



INTERNATIONAL MICROWAVE POWER INSTITUTE

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Slate of Nominees for IMPI Voting Board of Governors Election Announced, Candidate Statements and Voting Instructions Released

April 7, 2026 - The International Microwave Power Institute (IMPI), the leading global scientific organization dedicated to non-communication microwave and RF energy applications, is pleased to announce the Slate of Nominees for the 2026 Voting Board of Governors election. In accordance with the Institute's Bylaws, the term for the elected Voting Board Members shall be three years.

The five nominees for terms commencing on June 18, 2026, are: Mr. Ben Ballart, SAIREM; Dr. Ray Boxman, Tel Aviv University; Mr. John F. Gerling, Gerling Consulting Inc.; Dr. Sean McKeown, Graphic Packaging International and Mr. Roger Williams, 3D RF Energy Corp. IMPI's President, Mr. John F. Mastela, chaired the Nominating Committee.

"The exceptional slate of candidates for the IMPI Board of Governors reflects and underscores the Institutes' interdisciplinary approach to issues of science, engineering, technology and education. Their collective background adds to the rich history and legacy of IMPI as well as its future. Your input is valued, so please review the candidate's statements and cast your vote," Mastela said.

The election will take place during the Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 4:45 CT, at the Westin Hotel in New Orleans, LA, USA. The Annual Business Meeting is being held in conjunction with the 60th Annual Microwave Power Symposium (IMPI 60) taking place June 16 -18, 2026 at the same venue.

IMPI Members who are unable to join the Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, or prefer to cast their ballot electronically in advance of the meeting, [are encouraged to vote electronically](#), through 2:00pm ET on June 17th. All IMPI members in good standing may cast one ballot.

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The Candidate Statements are as follows:

“Reflecting on my statement from May 2023, I remain deeply committed to the belief that microwave power technologies hold the potential to revolutionize industrial efficiency and significantly reduce carbon emissions. While this field is often misunderstood within the broader industry, IMPI continues to play a vital role in bridging that knowledge gap and expanding the global reach of these technologies.

Over the past three years, it has been a privilege to witness—and contribute to—our collective progress toward these goals. I am eager to deepen my involvement and further support the organization’s mission. I believe serving as a voting member presents an ideal opportunity to help scale IMPI’s impact and advocate for the advancement of microwave power.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the organization’s continued growth in this new capacity.”

- Ben Ballart, SAIREM Corporation

“I was introduced to microwaves as a high-school student, when I obtained a ship’s radar endorsement to my commercial 1st class radiotelephone operator’s license. Admittedly, I have never seen a ship’s radar, but the license allowed me to work as an ‘engineer’ at a radio station during summers, which paid for a hunk of my university education in EE. Later, as a faculty member, I had a low-level interest in microwaves for decades, teaching courses in electromagnetic fields and wave transmission. That interest turned high-level, when my colleagues and I developed a window for microwave ovens based on thin films, that provided superior food visibility and microwave leakage shielding, compared to conventional windows with metallic grid shielding. And that development brought me to an IMPI symposium, where I felt welcomed both professionally and personally. It’s that sense of welcome and encouragement that I would like to preserve and strengthen if elected as a voting member of the IMPI Board of Governors.

In IMPI I have served for many years as a member of the symposium technical program committee, and as its chairman twice. I serve now as a corresponding member of the Board of Governors, where my “portfolio” has been bringing emerging technologies and applications to the attention of IMPI. I have also organized pages IMPI’s web site to explain microwaves to the general public. After Bob Schiffman’s passing, I re-organized and revised his popular short course, Microwave 101. And, I am organizing and editing a Microwave Processing Handbook. While the handbook is not an IMPI activity, it involves several of our members as authors, and will help newcomers enter our field.

If elected as a voting member on the Board of Governors, my special concerns will be strengthening the first “I” in IMPI, i.e. “international”, and using it as an instrument for IMPI’s growth, as well as continuing my interest in bringing emerging areas of microwave technology to IMPI.”

- Dr. Ray Boxman, Tel Aviv University

“Having been a member of IMPI since the 1980s, I believe I can bring a wealth of knowledge and background on IMPI’s past and present to share with other board members as we collectively steer IMPI for the future. I have served as Treasurer and President as well as Treasurer and Vice-President of the former ISMI section. Currently I am serving as IMPI’s interim bookkeeper. All of my involvement with IMPI has been tremendously rewarding and hope to continue serving IMPI as long as I remain active in our community.”

- John F. Gerling, Gerling Consulting, Inc.

“I am an R&D Manager at Graphic Packaging International, leading the development of microwave-interactive packaging for global food brands, and I have over a decade of experience in microwave-material interactions. Over the years, I have served in various roles at IMPI, first leading the twice-yearly webinar program, serving as chair of the Voting Board Nomination Committee, Secretary, and now Treasurer on the IMPI Executive Board. These roles have focused on both increasing the value of IMPI to our members and formalizing expectations for Board of Governors contributions, aligning board member participation with IMPI’s strategic priorities. If reelected as a Voting Board Member, I will continue to expand IMPI’s relevance to industry, particularly in packaging and food applications, bridge the gap between microwave science and commercial implementation, and increase opportunities for early-career professionals to learn and contribute to this field.”

- Dr. Sean McKeown, Graphic Packaging International

“I have invested a large part of my career developing solid-state power technology for industrial microwave applications and being an outspoken advocate for that technology. Although I am a member of other professional organizations, it is in IMPI that I find the community of professionals, researchers, and academics representing an incredibly diverse range of disciplines that intersect so well with the SSPA technology I am focused on. In the 13 years since first participating in an IMPI Symposium, I have stayed involved with IMPI—as presenter, instructor, exhibitor, technical program committee member, and a member of the Board of Governors. I am grateful for all the knowledge, insight, and friendships that this eclectic community has contributed to me, and I am committed to helping IMPI to grow and flourish in the next decade.”

- Mr. Roger Williams, 3D RF Energy Corp.