Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal

The Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal honors an individual who has contributed in an exceptional, dedicated way to the field of electrotechnology standardization, conformity assessment and related activities both at the national and international levels.

The selection of a recipient for this medal will be primarily based on the individual’s leadership accomplishments within the electrotechnology standardization and/or conformity assessment field via the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the U.S. National Committee of the IEC, and/or other such bodies.

Nominees shall have five or more years of involvement in such activities and shall meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The candidate played a major leadership role in the related technical area(s);
- The candidate made an outstanding technical contribution to the growth, development, promotion and improvement of electrotechnology standards and conformity assessment programs;
- The candidate was responsible for a related technical activity which had a significant impact on industry and/or commerce;
- The candidate has made a major contribution to the promotion of global electrotechnology standardization and conformity assessment programs in the business world;
- The candidate possesses a strong business ethic and is an extremely effective communicator, leader, contributor and worker.

Note: Only one Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal may be awarded per year. If, in the judgment of the Awards Committee, no candidates meet the eligibility requirements, an award may not be given. The Awards Committee reserves the right to present a nominee with an award other than the one for which he or she was nominated.
### Nominee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sonya Bird</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment Status</td>
<td>Please select Current Employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title*</td>
<td>12 Laboratory Drive, RTP, NC 27709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization*</td>
<td>Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>12 Laboratory Drive, RTP, NC 27709</td>
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<td>Telephone</td>
<td>919) 549-1685</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sonya.m.bird@ul.com">Sonya.m.bird@ul.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please include current information unless nominee is retired, then include most recent employer and job title.*

### Nomination Submitted by (Eligible Sponsor)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tony Zertuche</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Director, International Policy and General Secretary USNC/IEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>ANSI</td>
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<td>Business address</td>
<td>25 West 43rd Street, NY NY 10036</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tzertuche@ansi.org">tzertuche@ansi.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Nominations may be submitted by any member of the Institute; by members of any ANSI Board, committee council, or other group; or by the members of an ANSI-accredited standards body or certifier. Nominations submitted with the endorsement of an entire group will be considered accordingly.*
**Sponsor’s Statement of Authority**

This nomination is being submitted on behalf of:

Myself, as an individual sponsor *

*If submitting on behalf of an employer or organization, please indicate that organization’s name below:

**Electronic Signature**

☐ By checking the box shown at left, I confirm that I, my employer, or the organization that I represent qualify as an eligible sponsor as defined above. This mark constitutes my electronic signature endorsing the nomination contained herein.

**Statement of Availability**

☐ By checking the box shown at left, I confirm that I (or another person designated by me) will be available to participate in the presentation of awards during a formal (black-tie optional) banquet and ceremony on Wednesday evening, October 17, 2018, at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC, should the nominee identified on this form be selected.
### Personal Statement from the Sponsor

Please include a short, PERSONAL STATEMENT (suitable for quotation in the nominee's biography to the Awards Committee) explaining why you believe this candidate is deserving of the Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal. Please cite leadership characteristics and one or more specific accomplishments to support your statement.

I have had the privilege of working with Sonya Bird for over twenty years and have found her to be the consummate professional.

As Director of International Standards for Underwriters Laboratories, she is active in regional and international standards activities and leads their portfolio of international standards initiatives. She is also the USNC Vice-President Technical and, in this position, she chairs the USNC Technical Management Committee. She is also the US representative to the IEC Standards Management Board (SMB) and is co-convenor of IEC SMB ahG79 on Ethics for Artificial Intelligence.

As Vice President of UL’s Global Standards Organization and as past President of the US National Committee, I’ve had the unique opportunity to observe Sonya’s leadership internationally. She is well-respected internationally and has represented the USNC/IEC and UL with distinction.

Among the qualifications which the recipient of the Elihu Thompson Electrotechnical Medal should have is to make major contributions to the promotion of global electrotechnology standardization and there is no question that Sonya Bird has done this in a significant and meaningful way. She has represented the United States on the IEC Standardization Management Board, is serving as a vice president of the USNC, and has served as Secretary of TC 61 for a number of years.

In conclusion, Sonya Bird is well qualified to be the next recipient of the Elihu Thomson Electrotechnical medal.

### Summary of Professional Background

Please provide a 100- to 200-word SUMMARY of the nominee’s professional background, leadership accomplishments within the electrotechnology standards community and related conformity assessment activities (national, regional or international levels), contribution to the promotion of global electrotechnology standardization and conformity assessment programs, and other relevant factors supporting his or her eligibility for the Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal.

Sonya Bird is the Director - International Standards in the Global Standards Department of Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL). In this role, she leads UL’s international standards outreach and international harmonization activities.

Ms. Bird is active in regional and international standards activities. She is the USNC Vice-President Technical. In this position, she is the Chair of the USNC Technical Management Committee, and she is also the US representative to the IEC Standards Management Board (SMB). She is currently co-convenor of IEC SMB ahG79 on Ethics.
Sonya is active in ANSI, serving on the International Policy Committee (IPC), and the ANSI International Forum (AIF). Within the IPC, she actively participates in the China Task Group as well as the task force responsible for working on the ANSI/ESO cooperation principles. Sonya previously served as the Secretary of IEC TC 61 (household appliances). Previously, she served as Secretary of USTAG for IEC TC 69 (electric vehicles), and Secretary of the US e-TAG for IEC SMB SG#6 (Electrotechnology for Mobility).

Sonya has represented the US in delegations to the ISO General Assembly and COPANT, and she often participates in bilateral meetings on behalf of the US. She actively participated in the ANSI/SAC standards roundtable in Beijing in 2018.

A member of SES – The Society for Standards Professionals, she has served on the SES Board of Directors as President, Vice-President, and Membership Director and has also served as SES Conference Committee Chair and SES Membership Committee chair. She is also a long-time participant on the Executive Committee of CANENA (Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations of the Americas), where she previously served as Treasurer of the Council, and chair of the CANENA Audit Committee.

In recognition of outstanding leadership of IEC TC 61, Sonya was awarded the IEC Thomas A. Edison award during the 2013 IEC General Meeting. She was also named a 2011 ANSI Meritorious Service Award recipient, and has been recognized by SES as an SES Fellow. Most recently she received the SES/CSA Lorne K. Wagner Memorial Award. Sonya was also named a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Underwriters Laboratories in recognition of significant and sustained contributions to the fulfillment of UL’s public safety mission.

Letters of Support and Additional Information

Please include any additional relevant information of the nominee’s professional career. Letters of support from members of the standardization community attesting to the nominee’s outstanding achievements and appropriateness for receipt of the award are strongly encouraged (letters of support as well as a resume or curriculum vitae may be attached).

This serves as my letter of support. I have known Ms. Bird for the last 20+ years and have had the pleasure of working with her in both the UL Standards Division and the USNC over the last 4 years. I can attest to her work ethic...
and skills as a Standards Professional at UL, and within the USNC and IEC. Sonya has proven herself time and time again with each challenge presented to her. She is quick to volunteer for challenging assignments and always delivers quality work. Her service to the USNC as the TMC Chair and VP Technical, along with her committed service to the IEC SMB indicate her commitment to voluntary standardization within countries, regions and internationally. I strongly support Sonya as the recipient of the Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal and fully support the sponsorship provided by Mr. Tony Zertuche and Phil Piquiera.

Sincerely,

John M. Thompson, USNC President and UL VP International Standards Policy