

IEEE ComSoc Technical Committee on Power Line Communications

Meeting, 4 May 2022

When: Meeting begins at 16:00 (CET).

Where: Google Meet (Virtual)

Attendance (10)

Gerd Bumiller (Chair)	Pascal Lorenz
Bamidele Adebissi (Vice-Chair)	Roberto Rojas-Cessa
José A. Cortés (Secretary)	Anil Mengi
Markus Rindchen	Ralf Lehnert
Scott Willy	
Gautham Prasad	

Meeting opened by Gerd Bumiller.

Agenda

1. Approval of the previous meeting minutes (attached)

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

2. Ratification of elected officers

Gerd Bumiller summarizes the election process and the results:

Chair: José Antonio Cortés Arrabal, University of Málaga (Spain),

Vice-Chair: Cédric Lavenu, EDF – R&D (France)

Secretary: Thokozani Shongwe, University of Johannesburg (South Africa)

Once the results have been approved by the Director of TC and the Vice-President of the Technical and Educational Activities (VP-TEA), they have to be ratified by the TC-PLC. A motion is passed to ratify the elected officers and is unanimously approved.

José A. Cortés thanks Gerd Bumiller for the work during these years as Chair of the TC-PLC.

3. Motion for Policies and Procedures (P&P) Update

José A. Cortés indicates that updating of the P&Ps is requested by the TEA Council and the Director of Technical Committees (TC). The process started in 2018. The main changes with respect to the P&Ps in force are summarized (see slides).

José A. Cortés highlights that there have been some last minute changes with respect to the version sent by e-mail last week (see text in red in the slides). These are made upon the answers given by the Director of TC and the VP-TEA to some doubts posed in the last days.

José A. Cortés indicates that the P&Ps approved by the TC-PLC have then to be approved by the TC Board. Since changes might be requested, and to avoid the need for approving it again at the

TC-PLC, he suggests performing the requested changes just by informing through the TC-PLC reflector.

Gerd Bumiller emphasizes that almost everything is imposed by the TC Board.

A motion is passed to approve the updated P&Ps and to include the potential changes requested by the TC Board just by informing through the TC-PLC reflector. The motion is unanimously approved.

4.Conferences activities

4a.Status and decision on ISPLC 2022

Bamidele Adebisi, general Chair of the ISPLC 2022, explains that he misunderstood the decision on ISPLC 2022 made in the last TC-PLC meeting. There, it was mentioned that ISPLC 2022 will be organized in Manchester by the end of September if no other proposal was received from the floor. However, he understood that proposals could still be submitted in the following months.

While the local arrangements could be ready for the planned date, all the procedures to be made with IEEE, along with the increased difficulties for traveling to the UK, will cause a too large delay. He suggests postponing it to March 2023 (around the 20th of March).

Ralf Lehnert suggests sending the CfP as soon as possible and mention that a positive aspect is that ISPLC will come back to its original date in spring.

A motion is passed to have ISPLC 2023 in Manchester in March 2023 and is unanimously approved. An e-mail will be sent to the TC-PLC reflector informing of this.

4b.Status and decision of WSPLC 2022

After the need for delaying ISPLC 2022 to March 2023, the possibility of having WSPLC 2022 in fall is being studied by PPC (organizers of the event).

Ralf Lehnert thinks it is important to have an event on PLC this year, even in December.

Markus Rindchen (PPC) indicates that fall 2022 is very busy at PPC and that it is very unlikely that it can be made, at least not in September. They will consider if it is possible to have it in November or early December.

4c. Request for co-Chairs for ICC 2024 Symposia and SAC tracks

Organizers of IEEE ICC 2024 have requested proposals for tracks in the Selected Areas in Communications (SAC) symposium and also nominations for TPC Co-chairs.

A call for nominations was sent through the TC-PLC reflector and two nominations have been received:

1. Sicong Liu, Associate Professor at Xiamen University, China. Nominated by Prof. Jian Song
2. Ankit Dubey, Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu, India. Self-nominated

Both have worked in PLC but Sicong Liu has larger experience as TPC co-chair and involvement in the PLC community (he served as such in IEEE ISPLC 2021). Experience in TPC co-chairing is an

important criterion for the selection. Hence, the proposition is to send a proposal for a PLC track with the above TPC co-chairs (in the indicated order).

Ralf Lehnert thinks that is very difficult to have a track on PLC because of the low number of submissions. We might have higher probability if joining with a related TC such as the Smart Grid Communications (SGC). José A. Cortés agrees and says he talk to Andrea Tonello, Chair of the Technical Committee on SGC.

A motion is passed to approve the proposal of a PLC Track and the nominated co-Chairs and is unanimously approved).

5. Report on regulations and standardization activities

Anil Mengi reports on the situation in CENELEC TC210 WG11, Project prEN50561-4. CENELEC limits for PLC SISO below 30 MHz (EN50561-1) is a harmonized standard applied by industry. For frequencies above 30 MHz and up to 87.5 MHz industry is currently applying EN55032 until EN50561-3 is approved. The latter, which is still unpublished, is difficult to be met by PLC devices (current ones in the market do not comply with it) and inappropriate for current SISO PLC products. Discussion on EN50561-3 is on-going and will be soon sent to national committees for circulation.

EN50561-4 will regulate emissions of MIMO PLC up to 87.5 MHz. First draft to be circulated in the upcoming months. The target is to have a first committee draft in 2022.

Anil Mengi also reports on the development of G3-PLC hybrid PLC-RF technology. Two products already certified. They have integrated layers up to the abstraction layer (below IP). This could be very useful for applications like gas meter, water meter and IoT. G3-PLC is organizing a webinar (open) for July. Further information will be given through the TC-PLC reflector when details are fixed.

Finally, Anil mentions that, within ITU-T, the main attention is now put to fiber networking and Li-Fi. Only small changes related to PLC PHY developments.

Markus Rindchen reports on the main activities carried out at the IEEE SA Power Line Communications Standards Committee (PLCSC) and encourages interested members to visit the web site (<https://sagroups.ieee.org/plcsc/active-projects/>) for further details.

6.Publication activities

PLC DocSearch hosted in a server from the University of Málaga. Francis manages the database. It was updated just before ISPLC 2021 and will be updated again in the upcoming weeks.

7. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourns at 17:25