

*Message from the TPC Chairs, 17th edition of COMSNETS.*

***COMSNETS: A Conference Bursting with Innovation!***

*Innovation is the lifeblood of progress, and COMSNETS thrives as a hub where creativity, inclusivity, and rigor converge to shape the future of technology.*

Welcome to the 17th edition of COMSNETS! This year, we have put together a technical program that continues to evolve with a mix of rigor, creativity, and global perspectives. We evaluated 193 submissions through a double-blind review process. After rigorous reviews, we accepted 26 papers for full-length presentations (*13.5% acceptance rate*) and 41 papers for short talks (*34.7% acceptance rate*). To make the process even smoother, we introduced the HotCRP system this year and also shepherded a subset of papers near the acceptance threshold, helping authors refine their work to meet our high standards. Our 150-member Technical Program Committee worked tirelessly to maintain the quality and depth you have come to expect at COMSNETS. Their dedication, alongside the efforts of the Steering Committee, General Co-Chairs, and Organizing Committee, has helped us create a program that we are truly proud of.

*Dual-Format Podium Talks:* This year, we added short podium talks to complement the full-length ones. Honestly, it felt like a natural evolution---we wanted to promote early-stage research, alongside the more mature contributions. The 26 full-length talks tackle complex problems with comprehensive solutions. Key areas include *Network Architecture & Operations* (9 talks), *Mobility & IoT* (5 talks), and *Machine Learning* (4 talks). These represent the kind of in-depth, impactful work you would expect from more seasoned researchers. In contrast, the 41 short talks are brimming with new ideas, albeit rough at the edges. Many come from undergraduate or early-career researchers and they delve into emerging technical areas. We have seen work on *Green Networking*, exploring energy-efficient strategies for sustainable designs---a topic that could not be more relevant. Other shorter talks explore adaptive strategies for Mobility & IoT and privacy-preserving mechanisms in Blockchain & Security, addressing real-world challenges in these growing fields. We also introduced a *shepherding process* for some short papers this year, and it has been a win-win! Authors got a chance to refine their ideas with feedback from experienced reviewers, and we got to feature more diverse topics and perspectives. Some of these ideas might even grow into full-length talks in the future.

*Invited Talks and Broader Themes:* We are especially excited about this year's invited talks, with speakers joining us from the United States, Japan, the Netherlands, and India. They are covering topics that push boundaries, like the Internet of Realities (IoR), which merges IoT, digital twins, and immersive technologies to connect physical and digital worlds. We will also hear about Starlink's low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite networks and how they are revolutionizing connectivity in remote and disaster-hit areas. Other talks explore the challenges of building large-scale AI infrastructure, innovations in cybersecurity for smart homes, and cutting-edge strategies for edge-cloud computing in cyber-physical systems.

*Undergraduate Contributions:* We are also shining a light on the contributions of undergraduate authors this year. These students brought fresh ideas to the table, tackling areas like policy-to-code automation with large language models, resource management for cloud-native environments, and reinforcement learning for VR networks.

As COMSNETS continues to evolve, bursting with events, participants, and groundbreaking ideas, we are both excited and overwhelmed by its vigor and rigor. We look forward to your participation and hope you enjoy all that COMSNETS 2025 has to offer via its technical program and beyond! We hope the technical program fills your intellectual backpack with exciting new topics, serving as an arsenal for emerging researchers and a sounding board for seasoned experts alike. *Every idea starts as a spark---let COMSNETS be the catalyst that turns your ideas into innovation that powers the human, cyber, and physical networks, one node at a time.*



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