

**IEEE SPS SPCOM Technical Committee Meeting  
Online via Zoom, May 18, 2020**

**Meeting minutes**

**Attending TC members:** Joakim Jaldén (chair), Osvaldo Simeone (vice chair), Tareq Al-Naffouri, Yindi Jing, Elisabeth De Carvalho, Itsik Bergel, David Morales, Emil Björnson, Laura Cottatellucci, Waheed Bajwa, Luca Sanguinetti, Markku Juntti Wing-Kin Ma, Mingyi Hong, Lutz Lampe, Lingjia Liu, Rodrigo C. de Lamare, Tsung-Hui Chang, Ya-Feng Liu, Dirk Slock, Shaofeng Zou

**TC members not present:** Christoph Studer, Yonina Eldar, Kuabin Huang, Danijela Cabric, Ana Pérez-Neira, Tony Q. S. Quek, Ali Tajer, Meixia Tao, Jun Zhang

**Non-TC members attending:** Geert Leus and Xin Wang (presenting the SPAWC 2022 proposal by Shanghai), Wei Yu, Antti Tolli (presenting the SPAWC 2022 proposal by Oulu), Tulai Adaly

Minutes written by Osvaldo Simeone

1. Joakim Jaldén discussed updates to the TC member list: new members, new vice-chair, re-elected members, existing members (see slides).
2. Quorum was met. Approval of the agenda was given.
3. Geert Leus presented a proposal for SPAWC 2022 (see slides)
  - a. Organizers have significant experience in organizing conferences (Zhi Tian, Xin Wang, Georgios Giannakis, Geert Leus, Shengli Zhou)
  - b. Significant local involvement
  - c. Benefits of location and favorable weather in May-June
  - d. Well-established venue (Crowne Plaza Shanghai Fudan) with significant space, rooms at \$100 night, and centrally located
  - e. Four-day schedule includes tutorials in the first day; keynotes, panel, and posters in the following days
  - f. Emphasis on machine learning and graph signal processing in addition to standard topics
  - g. Questions were raised on the date being in the following week to ICASSP 2022. Joakim Jaldén mentioned that papers not accepted for ICASSP may be submitted to SPAWC. Laura raised the issue of teaching. Xin Wang mentioned that the date could be postponed.
  - h. Luca Sanguinetti mentioned the problem of covering the cost of the venue, which appears to be big for a small workshop like SPAWC. Xin Wang says that it wouldn't be a problem.
  - i. Joakim Jaldén mentioned the possibility to include thematic talks. Geert Leus said that they could be included.
4. Markku Juntti presented Oulu's proposal for SPAWC 2022 (see slides)
  - a. Leadership in 5G and 6G, including flagship 6G project
  - b. Possibility for 5G and 6G demos

- c. Recent organization of events with similar size to SPAWC; experienced team (Markku Juntti, Antti Tolli, Mikko Valkama)
  - d. Easy to access via flights from Helsinki
  - e. Mild temperatures around 20 degrees at that time of the year with midnight sun – nice experience for many of the guests
  - f. First week of July – week after ISIT, which is also in Finland
  - g. Three-day program with tutorials in the first half of the first day; keynotes and poster technical session for two days and a half
  - h. Venue with rooms at 100 euros per night; central location, walking distance to city center; close to other hotels
  - i. Expected margin of 37%, but actual margin can be different depending on sponsorship and fees. The actual margin will likely be around 15%.
  - j. Joakim Jaldén asked about room space. Markku Juntti said that there are multiple rooms available.
  - k. Joakim Jaldén asked about possibly moving the date to avoid the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
  - l. Waheed Bajwa asked about plans for virtualizing the conference. Markku Juntti mentioned that the group has experience in running virtual events for the 6G summit.
  - m. Waheed Bajwa asked if there shouldn't be an option to attend remotely even if travel is allowed. Markku Juntti mentioned that discussions along these lines are ongoing in the context of the organization of other events too. It is a decision to be taken by the society.
5. Zhengdao Wang provided an update on SPAWC 2020 (see slides)
- a. He reviewed the organizing committee.
  - b. Dramatic drop in number of submissions, caused partly by the pandemic: 112 submitted papers to the workshop with acceptance rate 66%; 74 submitted to special sessions with 86% acceptance ratio; 6 SPL presentations, but 2 withdrew
  - c. Most papers with 3 reviews. Only one complaint was received for a paper with 6 conflicting reviews.
  - d. 3 plenary talks at the beginning of each day, followed by technical sessions
  - e. Event managed by Conference Catalyst, which also managed ICASSP. Plenary will be pre-recorded with live Q&A sessions
  - f. Joakim Jaldén suggested to consider zero-rate registrations in order to increase participation, also for future editions
6. Luca Sanguinetti presented an update on SPAWC 2021 (see slides)
- a. Based on result of a poll of SPCOM, the date was moved to May, two weeks before ICASSP 2021 (to be held in Canada)
  - b. The conference website is on line, which include deadlines, main dates, committee, call for paper, and program structure
  - c. Next steps were outlined, including invitation to speakers by the end of the year
  - d. Questions were raised about expectations on number of submissions due to uncertainties due to the current pandemic. A suggestion was made by Luca to postpone the conference to September in order to increase the likelihood of a physical event.

- e. Itsik Bergel suggested a mixed physical-virtual conference, but Luca pointed out the practical complications of organizing such an event.
  - f. Zhengdao Wang suggested to think about insuring.
- 7. Joakim Jaldén reviewed composition of TC (see slides)
  - a. 30 members with one industry representative
  - b. Not gender balanced
  - c. Fairly well distributed geographically
- 8. Joakim Jaldén discussed decreasing fraction of SPCOM papers submitted to ICASSP; most authors migrated to SPAWC (apart from this year) (see slides)
  - a. 30 members with one industry representative
  - b. Not gender balanced
  - c. Fairly well distributed geographically
- 9. Joakim Jaldén reviewed TC nominations, two of which were successful (see slides)
- 10. Joakim Jaldén reviewed next events (see slides)
- 11. Joakim Jaldén mentioned the need to form various subcommittees, most importantly the Marconi award subcommittee, Education award subcommittee and Newsletter subcommittee, asking for volunteers (see slides)
- 12. Tulai Adaly requested the TC's opinion about posting openly talks prepared for virtual conferences on-line. Emil Björnson raised concerns about leaving speakers control of their videos.