

IEEE ComSoc Technical Sub-Committee on Power Line Communications
Globecom 2005, Committee Meeting
Renaissance Grand Hotel St. Louis, November 29, 2005

Present: 10 (7 academia, 3 industry)

1. Inaki Berenguer	Columbia Univ.	ib@ee.columbia.edu
2. Romano Fantacci	Univ. of Firenze	fantacci@lenst.det.unifi.it
3. Robert Fish	Panasonic	robf@research.panasonic.com
4. Stefano Galli	Telcordia	sgalli@research.telcordia.com
5. James Won-Ki Hong	Postech	jwkhong@postech.ac.kr
6. Lutz Lampe	Univ. Brit. Columbia	lampe@ece.ubc.ca
7. Haniph Latchman	Univ. Of Florida	latchman@ufl.edu
8. Simone Morosi	Univ. Of Firenze	morosi@lenst.det.unifi.it
9. Takaya Yamazato	Univ. Nagoya	yamazato@ieee.org
10. Tadahiro Wada	Univ. Shizuoka	tetwada@ipc.shizuoka.ac.jp

Conference call: 4 (industry)

11. Brett Kilbourne	UPLC	brett.kilbourne@utc.org
12. Bruce Renz	Amperion	bruce@amperion.com
13. Michael Stelts	Panasonic	steltsm@research.panasonic.com
14. Aron Viner	Ambient	aviner@ambientcorp.com

Agenda (per 8 November 2005 email):

- 1) Welcome and introduction - Stefano Galli, Chair
- 2) Overview on current activities - Stefano Galli
 - JSAC special issue
 - Involvement in ICC and Globecom 2006
 - Sub-TC website
- 3) Report of standardization activities (P1901, P1775) - speaker TBD
- 4) Update on the organization of ISPLC'06 – Haniph Latchman
- 5) Involvement of the committee in future ICC and Globecom conferences - Stefano Galli
- 6) Consequences of the upgrading to full fledged TC, (should the IEEE Board of Governors confirm it - BoG will vote during Globecom)
- 7) Other issues brought up by members
- 8) Adjourn

Meeting Minutes

Stefano Galli called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Simone Morosi volunteered as secretary.

1) Chair Stefano Galli welcomed the group.

2) Chair Stefano Galli reported about the past and current activities

JSAC Specials Issue:

The call for the paper had a good success since 52 papers were submitted. After the review procedure, 16 papers were tentatively accepted: they have to be revised again in order to be finally published in the issue June 2006 of IEEE JSAC.

ICC and Globecom 2006:

Several Members of the IEEE ComSoc Technical Sub-Committee on Power Line Communications are in the ICC 2006 TPC. In the Call for Papers the issue of the PLC was not clearly indicated. Only 10 papers about PLC have been submitted. For what concerns Globecom 2006, the PLC topic is now clearly stated in the Call for Papers of the General Symposium. Advertisement for this starts after the submission deadline for ISPLC 2006 has passed in order not to interfere with the submission process for ISPLC 2006.

Sub-TC website:

Lutz Lampe has set up a website for TC-PLC: it can be visited at www.comsoc.org/bopl

3) Report on standardization activities

Brett Kilbourne, Bruce Renz, Mike Stelts and Aron Viner reported on the standardization activities (P1901, P1675, P1775) (see also the summary by Jim Mollenkopf, Standards Liaison, which is here attached).

The P1901 effort focuses on MAC-PHY issues, and will be developing detailed technical requirements in the coming months (including coexistence, access and interoperability).

The P1775 effort focuses on specific measurements issued associated with BPL emissions.

The P1675 group is focused on developing standards for equipment testing and installation and is chaired by Terry Burns.

Brett Kilbourne reported about coordination between 1901 and 1775 groups.

Bruce Renz mentioned that there is participation from Asia and Europe and that harmonization with e.g. IEC and ETSI is attempted.

