



The 2019 IEEE MTT-S

International Microwave Symposium

2-7 June 2019 Boston, MA

**This is an important notification regarding unauthorized solicitations and scams to IMS exhibitors.**

### **Third Party Hotel and Promotional Listing Offers**

IMS has been notified that exhibitors are receiving solicitations from companies offering discounted IMS housing. The companies have names such as: Corporate Booking Services – CBS International, Convention Expo Travel, Convention Housing Services, Global Housing Expo and/or Exhibittravel.com, just to mention a few. These companies don't deliver what they promise and generally leave exhibitors with either substandard or no rooms and no exhibitors no ability to remedies or refunds. In order to avoid being taken advantage of please bear the following in mind:

- These companies have no connection with IMS or any MTT-S IEEE events.
- IMS2019 Official IMS Housing Bureau will open November/December 2018.
- Please be cautious when responding to unknown sources claiming to be an “official housing company”. **Experient, the official company that coordinates IMS housing, does not do outbound solicitation for rooms.**
- The safest approach is to not book with anyone other than the “Official” IMS Housing Bureau However, under any circumstance use due diligence when doing business with any solicitor.

### **Email or Mail List Solicitations**

Several solicitations for access to IMS attendee email and direct mail lists have been sent. The most active solicitor is a company called GainConference1. This is not a legitimate offer since the IMS participant list is property of the IEEE MTT-S and is never sold to exhibitors (through a list company or MP Associates, Inc.). MP Associates is the only organization authorized to make the list available to exhibitors, however, it is on a single use basis only. Sample names from the list they are promoting have been compared to both the actual attendee lists and the IEEE member lists and no matches have been found.

- GainConference1 has no connection with IMS or any MTT-S IEEE events.
- Global Expo List has no connection with IMS or any MTT-S IEEE events.
- MP Associates, Inc. is the only organization authorized to make the attendee list available to exhibitors.

The IEEE legal department has contacted GainConference1 (also operating as ACE Lists, Globaldatahouse.com) and demanded that they stop selling the lists. GainConference1 agreed to cease the sale of their list, however, we want to continue to make you aware in case of non-compliance.

**In the good news department – We're happy to report a victory!**

For years, we have warned against a scam perpetrated by a Slovakian company called Construct Data (operating as FairGuide or Expo Guide). In a recent court ruling, the FTC has shut down their ability to operate in the US and has effectively stopped this scam. You can read about in the [FTC press release](#).

It is unfortunate that the trade show industry has been targeted for rip-offs and with new wrinkles appearing all the time it is important to always remain cautious. If you have any concerns that an offer you receive may not be legitimate we strongly encourage you to send it to us. We can evaluate all offers and let you know if they are legitimate or not. If not, we will post a warning to all exhibitors.

**Please contact us if you have any questions during your planning:**

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