IEEE ComSoc Technical Committee on Power Line Communications

Globecom 2006, Committee Meeting

Stanford Court Hotel, San Francisco, November 29, 2006

Present: 13
1. Gerd Bumiller (conference call)
2. Stefano Galli
3. Luc Haumonte (conference call)
4. James Hong
5. Masaaki Katayama
6. Lutz Lampe
7. Haniph Latchman
8. Yong-Hwan Lee
9. Jim Mollenkopf
10. Richard Newman
11. Giovanni Pau
12. Andrea Tonello
13. Shinji Tsuzuki

Agenda (per November 24, 2006 email)

1) Welcome and introduction
2) Approval of previous meeting minutes
3) Overview on current activities
4) Report on progress of ISPLC 2007
5) Report on standardization activities
6) Presentation of the proposal to host ISPLC 2008 in Korea
7) Vote on venue for ISPLC 2008
8) Other issues brought up by members
9) Adjourn

<u>Meeting Minutes</u>

1) Chair Stefano Galli calls meeting to order at 2:10pm, reminds of agenda.

Lutz Lampe volunteered as secretary.

2) Approval of previous meeting minutes

H. Latchman moves. L. Lampe seconds

Motion approved with no opposition.

3) Overview of current activities

Globecom 2006:

S. Galli and L. Lampe reported that 18 papers have been submitted to the PLC track of Globecom's General Symposium, of which 7 have been accepted. 6 papers were presented at a regular session chaired by Andrea Tonello, 1 paper is presented at a poster session chaired by Richard Newman.

The TC agreed that Globecom should be the second venue for conference publication of PLC papers.

Access Nets 2007

S. Galli reported on an upcoming technical conference on access networks (Access Nets) in Ottawa in 2007 (http://www.accessnets.org/2007/). This conference is of interest to our TC as well as other TCs in ComSoc. Access Nets seeks technical co-sponsorship from ComSoc and the TC-PLC will support it.

Special Issues

EURASIP Journal on Applied Signal Processing (JASP) Specials Issue "Advanced Signal Processing and Computational Intelligence Techniques in PLC"

L. Lampe reported that the Call for Papers had a good success since 27 papers were submitted. The Guest Editors (Klaus Dostert, Halid Hrasnica, Lutz Lampe, Moises Ribeiro) are busy supervising the review process, which shall be finished by February 2007. The Special Issue is expected to have about 10 accepted papers. The issue will be published in the third quarter of 2007.

4) Report on progress of ISPLC 2007

A. Tonello and L. Lampe reported that 157 abstracts have been submitted to ISPLC 2007, and thus the number of expected paper submissions after the deadline December 11 is about 150. This is a record number of submissions for ISPLC. 42 TPC members have been recruited so far. Since the number of reviews to be provided by each TPC member should generally not exceed 10, a few more colleagues will be invited to join the TPC of ISPLC 2007.

It was agreed that the projected acceptance rate should be about 60 %, which is similar to those for ISPLC 2005 (68 %) and ISPLC 2006 (60 %). Both regular and poster sessions will be included in the technical program to accommodate all presentations.

H. Latchman inquired about the projected registration fees. It was agreed that the registration fees should be similar to those of previous years. S. Galli reported that Marco Raugi (ISPLC General Chair) still negotiates with the IEEE ComSoc on this issue.

5) Report on standardization activities

J. Mollenkopf reported on standardization progress.

The IEEE has three active BoPL standards efforts underway:

P1901 - Sponsored by ComSoc, this effort is aimed at developing a MAC/PHY standard. It operates under the IEEE Corporate Standards Program, where entities have voting rights rather than individuals. At present, 48 organizations are members of P1901. Much of the last 6 months work has focused on developing detailed technical requirements in 3 major clusters; Access, In-Home, and Coexistence. The group continues a heavy meeting schedule, meeting close to monthly for the next several months. The P1901 Website can be found at http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/1901/index.html

P1675 - This effort is focused on developing hardware test and installation standards, and is sponsored by the Power Engineering Society. A draft of the standard is nearing completion, and it is expected that this standard will go out to ballot sometime in the first half of 2007. This working group is sponsored by the Power Engineering Society.

