

IEEE Technical Committee on Power Line Communications

Meeting: ISPLC 2020 was scheduled for March 31 to April 3 in Málaga (Spain) but will be made fully virtually from 11-13 May due to COVID-19 pandemic. The TC-PLC meeting remains as originally scheduled.

Where: Virtually (using MS Teams) due to COVID-19 pandemic

When: 1 April. Beginning/end: 14:00 -16:55 (CET).

Attendees

#	Name	#	Name
1	Gerd Bumiller	7	José A. Cortés
2	Andrea Tonello	8	Han Vinck
3	Anil Mengi	9	Jian Song
4	Francisco J. Cañete	10	Peter Jensen
5	George Hallak	11	Markus Rindchen
6	Jean-Philippe Faure	12	Scott Willy

Agenda

1. Approval of the previous meeting minutes
2. Conferences activities
 - 2a. Report on ISPLC 2020 (José A. Cortés & Francisco J. Cañete)
 - 2b. Report on WSPLC 2019 (Adel Ghazel)
 - 2c. Report on Globecom 2019 (José A. Cortés)
 - 2d. Report on SmartGridComm 2019 (Jian Song)
 - 2e. Status of WSPLC 2020 (Gerd Bumiller)
 - 2f. Status of ISPLC 2021 (Gerd Bumiller)
3. Publication activities
 - 3a. PLC DocSearch update (Francisco J. Cañete)
4. Report on regulations and standardization activities (Markus Rindchen)
5. Ratification of the newly elected TC-PLC officers, term 2020-2022
6. Other TC-PLC matters
 - 6a. Report on the certification of TC-PLC & New P&Ps.
 - 6b. ANC report (Ralf Lehnert)
 - 6c. Update of ANC members
7. Discussion and decision on the future of ISPLC
8. Any other business

1. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

Minutes of TC-PLC meetings in ISPLC 2019 and SmartGridComm 2019 approved.

2. Conferences activities

2a. Report on ISPLC 2020

ISPLC 2020 was scheduled to be held in Málaga (Spain) from March 31 to April 3 but on March 4 it was postponed and will be made fully virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organizing committee and some TC members have been discussing with Stefano Bregni (ComSoc's VP of Conferences) the possibility of waiving the requisites of the no-show policy, given the particular circumstances caused by the pandemic. Efforts have been fruitless and IEEE has imposed that authors have to make, at least, a presentation with recorded audio made available to attendees.

The tentative date for the virtual conference is April 20-22, but the actual date is still undefined because:

- 1) The virtual platform for hosting the presentations is still under development by ComSoc IT. Also, the requisites of this platform from the patrons' perspective has to be defined.
- 2) New registration fees have to be defined.
- 3) Patrons conditions have to be renegotiated.

The main facts that motivated the postponement of ISPLC 2020 are described, along with the difficulty of dealing with IEEE bureaucracy and the extreme inflexibility of IEEE legal.

José A. Cortés thanks the ISPLC 2020 organizing committee, Riccardo Raheli and Francisco J. López (TPC co-chairs) and Mauro Tucci (publication chair) for their hard work and shows the main technical figures of ISPLC 2020 prepared by Riccardo Raheli:

<u>Regular technical sessions</u> -Submitted manuscripts: 41 -Accepted: 20 (48.78%) -Editorially rejected: 2 (4.87%) -Rejected: 16 (39.02%) -Pending: 3 (7.32%)	<u>Dissemination session</u> 5 submissions (one has been withdrawn) <u>Industry & Standardization session</u> 1 submission <u>Recent results session</u> 3 submissions
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It is highlighted that, out of the 44 TPC members, almost 39% were unreliable (did not provide their reviews or did it late) or not fully collaborative (declined reviews).

The organizing committee will organize a meeting with current patrons to discuss the new patronage conditions. G3-PLC and HD-PLC state their willingness to support the new event.

2b. Report on WSPLC 2019

Gerd Bumiller presents the report on WSPLC 2019 prepared by the Adel Ghazel (chair of the event). It took place in Hammamet (Tunisia) on 7-8 November 2019. It was a nice two-days event with 31 attendees (12 papers + 2 plenary talks + 17 non-authors).

2c. Report on Globecom 2019

José A. Cortés served as co-chair of the SAC - Access Networks/Systems & Power Line Communications- in Globecom 2019. The leading co-chair was Muhammad Zeeshan Shakir (University of the West of Scotland, UK). In summary:

Submissions: 19 (3 PLC –related), 2 out of scope.

Accepted: 6 (1 PLC-related)

2d. Report on SmartGridcomm 2019

SmartGridComm 2019 held in Beijing (China) October 21 – 23, 2019.

