

## IEEE Communication Society Technical Committee on Power Line Communications (PLC)

### Meeting, 21 March 2023

**Date:** 21 March 2023

**Time:** 16:50

**Location:** (in person) ISPLC 2023 Venue in Manchester (United Kingdom) and virtually in Zoom

#### Attendance

##### In person (15)

Francisco Cañete	Ralf Lehnert
Anil Mengi	Alfredo Sanz
Riccardo Fiorelli	Adrianus Han Vinck
Don Whitney	Cédric Lavenu (Vice Chair)
Thokozani Shongwe (Secretary)	Jon González-Ramos
Moises Ribeiro	Bamidele Adebisi
Philip Lutat	José A Cortés (Chair)
Andrea Tonello	

##### Online (6)

Gerd Bumiller	Cynthia Sikora
Lisandro Granville	Pascal Lorenz
Shiwen Mao	Werner Henkel

The meeting begins at about 17:05 because of a delay in the ISPLC session that was held in the same room.

#### Agenda

##### 1. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was approved without objection.

##### 2. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

Minutes were approved without objection.

##### 3. Conferences activities

###### a. ISPLC 2023 report

- Ralf Lehnert (TPC co-chair of the ISPLC 2023) presented the following ISPLC 2023 TPC report:
  - TPC formed by 2 co-chairs and 28 members.
  - 23 submissions (2 were withdrawn) (after 2 deadline extensions) of which 11 were accepted (acceptance ratio 47.8%).
  - Conference was hybrid: In person and virtual.

- Most authors and attendees from Europe (mainly from Germany), 1 from Americas and 3 from Asia.
- Two days' conference with single track, 3 technical sessions with 3 or 4 presentations, 1 recent results session with 3 presentations, 1 panel, 3 keynotes and 2 invited talks (academia).
- The following comments were made in response to the low number of accepted papers for ISPLC 2023:
  - A. Han Vinck commented: 11 accepted papers means that we can have a 1 day conference; IEEE condition of the acceptance rate reduces the numbers; Publishing papers is not generally a motivation for industry people to attend ISPLC.
  - Andrea Tonello: We need to remind participants to be members of the TPC

b. Status of WSPLC 2023

- José A. Cortes (TC-PLC Chair) gave an update on the WSPLC as follows:
  - WSPLC 2020 was cancelled because of Covid; WSPLC 2021 was postponed to 2022. However, in 2022, the ISPLC date was changed and it affected WSPLC 2022, which ended up being cancelled.
  - WSPLC 2023 will be organised by PPC in Mannheim (Germany), sponsored by HD-PLC and Panasonic.
  - The registration fee will be 200 EUR (150 EUR students).
- The committee agreed on the following:
  - WSPLC 2023 organizers proposed to held the event on the week starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 with two possible dates: 26-27 or 27-28. It was agreed it to be on 27-28 September 2023.
  - Moises V. Ribeiro said that he will be willing to organize WSPLC 2024 in Brazil.

**4. Decision on ISPLC and WSPLC 2024**

- To kickstart the discussion, José A. Cortés gave a presentation showing the number of submissions & attendance: ISPLC (2016-2023) & WSPLC (2016-2019).
- José A. Cortés further gave a presentation with the discussion points about the future of WSPLC & ISPLC, and gave suggestions about what can be done to save ISPLC:
  - Co-locating with another conference: done in 2021 with similar result, which is low numbers
  - Directly addressing people who are publishing PLC papers elsewhere: In 2020, the organisers searched for people working in PLC, and emails were sent to them, but no one responded.
  - Keep WSPLC: it keeps the community together and should continue. It works as is, no need to change.

- For publications, organise ISPLC as part of ICC/Globecom. The problem with this alternative is that it has to be approved year by year by the organizers of ICC/Globecom. Hence, it cannot be ensured that we can have it.
- Change name & widen scope and possibly merge it with another conference.
- Freeze the ISPLC conference for one year, that is no ISPLC in 2024.
- Andrea Tonello suggested merging with SmartGridComm. This might be even possible for 2024, if the Steering Committees of both conferences agree on it.
- Among the discussion points above, motions were put forward to decide the future of ISPLC, and votes were cast to decide between the two points below:
  - (a) Merge with SmartGridComm for 2024, subject to approval by both Steering Committees.
  - (b) Freeze the ISPLC conference for one year, that is no ISPLC in 2024.
- A majority of members voted in favour of motion/point (a). Andrea Tonello and José A. Cortés were tasked with taking the discussion to SmartGridComm.

The meeting adjourns at approximately 18:40 (UTC) because the venue where it was taking place was closing. Items 5-9 of the Agenda (given below) are pending for next TC-PLC meeting.

Pending items:

5. Other TC-PLC matters
  - a. ANC report on TC-PLC awards
  - b. Update of ISPLC Steering Committee and ANC members
6. Report on activities to increase the exposure of the TC
7. Report on regulations and standardization activities
8. Publication activities
9. Any other business