REPORT OF THE SOCIETY PROGRAM OVERSIGTH COMMITTEE
Submitted by; Rogelio Oliva (Chair). December, 2011.

As some of you know, I will become the Executive Editor of the SDR in a few weeks. Before accepting that responsibility, I agreed with David Lane (President) and George Richardson (VP Publications) that I would step down from my role of Chair of the SPOC. While my resignation is effective on December 31st, 2011, as of today, I've achieved most of the goals that I had set up for the year.

The following are the main activities performed since my appointment as Chair of SPOC in January 2011.

1. Identified, and obtained Policy Council approval, for the Chairs of the 2013 ISDS Conference (Bob Eberlein and Ignacio Martinez-Moyano).
2. Performed, with the 2010 Program Chairs, a formal evaluation of all the 2010 Thread and Thread Chairs and developed a series of recommendations for the SPOC and the incoming program chairs for changes to the Threads and Thread Chairs.
3. Assembled, with help from the 2011 Program Chairs, an updated list of Conference Threads and Thread Chairs. After the approval from the full SPOC, the new Thread Chairs were invited, and the full set of TCs is in place for the 2012 conference. Note that this is the first time such formal review of the TCs has been done and that the recommendations from the exiting program chairs have been transferred to the next program chairs.
4. Developed a set of guidelines for the ISDC Program Chairs. The guidelines, not only capture our current practices, but also document a process that, if executed, will ensure continuous improvement on the selection and management of the academic program committee. The document also reflects any outstanding issues or improvements ideas. The latest version of this document is attached -- this second version reflects the feedback I received from most of you as well as some of the lessons developed during the execution of activities 2 and 3 above.
5. Two of the outstanding issues are on the way to be resolved (see Guidelines document attached). The incoming chair of the SPOC needs to follow up on these and take steps to resolve some of the mid-term issues that have been identified.

I still believe that having a long-term Chair of the SPOC, as opposed to a rotating assignment of the exiting Program Chair, is the right decision. Knowing that I will have to go again through the process is what motivated me to document the process and to insure its improvability. I encourage the Presidents and VP of Publications to look for a substitute for this position. I will be happy to hand of all my files and notes to the next person appointed for this possition.

Thank you for all your help during this year. I look forward to receiving your support in the new role I will be soon assuming.

Rogelio Oliva