

## The Case for CAST

In this note, let's consider the **value of our membership** in the Computing and Systems Technology Division (CAST) of AIChE.

CAST is about **process systems engineering**. Its five divisions -- (a) Systems and Process Design (b) Systems and Process Control, (c) Computers in Operations and Information Processing, (d) Applied Mathematics and Numerical Methods, and (e) Information Technology -- provide focused content within the broad field of process systems engineering. What do we get personally?

First, the CAST community of practice attends to the **quality and value** of the fundamental science, the technology, and the software tools of our chosen trade.

Second, CAST sponsors a variety of means for keeping our professional skills sharp. There are **publications** that we read, submit to, and edit -- such as the *AIChE Journal*, *Computers and Chemical Engineering*, *Journal of Process Control*, and others. There are sessions at AIChE's Annual and Spring National **Meetings** and the other conferences CAST supports -- FOCAPO, FOCAPD, American Control Conference, DYCOPS, ADCHEM, IFAC-cosponsored meetings, and others. There are CAST-oriented programs in AIChE Local Section Meetings. And, our most recent initiative is the [CAST webinar](#) series -- **WebCASTs** -- that was started in 2004 to bring tutorials by world-class experts to your desktop and workplace.

Third, there are the many benefits of **collaboration**. There is the [CAST10 email list](#) which informs us of employment opportunities, conference announcements and calls for papers, webinar announcements, and other information of general interest to the profession. We review journal manuscripts and conference presentation records to sustain the quality and value of our communications. The five major CAST Awards -- to senior and junior members of our community and for contributions to the theory, practice, and education of our craft -- are given annually to recognize exceptional achievements and to encourage continuing professional contributions.

Fourth, CAST publicizes the contributions of the process systems community to AIChE, to our employers, and to other sponsors of our work including governmental grant-making organizations. The [CAST Communications newsletter](#) documents CAST activities during each year and provides survey articles of broad relevance to the CAST community. The [CAST website](#) is a **one-stop portal** for current information on all of CAST's activities and is a valuable resource for what's happening in the world-wide process systems engineering research community.

Finally, CAST is a supportive community of like-minded individuals that, at the end of the day after the competitive work of business and research is over, exists fundamentally for the benefit of its members. **The benefits are personal** -- colleagues and friends. The benefits are professional -- quality, skills, and value. Value to you is *The Case for CAST*.