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## AIEE Board Votes to Act On Consolidating with IRE

By MARC RAIZMAN  
Special to Electronic News

DETROIT.—First positive steps toward a possible merger of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Radio Engineers were climaxed Friday when the AIEE's 35-man board of directors voted unanimously to consider the consolidation.

The IRE's board had voted unanimously on Wednesday for the same resolution.

Steps in the proposed consolidation will include a report, by an eight-member committee composed of four members of each society which will report to the boards of both groups by Feb. 15 on a proposed constitution and bylaws, as well as "such other documents as counsel may recommend."

Upon approval of this committee's report by both boards, it will be submitted to a vote of the membership of AIEE and IRE by January, 1963.

"There are not two kinds of electrons; why should there be two societies dealing with that very same electron?" Mr. Haggerty asked.

Warren H. Chase, AIEE president and vice-president of the Ohio Bell Telephone Co., said that merger talks had been going on since January of this year, but that both organizations had for many years cooperated in a number of areas.

They had cooperated in technical conferences and special shows, he said. In engineering schools the students join one amalgamated chapter, not two.

Also in effect is a reciprocal membership agreement, in which there is no initiation fee for a member of one of the societies if he joins the other.

### Another Reason.

Chase pointed out another reason for the proposed merger. Industrialists are getting tired of taking their men to two different meetings dealing on the same subject. "And," he said, "this kind of duplication is only harmful but also waste."

The vote came at the end of a week-long Fall General Meeting held here.

The AIEE resolution called for appointment of four of its members to join with four members of IRE to undertake "such studies as they shall deem necessary and appropriate to determine the feasibility, practicability and form of such consolidation . . ."

The four AIEE members in the committee are Mr. Chase; Clarence Linder, immediate past president, AIEE, and group vice-president, General Electric Co., New York; Elgin B. Robertson, former president, AIEE, and president of Brown consultant firm, Dallas, Tex.; and B. Richard Teare, Jr., IRE director, Dean of the College of Engineering, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh.

On Wednesday, a similar resolution, identical in words except that IRE's name was used instead of AIEE's, was approved unanimously by IRE's 25 board members, according to Mr. Haggerty.

IRE's four members that will join AIEE's four members are Mr. Haggerty, Lloyd V. Berkner, IRE's president and president of the Graduate Research Center, Dallas, Tex.; Ronald L. McFarland, immediate past president, IRE, and a consultant, Boston, Mass., and Haradan Pratt, IRE's secretary, former IRE president and former president, American Cable and Radio Corp., New York.

### Merger Timetable.

The consolidation timetable, assuming that the proposal for merger is approved by both societies' membership, calls for the eight-man committee to make a report to the boards of both institutes "not later than Feb. 15, 1962" on a proposed constitution and bylaws and "such other documents as counsel may recommend."

If this report is approved by both boards, it will be submitted to a vote of the membership of AIEE and IRE by Jan. 1, 1963.

However, because of the complexity of the job that lies before them, Mr. Chase said they will be free to meet and consult with directors, officers and representatives of both societies and appoint subcommittees and task forces to handle the many phases of the proposed consolidation.

The committee will propose the name of the combined societies, will decide on staff, assets, publications, shows and other such activities.

AIEE has a permanent staff of 100 and IRE, 170. According to Messrs. Chase and Haggerty both staffs will be combined and kept. However, it was apparent that some positions will be eventually eliminated because of obvious duplication.

The staffs of both organizations will be told about the proposed merger at staff meetings scheduled for 9 a.m. today.

Key staff members were told Wednesday evening.

IRE has assets of \$4.5 million and AIEE about \$2 million. The assets of both institutes will be combined, Messrs. Chase and Haggerty said.

AIEE, which was planning to hold its first show during its winter

meeting scheduled for the last week in January, 1962, will carry out its plans and hold both the meeting and the show, Mr. Chase said.

Headquarters for the combined organizations will continue to be in New York, although the location has not been decided and will be something for the eight-man committee to decide.

AIEE's vote came at the close of the society's fall general meeting, held here last week.

The directors took 30 minutes to deliberate and vote on the resolution.

The approved resolution stated that the board of directors of both societies have deemed it advisable "to move actively toward consolidation of the activities of both organizations . . . by consolidation or otherwise, provided the legal and operational problems incident to such consolidation can be satisfactorily resolved."

### Largest Group.

The merged societies would form the largest engineering group in the world. IRE has 91,000 members, of which 17,000 are students; AIEE has 66,000 members, of which 11,000 are students. The combined membership would then be about 150,000. There are some 6,000 AIEE members who are also members of IRE. IRE has 111 sections in the United States, Canada and 12 other countries. AIEE has 117 sections in the United States and Canada.

The purpose of the merger as stated in the proposed resolutions voted by both boards of directors was that they had concluded that "the advancement of the theory and practice of electrical and radio engineering and the educational and scientific objectives of both institutes may be better served by merger or consolidation" into one organization in which all present members would be included and in which they would enjoy the same rights and privileges now conferred upon them by the separate organizations.

Electrical engineers connected with power activities will continue as members of the proposed society, it was stated.

Patrick E. Haggerty, president-elect of IRE and president of Texas Instruments, Inc., who made a flying trip here to present the official copy of the IRE resolution, said

the move was logical since "we have two professional groups dealing in the same profession and our purpose is to create a new society that is better than both of them."

"If you take a look at this AIEE Fall General Meeting program, you will find that two-thirds of the papers being read could be part of an IRE meeting," the IRE president-elect said.

Lloyd V. Berkner, IRE president, who originally had planned to come to Detroit for the occasion, could not make it because of illness in the family.