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***Multisensor, Multisource  
Information Fusion: Architectures,  
Algorithms, and Applications 2009***

**Belur V. Dasarathy**  
*Editor*

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## Introduction

This is our 13th consecutive offering in the ongoing series on multisensor, multisource information fusion with nearly 430 papers published thus far. As the title indicates, the scope of the conference includes fusion of information not only from multiple traditional sensors but also from other nontraditional data sources, and are spread across the three key facets of developments in the field, namely, architectures, algorithms, and applications. While the conference title remains constant, the sessions and their titles are redefined each year to better reflect the changing contents, which are driven by the evolving research and development activities in the community. Accordingly, this year, the presentations have been grouped into the following six sessions:

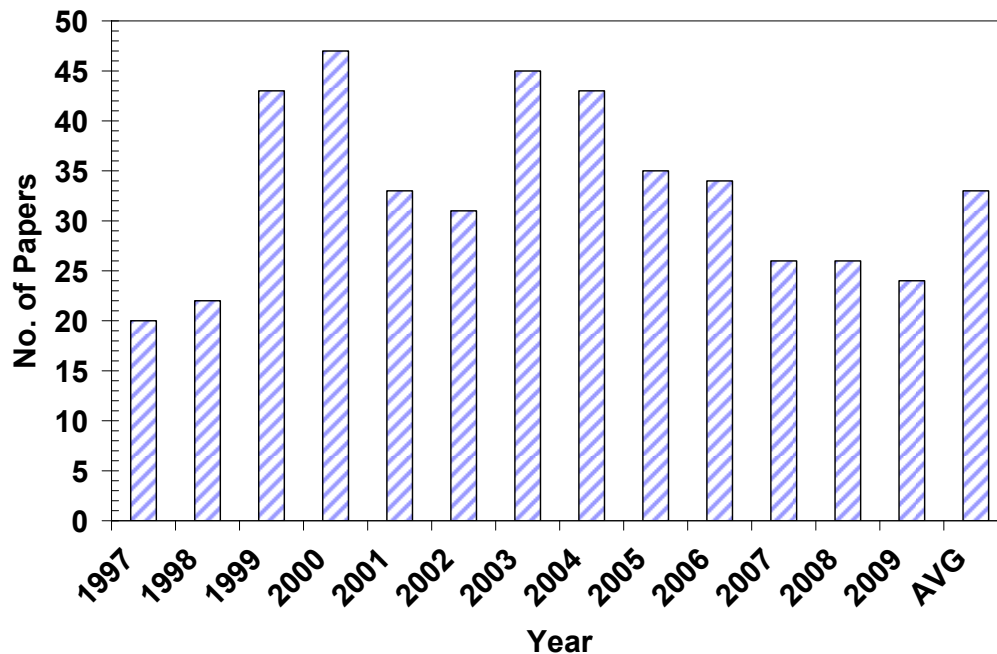
- Low-Level Fusion
- Networks
- Fusion System Architectures
- Applications I and II
- Miscellaneous Issues and Approaches

Following the traditions of the years past, and in contrast to the general policy of post-conference publication of the proceedings at most SPIE sister conferences, we along with the SPIE staff have worked hard to once again provide the printed proceedings on-site at the conference. This not only serves the purpose of rapid dissemination in print form of the most recent developments in this area but also helps in better understanding and appreciation of the oral presentations by the audience. Incidentally, it also complements the prime archival journal in this field, *Information Fusion*, which because of its dependence on formal and rigorous peer reviews is a more drawn-out process along the timeline. Another benefit, of this procedure of making the proceedings available on-site at the time of the conference, is that it enables better quality control over the presentations by limiting the program to those that have the full manuscript ready and thereby ensuring a more mature presentation. Occasionally, this process results in a culling of the initial submissions. While this decrease represents the downside of the process, we remain confident of its upside, namely, better quality control.

The international character of this conference is once again reflected, not only in the program committee, but also in the contents of the proceedings, which includes 24 papers from 6 countries (representing a significant reduction as compared to last year, perhaps a measure of the global economic downturn) Canada, China, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and, of course the United States. We plan to continue this series in the coming year and look forward to your participation, hopefully in greater numbers and depending upon the state of global politics and economy from a wider geographical background and at a higher level. Further details regarding the call for papers and schedule

for next year will be made available in due course on the Internet at SPIE ([www.spie.org](http://www.spie.org)) as well as on my home page (<http://belur.no-ip.com>).

Continuing our tradition, the size (and variations thereof) of these proceedings in terms of the number of papers offered under this series over the years is graphically illustrated below in Figure 1 to provide us with an introspective look at our performance over the years. The presentations this year is slightly below last year.



**Figure 1. Number of papers published over the years in this series**

Given the negative trend, It is critical that all of us who are interested in the continued success of this annual event to maximize our efforts for next year to ensure continued viability of the conference in the future. Towards this end, we welcome from the conference participants and the readership of this proceedings on ways to rejuvenate the growth of this conference and broaden its appeal in the coming years. Those interested in active participation, perhaps in terms of joining the program committee and/or develop special sessions for the next year should contact me at [fusion-consultant@ieee.org](mailto:fusion-consultant@ieee.org) as soon as possible (preferably by April 30, 2009).

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the authors for choosing this avenue for publication of their contributions. My thanks are also due to the members of our program committee and the session chairs for their

continued support. We would be amiss if we fail to recognize the efforts of the SPIE staff in making this possible in a timely fashion.

कायेन वाचा मनसेन्द्रियैर्वा  
बुध्यात्मनावा प्रकृते स्वभावात्  
करोमि यद्यत् सकलं परस्मै  
श्रीमन्नारायणायेति समर्पयामि

"kaayena vaachaa manasendriyaiirvaa  
budhyaatmanaavaa prakR^ite svabhaavaat  
karomi yadyat sakalaM parasmai  
shriiman naaraayaNaayeti samarpayaami"

*Be it with my body, or with my mind  
With words, or organs of any kind,  
With my intellect, or with my soul,  
Or by force of Nature pushing me to my goal,  
Whatever it is, with all these I do,  
Oh! Supreme Lord! I surrender to you.*

Wishing all of you a safe return journey

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