Conference structure: -Main tracks interleaved with workshops and tutorials in 3 days -4 keynotes, 4 tutorials, 5 workshops -UHVDC base visit	Main conference figures: -Submitted Papers: 172 -Accepted Papers: 85 -Two papers withdrawn after acceptance due to finance issues
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-Problems in organization:

- Two different systems caused endless troubles, strongly suggest to have IEEE local section/chapter involved
- The response time should be greatly reduced, paper withdraw
- No sponsorship even though planned long time ago
- No show issue

2e. Status of WSPLC 2020

Gerd Bumiller gives a brief report of the status. To be organized in Manheim by PPC in September 27-28 but it can be on March 2021, depending on ISPLC 2021.

2f. Status of ISPLC 2021

-Gerd Bumiller. ISPLC does not seem to be feasible anymore as stand-alone conference. Initially planned to do it as a symposium with SmartGridCom, but the latter has been postponed. There are ongoing conversations with Antonello Monti, organizer of the SmartGridComm 2021 in Aachen.

-Andrea Tonello. Until May we will not know what will happen to SmartGridCom 2020. Submission deadline has been delayed to May. Then they will decide whether to celebrate in Fall 2020 or delay it to 2021.

7. Discussion and decision on the future of ISPLC

There is agreement to address this matter now because of its relation to 2f. Alternatives for future ISPLC are discussed at length:

-Two problems for ISPLC organization: small community size and problems with IEEE bureaucracy. The second problem can also be solved by only technically sponsor by IEEE (not financially).

-The former problem can be addressed by embedding/collocating ISPLC within a larger conference. GLOBECOM does not seem good because the number of papers to be accepted is computed on a general basis and might be insufficient to gather the PLC community. Colocation (somehow) with SmartGridcomm seems the best option but this will likely require to continue being fully sponsored by IEEE.

- Even if collocated, ISPLC should try to keep our identity (web page, etc.).

-Antonello Monti, organizer of SmartGridComm 2021 accepts collocating ISPLC 2021, but it seems that it can be delayed because of the pandemic.

-Anil Mengi (Devolo) will be willing to help Antonello Monti in the organization of ISPLC 2021 if collocated with SmartGridComm 2021. Jean-Phillip Faure suggests the possibility of organizing it in Japan. Panasonic might be willing to organize it.

There is agreement on:

Gerd Bumiller (Chair) will contact Jean-Philippe and Anil regarding the organization of ISPLC 2021 and possibly 2022. He will also discuss with Antonello Monti the collocation with SmartGridComm for 2021.

3. Publication activities

3.a PLC DocSearch update

PLC DocSearch is working again hosted in a server at the University of Málaga. The new URL is: <http://www.plcdocsearch.uma.es/>

4. Report on regulations and standardization activities

IEEE 1901-2010 (Jean-Phillip Faure)

IEEE 1901-2010 revised to prevent it becoming inactive. Ammendment 1901.a added.

G3-PLC (Anil Mengi)

EMC standardization activity under CENELEC TC-210 WG11, "MIMO application for in-house PLC" discussing coexistence DSL and PLC. Expect to reach an agreement on limits for different bands. Mechanisms for coexistence: PLC modem will apply filtering if DLS is distorted.

Activity on G3-PLC TW-1 "Hybrid communication profile" Hybrid means radio and PLC. Certification process will be stablished for certifying this profile.

ITU-T G.hn (Anil Mengi and Markus Rindchen)

Ongoing work (under Q18) to extend it to Smart Grid communications. Interoperability is the current issue. No certification.

Q18 also dealing with VLC and G.hn2.

PRIME has also created task force working on broadband.

5. Ratification of newly elected TC-PLC officers, term 2020-2022

-Andrea Tonello. Call for candidates was made and existing officers were the only candidates. Active members voted in favour of them. Current officers are ratified with no opposition.

6. Other TC-PLC matters

6a. Report on the certification of TC-PLC

The TC-PLC has been recertified for 3 years. P&Ps have to be modified. We have a draft but we will wait before voting them on the TC to see how some requisites are interpreted by other TCs.

6b. ANC report

-Gerd Bumiller informs that the awardees of the TC-PLC awards have already been informed, but awards would be announced and given in the next face-to-face meeting.

6c. Update of ANC members

-Ralf Lenhert retires and Andrea Tonello will be willing to serve, but not as chair. According to our current P&Ps, we have the requested number of members.

8. Any other business

-A brief discussion on the most suitable dates for WSPLC, September 2020 or March 2021, begins. September 2020 is kept, by now, as the tentative date. The call for contributions will be sent this week.