IEEE ComSoc Technical Committee on Power Line Communications

Meeting, 26 October 2021

When: Meeting begins at 19:35 (CET). Duration is limited to a maximum of 1 hour and 25 minutes due to the constrained availability of the venue.

Where: ISPLC 2021 venue in Aachen (Germany)

Attendance

In person (12)

Gerd Bumiller (Chair)	Ralf Lehnert
Francisco J. Cañete	Anil Mengi
José A. Cortés (Secretary)	Alfredo Sanz
Javier Giménez	Ernst Siegler
George Hallak	Tomislav Drenski
Lutz Lampe	Scott Willy

Virtually (4)

Bamidele Adebisi (Vice Chair)	Cédric Lavenu
Shirley Cisneros (IEEE)	Thokozani Shongwe

Meeting opened by Gerd Bumiller.

Agenda

1. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

Approved

2. Conferences activities

2a. Report on ISPLC and SmartGridComm 2021

Ralf Lehner (TPC co-chair of the ISPLC 2021) reports on ISPLC 2021. Main figures are:

-TPC formed by 3 co-chairs and 27 members

-33 submissions (after 2 deadline extensions) of which 20 were accepted (60% ratio) – slightly higher acceptance ratio allowed because of COVID-19 pandemic

-59 registrants: 35 registrations in-person + 24 virtual

-Most authors and attendees from Europe (mainly from Germany). No one from Americas and one from Africa

-Two days' conference with single track, 5 technical sessions with 4 presentations, 1 recent results session with 3 presentations, 2 panels, 2 technical keynotes and 3 sponsor keynotes

-Co-located with SmartGridComm

George Hallak and Anil mention that SmartGridComm has also experience very low number of submissions and attendees.

A brief discussion begins regarding the low participation of members from Academia in the ISPLC and the difficulties for its continuity. While the hybrid model might be seen as a good solution for increasing attendees, the experience of ISPLC 2021 does not seem to support this.

2b. Status of WSPLC 2022

Gerd Bumiller reports on the status of WSPLC 2022. It will be host in Mannheim (Germany) by Power Plus Communications (PPC) on the 15-16 March 2022. The website is already on-line and important dates are:

-Abstract submission until: 10.01.2022

-Notification of acceptance: 21.01.2022

-Author registration: 11.02.2022

-Final short paper submission: 07.03.2022

-Online registration will be open from January 2022 until 3 days prior.

2c. Status of ISPLC 2022

Gerd Bumiller says no proposals have been received to organize ISPLC 2022. Many colleagues have been also sounded out but no one accepted.

Bamidele Adebisi informs that we will be willing to organize it in Manchester (again) if no proposals are received.

A discussion on possible dates goes on. It seems that doing it one year ahead is the best date.

Motion approved: ISPLC 2022 will be held in Manchester in Fall.

3. Publication activities

3a. PLC DocSearch update

Francisco J. Cañete informs that PLC Doc Search currently contains:

- 4575 entries
- All documents devoted to PLC corresponding to papers in IEEE Xplore up to 2021 and all papers of ISPLC (1997-2020)

4. Other TC-PLC matters

4a. Report on new P&Ps of the TC-PLC

José A. Cortés informs that the Technical Committee Board (TCB), which is the is the responsible for the oversight and promotion of ComSoc technical committees, obliges to update our Policies and Procedures (P&Ps). Most of the aspects of the P&Ps are already fixed by the TCB. Some of the most relevant changes with respect to our current P&Ps are:

-Only ComSoc members and affiliates (the latter is still to be confirmed) could be voting members of the TC-PLC

-Term of officers: 2-year terms. Max 2 terms. Max 6 years in any position

-Awards Subcommittee procedures:

> Awards need to be approved by the TEA Vice President (VP)

Overall, the new P&Ps introduce and additional bureaucracy overhead for small TC like the TC-PLC.

Gerd Bumiller informs that the current P&Ps of the TC-PLC have to be change before the new officers are elected.

4b. Voting/update of Nomination and Elections Committee.

The term of current officers ends in April next year. Our current P&Ps state that a Nomination and Election (N&E) committee has to be created to facilitate the election.

The N&E consists of the current officers (except those expressing willingness to be considered as possible candidate) and three Voting Members selected by the current TC officers. Gerd Bumiller, as TC-PLC chair, proposes Andrea Tonello, Lutz Lampe and Ralf Lehnert for the three voting members position of the N&E.

A motion is passed and approved supporting the proposed members.

4c. Call for volunteers for next TC-PLC officers.

Gerd Bumiller asks for volunteers for the upcoming election of TC-PLC officers.

4d. Report on ISPLC Steering Committee Charter

José A. Cortés informs that the Conference Council (CC), which is the responsible to manage conferences in ComSoc, obliges all conferences to have a Steering Committee (SC), whose role and functions must be defined in a SC Charter.

While the ISPLC already has a SC, the SC Charter defined by the CC is very detailed and introduces considerable overhead for small conferences like the ISPLC. Some critical aspects made in the SC Charter proposed by the CC are:

-All voting members of the committee shall be IEEE members and of ComSoc

-The SC reports to the ComSoc VP of Conferences

-Members: Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair and 4 members (our current SC consists of a Chair and 4 members)

4e. ISPLC and TP-PLC for the future.

While some aspects related to this item have already been discussed, an in-depth discussion seems to be required but is left for future TC-PLC meetings because we have to leave the venue.

5. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourns at 20:50.