

**Minutes from the IEEE SPS SPCOM TC meeting
Florence, Italy, May 7, 2014 (at ICASSP)
notes taken by E. G. Larsson
approved by the TC at the ICASSP 2016 meeting**

Members attending: T. Davidson (chair), E.G. Larsson (vice chair), P. Ciblat, M. Dong, J. Jalden, A. Leshem, M. McKay, U. Mitra, C. Murthy, M. Rabbat, G. Scutari, M. Sellathurai, D. Slock, W. Utschick, S. Vorobyov, R. Zhang. **(16)**

Apologies for absence: B. Chen, C.-Y. Chi, S. Cui, F. Gao, K. Huang, S. Jin, D. J. Love, A. Sadek, M. Stojanovic, W. Su, C. Tepedelenlioglu, Z. Tian, X. Pengfei and S. Zhou. **(14)**

1. Call to order and chair's welcome.
2. Brief introduction of attendees.
3. The Chair extends a special welcome to the newly elected TC members: Biao Chen, Philippe Ciblat, Feifei Gao, Shi Jin, Chandra Murthy, Ahmed Sadek, Mathini Sellathurai, Weifeng Su, Cihan Tepedelenlioglu, and Pengfei Xia.
4. Highlights from the 2014 chair's report. (The report is incorporated to these minutes by reference.)

A vote of thanks to retiring members: Paolo Banelli, Syed Jafar, Eduard Jorswieck, Ye (Geoffrey) Li, Roberto Lopez-Valcarce, Zhi-Quan (Tom) Luo, Xiaoli Ma, Gerald Matz, Alejandro Ribeiro, and Wei Yu. Special thanks are offered to Tom, for his many years of service, including terms as Past-chair, Chair and Vice-Chair.

Membership statistics. Diversity is increasingly important, and the TC is improving in this regard.

Presentation of current TC subcommittees. More active delegation to the subcommittees is to be expected in the future. The chair and vice-chair are soliciting expressions of interest.

Update on the success of nominations. BPA -- successful. YABPA -- successful. SPLBPA -- successful. MBPA -- not successful.

U. Mitra serves on the Fourier award committee. The committee encourages nominations of "post-technical award but pre-medal" status candidates. The quality of the nomination package is important.

5. Update on ICASSP: ICASSP2014, has most SPCOM submissions since 2006.

We have a large reviewer pool - thanks to all for contributing, but we need to expand it. The candidates who were nominated for election last year but who were not elected, constitute a good pool. The chair will solicit recommendations from everyone to expand reviewer pool.

There was a discussion on the matter of review delegation. Currently, no delegation of reviews by TC members is possible in the review system -- that's the way the society runs the process (as decided by the conference board). There is a widely held concern among the TC members as to whether this no-delegation-policy serves the quality of the process well, mainly because of high workload of the committee members and owing to occasional assignment of outside-expertise papers. Informal delegation is technically possible in the system by cutting and pasting comments received from an external reviewer, but this procedure is cumbersome and the external reviewer then gets no official recognition for the work. Delegation of a review and adding a note about who did the review could be good possible compromise.

6. Update on GlobalSIP: At GlobalSIP 2014, 6 of 13 symposia will be in the SPCOM area.

There is a continuing discussion in SPS of requesting the TCs to migrate their workshops into symposia at GlobalSIP and this process is evolving. However, many in the SPCOM TC believe that our research community is better served by an independent workshop focussed on our area.

7. Information about SigPort (an arXiv-like preprint archive): this initiative is coming, but will be associated with a submission fee. Some TC members expressed concerns about the fee, mainly because of the administrative overhead that it incurs.
8. Information about conference papers -- the standardized paper format is progressing towards a 4 pages bread

text + 1 page references format.

9. Brief information about the SigView portal for video tutorials.
10. Brief information about new journals. Two new journals have been started in the SPS: IEEE Trans. Signal and Info. Processing over Networks, and IEEE Trans. Cognitive Comm. and Networks.
11. Brief information on new SPS awards. There will be an overview paper award and a sustained impact award.
12. Brief information on various community building projects: Wikipedia, SP cup, and SP grand challenges.
13. Update on SPAWC 2014: the Chair reports that there was a substantial drop in submissions as compared to 2013. A discussion followed. No single, particular contributing reason for this was identified, but one possible cause is that SPAWC 2014 overlaps with SAM 2014 (same week). When this overlap was discovered (at ICASSP 2013), the TC evaluated several strategies to avoid overlapping with SPAWC while trying to retain the connection to the North American Information Theory Summer School and to avoid overlapping with ICC 2014. In the end, the TC decided to stick with its original dates. The attendance at SPAWC suggests that avoiding the overlap with SAM should be a priority in the future. Early communication with the SAM TC is encouraged. This timing collision must not happen again.

A possibility to organize SPAWC biannually was mentioned. Yet another possibility to alternate SPAWC between a stand-alone workshop and a symposium integrated into GlobalSip was identified as a possible compromise.

14. SPAWC 2015. A proposal for SPAWC 2015 to be held in Stockholm was presented by TC member J. Jalden. Overall the proposal was very well received and several TC members expressed that the proposal is outstanding. The cost of the banquet was briefly discussed. The issue of honorarium to speakers was discussed. No honorarium should be given, but free registration may be offered---as in past years.

There was a discussion on the date, with three alternatives being considered : a) June 22-25; b) June 24-27 and c) June 29-July 2. The TC expresses a vague preference for alternative c) but all alternatives seem acceptable.

There was a formal vote on the proposal and all TC members present voted in favor. J. Jalden is entrusted to select the date, taking into account the TCs preferences and aspects of venue availabilities.

15. SPAWC 2016

The chair issued a call for expressions of interest in hosting SPAWC in 2016.

Organizers and chairs should coordinate with SAM TC to exclude the possibility of an overlap with SAM.

16. Information on elections procedure. In 2011 we introduced a cap on renewals.
17. Brief discussion on the paper awards nomination procedure. The scan review process generates a large list. There is also a desire to obtain nominations to the overview paper award, the sustained impact award, and the Marconi award.
18. The Chair gives a brief report from the TD board.
19. Closing remarks.

Summary of decisions:

1. The proposal for SPAWC 2015 in Stockholm was unanimously approved, with a date to be finally decided by the organizers.

Summary of action points:

1. All to consider presenting a proposal for SPAWC 2016 (should happen in the next 6 months)
2. All to propose names for the ICASSP reviewer pool to the Chair

Enclosures:

1. Report from the chair for 2013
2. SPAWC 2015 proposal