P1775 - The P1775 Working Group is developing a standard for EMC test and measurement procedures for BPL equipment and installations. The Working Group has largely completed a draft standard and is refining it before a vote to accept the draft and move to the balloting process. It is expected the standard will be ready for voting on within the next two meetings. This working group is co-sponsored by the EMC Society and the Power Engineering Society.

It was agreed that collocated meetings of the P1901 and ISPLC, as during ISPLC 2005 and 2006, are beneficial for the PLC community.

6) Presentation of the proposal to host ISPLC 2008 in Korea

S. Galli reminds the attendees that two proposals to host ISPLC 2008 were originally submitted: one by Prof. Lee (Seoul National University) to host the conference in Korea, and one by Prof. Kavehrad (Penn State University) to host the conference in the USA. The proposal to host ISPLC 2008 in the US was withdrawn by Prof. Kavehrad in mid October. The Chair Stefano Galli expressed the appreciation of the TC-PLC to Prof. Kavehrad for making it easier for the committee to decide on the venue of ISPLC 2008.

Yong-Hwan Lee presented the proposal to host ISPLC 2008 in Korea. The presentation will be soon posted on the ISPLC website (www.isplc.org). The following comments and recommendation were made by the present TC members during the discussion.

1. ComSoc wants 25% surplus. It is the usual 20% plus an additional 5% as a flat fee for all their event management expenses. The percentage is calculated as the ratio between the surplus to the total expenses.

2. The presented preliminary budget accounts for $160k income and $130k expenses. Therefore, the ratio between the $30k surplus and the expenses is 30/130=23.1%. Although this is close to the 25% that ComSoc expects, it is not guaranteed that all the sponsorship that is accounted for in the budget will be realized.

3. Especially in light of 2), the forecasted OC (Organizing Committee) expenses of $45k are considered too high for a conference of the size of ISPLC and the organizers are urged to limit their expenses. Suggested measures to achieve the cost reduction are:
   a. Limit the number of OC people that go to ISPLC 2007 in Pisa;
   b. Have a member of the OC who presents a technical paper at ISPLC 2007 also present the announcement for ISPLC 2008; this was common practice for all the previous ISPLCs;
   c. Involve more volunteers for administration tasks, as it was common practice for all the previous ISPLCs.
   d. Delegate the IEEE to make most of the negotiations, phone calls, faxes with the hotel and other vendors (after all, they get 5% of the surplus to do so);
   e. Negotiate with the hotel a block of free rooms for the OC.

4. ComSoc <u>must</u> review and sign all contracts, e.g. for venue, catering, etc.

5. The negotiated hotel rate should be below $200. It would be desirable if this rate included breakfast.

6. Negotations with one or two airlines to obtain a discounted airfare for ISPLC 2008 attendees is encouraged.

7. A Call for Papers should be prepared by end of March to give ISPLC 2007 participants.

8. A Call for Sponsorship should be prepared by end of March to give ISPLC 2007 participants. This call should contain details about Platinum, Gold, Silver etc., banquet and/or lunch sponsorships, as well as the possibility of exhibiting products. Sample Call for Sponsorships will be sent to the OC.

9. The OC should work closely together with the ISPLC Steering Committee to complete the conference roles that are still TBD.

10. Possible dates for the conference are between March 23 and April 4, 2008.

7) Vote on venue of ISPLC 2008

Latchman moves to accept the proposal to host ISPLC 2008 in Korea. Katayama seconds.

Motion accepted unanimously by the 9 Active Members present.

8) Other issues

J. Mollenkopf suggested that the TC should endorse activities to inform other societies of issues in PLC, like for example of tutorials at PES events.

It was noted that PES has been technical co-sponsor of previous ISPLCs.

L. Lampe reported that the proceedings of all ISPLCs between 1997 (the first ISPLC) and 2003 are available online. The website can be reached at http://www.isplc.org

Since the proceedings of ISPLC 2005 and ISPLC 2006 are available through IEEEXplore, the proceedings of ISPLC 2004 are the only ones not posted online yet. Discussions with the ISPLC 2004 Chair, Alfredo Sanz, will be conducted to include these proceedings into the online data base.

8) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm

FINAL DRAFT – Lampe.