

**IEEE SPS SPCOM Technical Committee Meeting  
at ICASSP, Brighton, UK, May 16, 2019**

**Meeting minutes**

**Attending TC members:** Joakim Jaldén (chair), Wei Yu (past chair), Yonina Eldar, Ali Tajer, Tareq Al-Naffouri, Mingyi Hong, Wing-Kin Ma, Osvaldo Simeone, Mathini Sellathurai, Dirk Slock, Markku Juntti, Ana Pérez-Neira, Waheed Bajwa

**TC members not present:** Emil Björnson, Danijela Cabric, Biao Chen, Philippe Ciblat, Bruno Clerckx, Laura Cottatellucci, Elisabeth De Carvalho, FeiFei Gao, Shi Jin, Yindi Jing, Lutz Lampe, Chandra Murthy, Tony Q. S. Quek, Christoph Studer, Vasanthan Raghavan, Byonghyo Shim, Meixia Tao.

**Non-TC members attending:** Erik Larsson (former TC chair), Zhengdao Wang (presenting SPAWC 2020 update), Luca Sanguinetti (presenting SPAWC 2021 proposal)

Minutes written by Wei Yu

1. A video “Science Behind WiFi” produced by the TC was shown at the beginning of the meeting.
2. Quorum was not met. No formal approval of the agenda was given.
3. Joakim Jaldén summarized the TC membership status (please see TC meeting slides)
  - a. New members were elected to the TC for 2019-2020 (see slides)
  - b. We now have better gender diversity, good geographic diversity, but less industrial representation in the current TC. We only have one industrial member.
4. Joakim Jaldén presented tentative TC subcommittees for 2019 (see slides)
5. Joakim Jaldén presented TC representation on IEEE SPS boards for 2019 (see slides)
  - a. Ana Pérez-Neira reported that the Long-range planning committee has focused on how to engage more new members for new activities. The SPS new members number has been either steady or slightly down
6. Joakim Jaldén presented awards nominations
  - a. For the past three years, our top choices for the Best Paper Award has been co-authors by a TC member, hence were not eligible for nomination by the TC.
  - b. The 2019 Best Paper Award was given to the TC’s top choice via public track
  - c. A second 2019 Best Paper Award was given to a paper identified in the scan review process
  - d. For the past two years, the Marconi award has been given to a paper co-authored by TC members.
7. Joakim Jaldén presented
  - a. ICASSP statistics
    - i. 4.1% of papers at ICASSP2019 are in SPCOM track. Our number is steady or slightly down, but the rest of ICASSP has grown significantly.
    - ii. There are several SPCOM related special sessions not counted in the statistics above: (a) Machine Learning for Communications, (b) Signal

Processing for Emerging Wireless Hardware Architectures, (c)  
Communications and Radar Transmission: Coexistence and Beyond

- b. SPAWC statistics has been excellent, both in term of number of papers and in financial terms. (see slides for details.)
- c. TC Tasks ahead. (see slides for details.)
8. Dirk Slock presented update from SPAWC 2019. (See separate slides.)
  - a. Location is Novotel in Cannes, within walking distance to beach front in the first week of July, one week before ISIT, which is high season. Same hotel as SPAWC 2006. Train/bus available for transportation; taxi is expensive.
  - b. Feature keynote speakers, thematic talks, no tutorials.
  - c. Large number of special sessions.
  - d. 245 submitted to regular sessions, 107 accepted. 44% acceptance.
  - e. Large number of special sessions with 93% acceptance rate.
  - f. Total 347 accepted papers – a significant increase as compared to past SPAWC.
  - g. Travel grants for U.S. participants via NSF.
  - h. Best student paper awards to be given to 3 papers out of 6 candidate papers.
9. Zhengdao Wang presented update for the Atlanta SPAWC 2020. (see slides)
  - a. Location changed to Legacy lodge on Lanier Islands, which is 1 hour drive from Atlanta in NE direction (1.5 hours from airport). There is no public transportation, but UberX is about \$60 for off-peak hours from airport. Hotel is cheaper than in the city: US\$159/night, which can be shared. There is a small town 10 minute drive from island with possibly more hotel options.
  - b. Dates changed to May 26-29, 2020 to avoid memorial day Monday. The conference starts on Tuesday. The technical program runs Wed-Thu-Fri. ICASSP is May 7. CTW is the week before in Canada.
  - c. Current plan is all-poster format, plus the keynotes.
  - d. Questions were raised on that the hotel rooms seem expensive for students, which could affect attendance. It was pointed out that students may share rooms. Other options are available for the small town nearby, but transportation needs to be arranged.
10. Luca Sanguinetti presented a proposal for SPAWC 2021.
  - a. Location: Lucca, Tuscany, Italy, close to Pisa, Florence, Siena. It is a small city, surrounded by 17<sup>th</sup> century wall, designed by Leonardo Da Vinci. Everything is within walking distance with no cars allowed in the city.
  - b. The organizers Luca Sanguinetti (University of Pisa), Emil Björnson, and Osvaldo Simeone have lots of past conference experience.
  - c. Conference organizing agency, called First Class, has been identified.
  - d. SPAWC talks will be organized by Angel Lozano. There are 6-12 invited talks, 25 minutes each.
  - e. Data Competition will be organized by Timothy O'Shea (DeepSig, USA).
  - f. The location is historically significant as it is close to the Coltano station built by Maconi in 1911 used for transmission to Ireland and Canada. Tour and historical talks are being arranged.
  - g. Pisa is a low-cost flight hub. Florence has direct connections to many European cities. Lucca is 0.5hr from Pisa, 1h20m from Florence.

- h. Venue: IMT Lucca, which is a school with PhD program in engineering, art, history, etc.
  - i. Dates are either May 25-28, or June 22-25, 2021
  - j. Registration fees are expected to be 475 Euro.
11. Markku Juntti presented a proposal for SPAWC 2021.
- a. Proposed location is Oulu, which has hosted European Wireless, ISWCS, etc. It is 50 minutes by flight from Helsinki, or Stockholm, served by three airlines. It is not far away from Arctic circle, with midnight sun in the summer.
  - b. The organizers, Markku Juntti, Antti Tölli, Mikko Valkama, are experienced.
  - c. Reception is at City Hall. The venue is at a Hotel.
  - d. Dates are June 28 – July 1, 2021, avoiding ICASSP/ICC/ISIT.
  - e. Conference banquet at a mansion with river view.
  - f. Industrial sponsorship possibilities are being sought.
  - g. Early registration fee is expected to be about 450 Euro.
12. Discussions on SPAWC
- a. Thematic talks seem to be popular. SPAWC 2020 is open to that.
  - b. Both Lucca and Oulu proposals are open to holding SPAWC in 2022, but Luca Sanguinetti will have organization responsibility for ICC 2023, and Mikko Valkama will have TPC co-chair responsibility for VTC2022.
  - c. Both proposals are strong.
13. Joakim Jaldén presented news from the Technical Directions Board
- a. Budget has been allowed to collecting and preserving data for SPS challenges.
  - b. Funds are available for young professionals., for student paper awards, or travel grants.
  - c. Efforts are made to unify and to merge EDICS.
14. Joakim Jaldén talked about the election process for 2019.
- a. There will be an unusually large number of openings: 17 in total (with 7 members in their second term).
  - b. We need strong nominations, while keeping gender diversity and geographic diversity in mind.
  - c. We need to make an effort to recruit industrial members. Young professionals should also be included, but there will be no imposed quota.
  - d. Merit should be evaluated with respect to the length of time after PhD.