

# SPCOM TC Annual Meeting Minutes

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Date: May 6, 2026

Location: ICASSP 2026

Chair: Mingyi Hong

Vice Chair: Tsung-Hui Chang

## 1. State of the TC

- TC membership remains at 30 total members: 28 regular members, 1 vice chair, and 1 chair.
- Members completing terms in 2025 included Rodrigo Morales, Ya-Feng Liu, and Jun Zhang after their second terms, and Ahmed Alkhateeb, Mark Eisen, Deniz Gunduz, Elvin Isufi, and Shang-Ho Tsai after their first terms.
- Re-elected members for 2026-2029 are An Liu, Kumar Vijay Mishra, Roula Nassif, Nir Shlezinger, and Christos Thrampoulidis.
- Newly elected members for 2026-2029 are Christopher Brinton, Zheng Chen, Ozlem Tugfe Demir, Dominic K.C. Ho, Yongwei Huang, Liang Liu, Angel Lozano, Yijie Mao, Ketan Rajawat, and Kaiming Shen.
- Waheed Bajwa completed his service as Past Chair. Urbashi Mitra stepped down as Chair.
- Mingyi Hong is serving as TC Chair for 2025-2027 and will transition to Past Chair in 2028.
- Tsung-Hui Chang was elected Vice Chair for 2026-2027 and is expected to transition to Chair for 2028-2029 and Past Chair in 2030.
- No leadership election is required in 2026.
- Six regular-member positions will be open in the 2027 membership cycle.
- Current demographics reported for the TC are 7 women and 23 men, 29 members from academia and 1 from non-academia, with regional distribution of North America 7, Europe 11, Middle East 2, and Asia-Pacific 10.

## 2. ICASSP and SPAWC Statistics

- ICASSP 2025 recorded 72 accepted papers out of 163 submissions, plus 2 journal papers, representing 2.3% of ICASSP.
- ICASSP 2026 recorded 140 accepted papers out of 329 submissions, plus 9 SPL papers, representing about 3% of ICASSP.
- SPAWC 2024 in Lucca reported 40 accepted papers out of 80 submissions and 152 attendees.

- SPAWC 2025 in Surrey reported 134 accepted papers out of 229 submissions and 233 attendees.

### **3. Nominations and Awards**

- The TC submitted Distinguished Lecturer and SPS-level award nominations for 2026.
- The Distinguished Lecturer nomination of Tareq Al-Naffouri was not successful.
- Society-level nominations included S. Unnikrishna Pillai for the Carl Friedrich Gauss Education Award, Fan Liu for the Pierre-Simon Laplace Early Career Technical Achievement Award, and Geert Leus for the Claude Shannon-Harry Nyquist Technical Achievement Award.
- The TC also reviewed paper-award nominations, including best paper and overview-paper candidates in wireless communications, localization, RIS/IRS, and joint radar-communications areas.
- A concern was noted that TC nominations were not successful in the previous award cycle.

### **4. Committee Assignments for 2026**

- Paper Awards Subcommittee: chaired by Nicolo Michelusi.
- Society Awards Subcommittee: chaired by Yik Chung-Wu.
- Nominations and Elections Subcommittee: chaired by Junil Choi.
- New Initiatives Subcommittee: chaired by Xin Wang.
- Special Issues and Special Sessions Subcommittee: chaired by Domenico Ciuonzo.
- Industry and Government Liaison Subcommittee: chaired by Kumar Vijay Mishra.
- Webpage Subcommittee: led by Yijie Mao.
- Bylaws and Procedures Subcommittee: chaired by Roula Nassif.

### **5. Upcoming Schedule for 2026**

- TC endorsement voting for SPAWC 2027 proposals is due by May 19, 2026.
- SPAWC 2026 paper reviews are due on May 23, 2026.
- Distinguished Lecturer and Distinguished Industry Speaker nominations are due to SPS on May 31, 2026.
- Best Paper and Young Author Best Paper review activities will run from May to June.
- Non-paper SPS award nominations and voting will run from June to August.
- Paper-award nominations, reviews, and voting will run from June to August.
- ICASSP 2027 reviewing will take place from September to November.
- Membership nominations and elections will take place from October to November.
- A call for SPAWC 2028 proposals will be issued.

