



Tips For Submitting Successful Abstracts

Before you start, there are some important premises to understand.

What the Spring Technical Forum Proceedings Are

This is a scientific journal: It serves as the industry's record of breakthrough advances in technology. It is a collection of ideas that are new, problem-solving in nature, and advance the underlying science of our business.

This is a reference archive: It is the industry's body of literature on the technical advances within the cable/telecommunications arena. Papers from the 1970s suggested the use of satellites to transport content to headends and the potential of HFC architecture to grow the network. Engineers have been known to keep this on the bench as a valuable reference guide.

This is a non-commercial journal and forum: The Spring Technical Forum is not primarily a venue to launch or even bring awareness to new brands/products. It is a venue for discussing new concepts, methods, and techniques. It focuses primarily on technical issues and in some cases, the business implications associated with advancing the underlying science.

What the Technical Forum Proceedings Are Not

A speaker submission: While it's true that accepted authors will present the highlights of their paper at one of many Spring Technical Forum sessions, the Conference Proceedings are first and foremost a technical journal. Proposals are evaluated to reference value and relevance to the advancement of the sciences. On a separate track, the Spring Technical Forum will include panel discussions with invited guests on issues surrounding the business of technology – but this is not that.

A Slide Deck: While successful authors may ultimately use a slide deck to present the highlight of their paper at the Cable Show, the Technical Papers series is a compilation of manuscripts -- not a compilation of slides or presentation outlines. Completed manuscripts will adhere to strict formatting guidelines.

Successful Proposals Have Key Qualities

When there's debate, it is usually around the technical merits of the abstract. The process says, the abstract must stand on its own and no judge will defend the rights of the "unborn abstract". If the material repeats the obvious or seeks to define a well known or well published standard, it is dismissed.

Successful proposals have these key qualities:

- Ideas that are NEW -- and do not restate well-known concepts or standards
- Reference value or archival value
- High science for an advanced audience
- Helps if it solves problems

Three most popular reasons for immediate dismissal:

- Too commercial – marketing pitch
- Where's the technology
- Nothing new here

Our Advice:

- Leave product names out -- especially logos. Judges will throw a paper out immediately that mentions product names repeatedly or reads like a marketing piece
- Write to the level of the audience/reader (technical journal)
- Discuss the specific science behind the product and do it in the abstract, don't allude to it.
- Address how this helps solve a problem