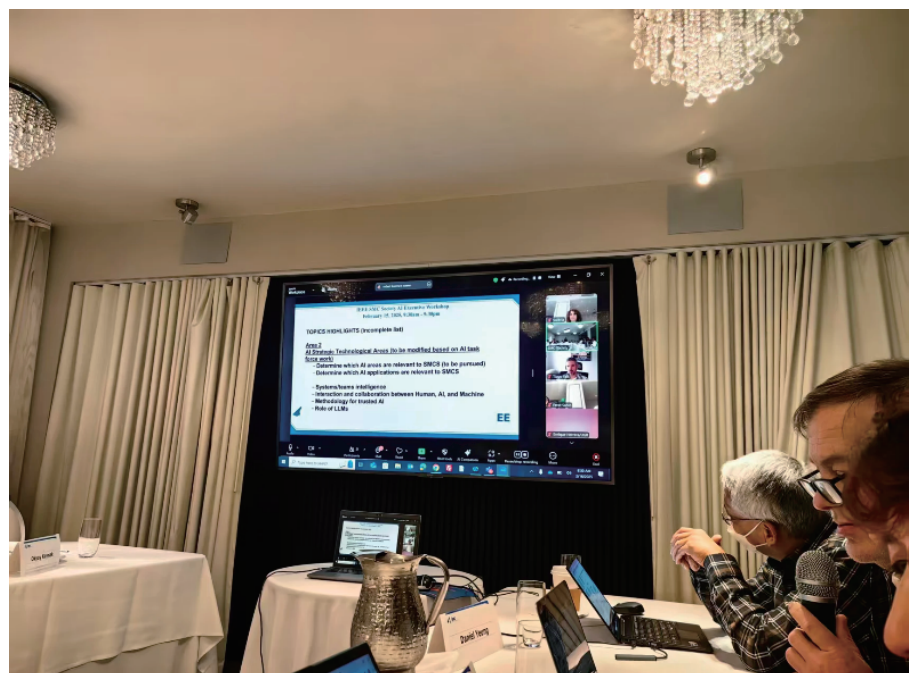


Fig. 1 IEEE SMCS 2025 AI Executive Workshop at Santa Monica, CA, USA.