James Hong asked whether documents (minutes etc) of these standardization groups are available. Bruce Renz responded that they should be available online; if not, the Chair should be contacted. Mike Stelts added that not all documents of P1901 are available to public.

Haniph Latchman asked whether membership to these groups is closed. Mike Stelts responded that that anybody can attend, but to obtain voting rights a membership fee must be paid. For access to all documents one would have to become member, which is still possible.

Bruce Renz added that the membership fee for P1901 is \$5000. Michael Stelts corrected that this fee applied for the first six month and that for the following six month a lower fee will be effective (not determined yet).

Stefano Galli mentioned that 28 entities are currently member of P1901.

4) Organization of ISPLC'06

By means of a .ppt presentation Haniph Latchman gave an update on the organization of ISPLC'06 (for a copy of the slides, contact Prof. Latchman).

At ICC in Korea the proposal for full sponsorship of ISPLC2006 was submitted to ComSoc. This proposal was approved a few months ago. Summary of history of ISPLC (see slides attached) and demographics of attendees. ISPLC 2006 is also technically co-sponsored by the Power Engineering Society (PES).

Proposals for panels are also solicited for ISPLC 2006. Hanip Latchman mentioned that possible panel areas are BPL access, in-home PLC, commandment control, utility applications.

Bruce Renz asked whether these topics are fixed. Haniph Latchman responded that we are open for further suggestions. Deadline is January 6.

Haniph Latchman continued that the website www.isplc.org links to all ISPLC conferences, and that www.isplc2006.org (= www.ieee-isplc.org) is the ISPLC 2006 conference website

Haniph Latchman went over the facts for ISPLC 2005 (attendees, budget, etc), and mentioned that ComSoc requires a 20 % surplus.

ISPLC2006 has 20 Technical Program Committee members and a ComSoc representative is the financial chair. Call for papers has been posted online at the conference website. EDAS is open for registration of papers; this should be done by Dec 2; full paper submission by Dec 11; Panel proposals until Jan 6. Purpose of pre-registration is to have an idea about how many papers will be eventually submitted.

Haniph Latchman continued that 150 paper submissions are expected and that ComSoc and IEEE wanted an acceptance rate below that of ISPLC 2005. ISPLC 2006 targets at 150 attendees.

Haniph Latchman continued with facts regarding tracks at ISPLC 2006, panels, keynotes, dates, etc..

Stefano Galli commented on the ComSoc technical committees endorsing ISPLC 2006: Multimedia Communications, Transmission and Access and Optical Systems, Radio Communications, Communication Theory, and our BPL subcommittee.

Aron Viner said that P1775 planned meeting before or after ISPLC2006 and that P1675 and P1901 would also be interested

Brett Kilbourne asked about paper submission details since deadline has changed. Haniph Latchman explained paper submission details. Stefano Galli commented that papers can be revised after acceptance along the lines of the reviewers' comments. Brett Kilbourne asked whether a revised version could be submitted during the review process. Stefano Galli responded that IEEE guidelines mandate that submitted papers can only be revised after acceptance.

Haniph Latchman added that all submission details are explained at the conference website.

Stefano Galli added that the website directly links to EDAS and that an EDAS account setup is simple.

Haniph Latchman continued with the ISPLC 2006 sponsorship program and that IEEE headquarters took over from ComSoc in helping organize ISPLC 2006 and that this causes some delays.

Stefano Galli asked about registration fees. Haniph Latchman responded that fees should be in the range of those from previous ISPLCs.

Lutz Lampe commented that fees should be different depending on attendee's status (student etc). Haniph Latchman responded that IEEE requires different fees, e.g. student discounts. Stefano Galli mentioned a recent proposal within ComSoc idea of bundling registration with a discounted ComSoc membership.

Haniph Latchman continued with sponsorship program and that sponsors will have the availability to display products. Stefano Galli asked about the deadline for exhibition proposals. Haniph Latchman responded that January 6 (panel proposal deadline) would be good.