## 6. SPAWC 2025 Report

- Geoffrey Li presented a summary of SPAWC 2025, which was held at the University of Surrey campus.
- The organizing team, keynotes, tutorials, panel discussion, and social program were reviewed.
- The conference received 229 valid submissions and accepted 134 papers, including 55 regular papers and 79 invited papers.
- SPAWC 2025 recorded 233 registrations from 26 countries.
- The conference was reported as successful overall.

## 7. SPAWC 2026 Update

- The organizers reported that preparations for SPAWC 2026 are on schedule and currently in the review stage.
- SPAWC 2026 will not include tutorials, mainly because of venue availability and cost constraints.
- The conference received 321 submissions: 181 for the main track and 140 for special sessions.
- A relatively large number of desk rejections were issued, mainly for out-of-scope or overlength submissions.
- At the time of the meeting, 280 papers were under review, with emergency-review time reserved to help secure three reviews per paper.
- Final decisions are planned for June 14, 2026, to allow sufficient travel-planning time for authors.
- Based on the previous year's acceptance ratio, the organizers estimated that accepted-paper counts could grow significantly, subject to review outcomes.
- A new show-and-tell session is being introduced this year in response to community interest.
- The technical program already includes five confirmed plenary speakers, with the possibility of one or two additional speakers.
- The venue is the Royal Olympic Hotel in Athens.
- Sponsorship remains a challenge, and organizers asked TC members to help identify potential industrial supporters.

## 8. SPAWC 2027 Proposal

- Emilio Calvanese Strinati presented the SPAWC 2027 proposal for Grenoble, France, with support from the local organizing team.
- The proposed conference dates are September 20-23, 2027.
- The proposed venue is in Grenoble at Minatec, with an auditorium capacity of more than 400 attendees.

- The welcome reception is planned at the conference venue, and the gala dinner is planned at a nearby castle with flexible capacity.
- The local PCO, Event Concept, was presented as an experienced conference organizer with prior support for major events in the region.
- The draft budget assumes approximately 50 kEUR in patronage.
- The organizers reported active sponsor discussions, including interest at platinum and gold levels, but requested clarification on sponsorship mechanics, contracts, booth arrangements, website availability, and approval timelines.
- Travel access was discussed: Grenoble is reachable via Lyon or Geneva airports, as well as by high-speed rail.
- Mingyi Hong noted that SPS approval, website setup, and related administrative questions would be followed up with SPS after the meeting.

## 9. Technical Working Group Updates

- Fan Liu reported on the ISAC Technical Working Group.
- The ISAC TWG, formally active since 2022, continues to organize webinars, SPS webinar series, special issues, workshops, tutorials, schools, and conference activities.
- Representative achievements included multiple special issues, including a JSAC special issue with more than 2,000 submissions, and continued activity in conferences, standardization, and community-building.
- The ISAC TWG plans for 2026 include support for IEEE ISAC 2026, a dedicated JSAC series on integrated sensing and communication, continued 3GPP engagement, and a new member election in November 2026.
- Andrew Zhang introduced the newly established LAWN Technical Working Group on Low-Altitude Wireless Networks.
- The LAWN TWG is intended to cover communication, sensing, control, and computing aspects of low-altitude wireless-network applications, with strong links to industry and regulation.
- The TWG starts with 15 founding members and emphasizes regional diversity across Europe, North America, and Asia-Pacific.
- Planned activities include a TWG website, seminar series, tutorials, workshops, special issues, student design challenges, summer schools, standardization engagement, white papers, and future open-source datasets.

## 10. Other Discussion Items

- The TC discussed the call for SPAWC 2028 proposals.
- A SPS-level suggestion to co-locate TC workshops with ICIP or SP Week was raised for discussion; no formal decision was recorded.
- Mingyi Hong invited suggestions for associate-editor recommendations for TSP and other SPS journals.

- The TC discussed visibility concerns, noting that while the absolute number of SPCOM-related submissions remains healthy, the TC's share of ICASSP submissions has declined as machine-learning areas have grown faster.
- Members discussed overlap with communications venues and journals, the perception that some communications papers may not fit traditional SPS expectations, and the need for better outreach and positioning.
- Possible actions mentioned included webinars, broader outreach, and clearer signaling that high-quality communications papers are welcome within SPCOM and related SPS venues.

## **11. Closing**

- The Chair thanked the presenters and attendees, including participants joining remotely.
- Slides were to be shared after the meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at the end of the discussion session.