Minutes of SPCOM TC Meeting at ICASSP 2002, May 14, Orlando, Florida

In Attendance: Alle-Jan van der Veen (Chair), Ananthram Swami (minutes), P.P. Vaidyanathan, Xiang-Gen Xia, Ali Sayed, Zhi Ding, Jitendra Tugnait, Brian Sadler, Alexei Gorokhov, Geert Leus, Helmut Bolcskei, Sergio Barbarossa, Bjorn Ottersten, Javier Fonollosa, Nikos Sidiropoulos, Yingbo Hua, Mike Zoltowski, Dirk Slock, Lang Tong.

Absent: Ben Friedlander G. Tong Zhou, Luc Vandendorpe, Michail Tsatsanis, Naofal Al-Dhahir, Philippe Loubaton

1. *Agenda and Minutes of the May 2001* meeting were approved.

2. *TC Membership and Representation*

   (a) *Introduction of New Members:*
   Five new members were introduced (Bolcskei,Gorokhov, Hua, Leus, and Sayed); two new members were not in attendance and could not be introduced (Al-Dhahir and Friedlander).

   (b) *SPCOM-TC Representatives:*

Coordination of award nominations	Swami and Fonollosa
Maintaining pool of editors	Lang Tong
Maintaining web page	Tong Zhou
Technical Directions Committee	Van der Veen
Publications Board	Van der Veen
Conference Board	Swami
Education Committee	None (see below)
Multimedia Liaison	Zhi Ding
Communications Society Liaison	Helmut Bolcskei
Industry Links	None (see below)

   Javier Fonollosa, the TC Rep to the Education Committee, reported that the Education Committee no longer needs a SPCOM Rep.

   There was some discussion that the Industry Links Rep position should be eliminated, but the issue was shelved.

3. *SPCOM Webpage:* No new discussion. Thanks to G.Tong for maintaining the TC webpage, http://www.ece.gatech.edu/orgs/spcom. TC members are requested to check out the webpage.

4. *Pool of Associate Editors:*

   Guidelines are that potential AE's should be 5-6 years post-Ph.D., preferably tenured, with a strong publication record and research maturity. Lang Tong announced a list of four candidate AE's; of these, only one met the guidelines; but this candidate's expertise was not in the SPCOM EDICS area. Lang will call for fresh nominations by e-mail, and the TC will vote on them in summer. The list will be forwarded to the Editor-in Chief's (EIC) of SP Letters and Trans. SP.

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Alle-Jan's recent appointment as EIC of SP Letters was brought to the attention of the TC. The recent decision by the *Publications Board*, that the pool of reviewers for SPL be confined to the SPL AE's was discussed at some length, particularly with respect to the confidentiality of the review process. Some TC members opined that it should be mandatory for TC members to review (an unspecified) number of SPL submissions. One TC member stated that confidentiality may be an over-stressed issue, since some journals rely only on the AE's.

5. *IEEE & SPS Awards:*

Paper Awards: Swami reported that a total of 5 new nominations have been received for the Paper awards (1 for Young, 3 for Senior, 1 for Magazine). The idea of 'opening up the nominations' by advertising in the Transactions received some support. It was noted that SPMagazine had tried this route without success. It was generally felt that AE's may not be in the best position to recommend papers for awards, since the review process tends to be critical.

None of the TC's nominations for paper awards (Best Paper, and Magazine) last year were successful.

We will follow the same procedure as last year:

- Each TC member to nominate at least one paper by June 1.
- Swami & Fonollosa assign papers to reviewers (3 reviews per paper)
- Compiled summaries are distributed to the TC, and discussed via e-mail
- First vote: to rank the papers, reducing the number of candidates to a maximum of three per category (Best Paper, Young Author, Magazine).
- Second vote: to obtain maximal support for the final selection of the award candidates.

Society Awards: We have three candidates for Technical Achievement. PP indicated that he would nominate Don Johnson for the Society Award (Johnson has the unanimous support of the SPTM TC). Griffiths was mentioned as a potential candidate.

6. *SP-COM & related workshops:*

SPAWC-03 - Rome. Sergio Barbarossa reported that workshop planning is well under way: venue and dates (15-18 June) have been fixed; hotel prices have been negotiated; a conference management organization has been hired. Sergio presented a preliminary budget to the TC. His major concern was the impact of reduced student registration fees because of the inability to predict the number of student attendees. One idea was to limit reduced registration fees to presenting student authors only. A second idea was to charge full registration fees if none of the non-student co-authors of a paper registered for the workshop (as at CISS'02). The TC felt that the workshop planning was proceeding well.

SPAWC-04 - Portugal. We have an approved SPAWC'04 in Lisbon (Barosso). The TC briefly discussed whether to make SPAWC biennial or annual. Van der Veen will contact Barosso about the possibility of postponing SPAWC'04 to '05, but this would be Barosso's

decision. Questions regarding the specific location of SPAWC'04 (expensive-secluded-rural vs. inexpensive-urban) were referred back to the workshop organizers.

7. *Information & Discussion items:*

ICASSP'03 EDICS. Alle-Jan proposed a new EDICS structure for ICASSP'03, and solicited feedback both on the proposed scheme, as well as on the member's areas of expertise. EDICS for SP Transactions also need to be revised, and proposals were invited.

Student Paper Award at ICASSP: A proposal for this award had been made by Ali, and endorsed by several TC members. There was some discussion of the mechanics, but several issues remain unresolved. There was general approval of the idea, although details need to be worked out. Ali volunteered to take up this issue with Swindlehurst to get the input of the BoG.

Special Sessions for ICASSP'03: Alle-Jan indicated that September 15 is the deadline to propose special sessions for ICASSP. Proposals should be detailed. Papers in such sessions will be considered to be "invited" and will have a later deadline than that for contributed papers.

8. *Future Meetings:*

   - 1-8 Sept 2002: E-mail meeting to vote on paper and society awards.
   - 1-8 Dec 2002: E-mail meeting to elect new TC members
   - 6-10 April 2003: Face-to-face TC meeting at ICASSP'03, Hong Kong
   - 15-18 June 2003: Face-to-face TC meeting at SPAWC'03, Rome.

9. *Action Item:*

   - Propose potential AE's for SPL and TSP to Lang Tong
   - Provide feedback to Alle-Jan on proposed EDICS for ICASSP'03, and indicate areas of expertise (for review of ICASSP papers).

The meeting adjourned at 13:00.