Stefano Galli recommended that this information be added on the ISPLC 2006 website.

Rob Fish commented that CCNC will be the first ComSoc conference of the year 2006 and that this could be used to distribute a call for participation for ISPLC 2006. He also suggested that the PLC community organized a panel for CCNC 2007.

5) Involvement with ComSoc flagship conferences

Stefano Galli emphasized on the importance of being involved in ICC and Globecom conferences. Only 10 papers were submitted to ICC within the General Symposium, and that hopefully things will be better for Globecom 2006, where PLC will be explicitly mentioned in Call for Papers for the General Symposium. Advertisement for Globecom 2006 shall start in January 2006.

Stefano Galli continued that the committee should aim at an independent PLC symposium at Globecom, but that least 150 submitted papers would be needed. Globecom should be the second annual meeting of the PLC community, the first is ISPLC.

Haniph Latchman asked about submission dates for Globecom 2006. Stefano Galli responded that the deadline will be in the first week of March 2006.

6) Eventual upgrade to full fledged technical committee

Stefano Galli reported on the consequences of being approved a fully fledged technical committee.

Board of Governors (BoG) of ComSoc votes on this issues tomorrow (Nov 30).

Some bureaucracy will be necessary afterwards, like defining procedures, voting rights, etc.

BoG nominates the committee Chair for the first two years. After that we have to undergo open elections.

Details shall be discussed in March at ISPLC 2006.

As technical committee we can propose symposia for IEEE ComSoc conferences, endorse other conferences, not only ISPLC, could partner with other conferences, propose special issues, and some funding will be available to support meetings, awards etc.

7) Other issues

Haniph Latchman commented that people should start thinking about ISPLC 2007

Stefano Galli suggested that proposals to host ISPLC 2007 should be solicited in one month (December 2005).

Haniph Latchman reminded that a rotation was suggested. Stefano Galli confirmed that at the second meeting in Vancouver, the subcommittee voted to rotate continents and since ISPLC 2006 will be in the US, ISPLC 2007 should be in Europe or Asia. A decision should be made in March 2006.

8) Stefano Galli adjourned the meeting.

Action items:

1. Standards Liaison will attend meeting in January, report back.
3. Events Liaison will coordinate formation of one or more panels for ISPLC with Lutz Lampe.
4. Stefano Galli will circulate a request for availability to host ISPLC 2007.
5. Stefano Galli will report about approval as a fully fledged technical committee and the following actions to be done.

Meeting closed at 9:15 am.

FINAL DRAFT – Morosi.

Standards Report
IEEE PLC Technical Committee
November 2005

The following is a status update on several standards activities concerning BPL:

- 1) P1901 - The MAC/PHY effort was officially approved by the IEEE Standards Board on 4 June 2005. The Working Group is co-chaired by Jim Mollenkopf and Jean-Philippe Faure. P1901 operates as an entity standards development group, where all members are organizations instead of individuals. As of this date, 28 entities are members. The group has agreed use cases for in-home and access BPL, and will be developing detailed requirements in the coming months. Meetings are open to all (members and non-members), and the next meeting is January 12-13 in Las Vegas during CCNC 2006. More information can be found at the P1901 website at <http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/1901/index.html>
- 2) P1775 - The P1775 effort focuses on specific measurement issues associated with BPL emissions. This group is chaired by Aron Viner. This group has formed three task groups focused on immunity measurements methods, emissions measurements methods, and overall network description. The P1775 meeting will be January 11 in Las Vegas during CCNC 2006. Further information is available from the chair at aviner@ambientcorp.com
- 3) P1675 - P1675 is focused on developing standards for equipment testing and installation. This effort is chaired by Terry Burns. An initial draft has been produced, and is currently being reviewed and revised by the Working Group. The next P1675 meeting is scheduled for January 10 in Las Vegas during CCNC 2006.

Jim Mollenkopf
Standards Liaison
IEEE PLC Technical Committee