

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

### Meeting, 27 September 2023

**Date:** 27 September 2023 2023

**Time:** 16:47 (European Central Time)

**Location:** PPC headquarters at Dudenstraße 6, 68167, Mannheim (Germany)

#### Attendance

##### In person (11)

José Antonio Cortes (Chair)	Ralf Lehnert
Cédric Lavenu (Vice Chair)	Andrea Tonello
Alfredo Sanz	Kaveh Razazian
Scott Willy	Javier Vildósola
Javier Gimenez	Jon González-Ramos
Markus Rindchen	

##### Online (8)

Gautham Prasad	Anil Mengi
Masaaki Katayama	Lutz Lampe
Thokozani Shongwe (Secretary)	Roberto Rojas-Cessa

**Meeting was scheduled for 16:30 (CEST), but started at 16:47 (CEST)**

#### Agenda

##### 1. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was approved, with a new additional item: **3. Report on WSPLC 2023**

##### 2. Approval of the previous meeting minutes (attached)

Approved without objection

##### 3. Report on WSPLC 2023

- Chairperson (José) thanked PPC again, for organizing the event.
- The report of the event was presented.

##### 4. Report on activities to increase the exposure of the TC

- Student competition: The opportunity to have a student competition is still unclear as the commitment can be huge for limited benefit (from the point of view of industry stakeholders).

- Upcoming webinar on 06 October 2023 "Webinar on the Potential of Power Line Communications for Smart Grid, Residential and Industry" with Andrea Tonello, Cédric Lavenu and Marcos Martinez. Chairpeson (José) encouraged every TC-PLC member to disseminate this event.

## 5. ANC report on TC-PLC awards

- The TC-PLC traditionally issues two awards every year. Due to the Covid pandemic there is a gap as the 2021 and 2022 awards have not yet been given.
- The 2021 TC-PLC awards will be given to:
  - o **Dr. Alberto Sendin** for the 2021 TC-PLC Inter-disciplinary Research and Application Award.  
*For his long record of contributions to the analysis, design, deployment and standardization of PLC technology. In particular, he was instrumental in the promotion at an international scale of both broadband and narrowband PLC technologies for various applications ranging from Internet access, in the early years, to smart grid use cases.*
  - o **Prof. Moises Ribeiro** for the 2021 TC-PLC Outstanding Service Award  
*For the organization of one edition of the ISPLC conference and his effort to promote TC-PLC activities in Latin America.*
- 2022 and 2023 awards will be issued in Oslo at the Smart Grid Comm conference. The call for nominations will be issued in April 2024 for a three month duration so that awardees are known in advance before the summer ahead of Smart Grid Comm in Oslo where the 2022 and 2023 awards will be handed over to the awardees which will also be notified in advance.

## 6. Discussion on technical problems to be solved in PLC networks and the evolution of next generations of PLC technologies

- There is the necessity to have a wish list from the industry in order to orientate academic research in PLC. The Idea is to ask a small group to prepare a survey/questionnaire targeting the industry to express what improvements are still expected. It is necessary to understand what is needed for PLC to expand and better penetrate the market. Industry highlights lots of use cases but do not always explain/disclose technical issues they experience.

DISCUSSION:

- Anil: mentioned that chip manufacturers are not anymore involved in standardization where lots of activities are pursued. Yet, it is not always easy to translate practical problems unto scientific problem formulation.
- Lutz: stated that the goal of WSPLC is actually to feed academia with areas to be investigated.
- Cédric: mentioned that there are lot of ideas which are provided by industry and academia during the different events at keynotes, roundtables, etc. but how do these ideas translate into financed research activity?
- In addition, there aren't EU calls on such topics at present. Industry invested into PLC in the past and is now perceiving return on investment. Nevertheless we may be at the beginning of a new wave where R&D will be needed to invest in next generation technologies e.g. AI?
- Alfredo: explicitly offered to academia the possibility to collaborate, including the student challenge mentioned before.
- Andrea: agreed that there is a need to make the final value clear and to develop a roadmap to reach this goal: we need to define the problems first.
- Cédric: stated that there is a need to draft a document with a vision in short/mid/long term goals to be declined in technical and scientific problems.
- Ralf: reminded everyone that the PLC community suffers from a bad image and therefore we can "squeeze out" from this list a project proposal to improve PLC and its image. Such a paper would also allow new research groups to tackle these topics and contribute to the PLC community.

ACTION ITEM: Cédric and Ralf to draft such a roadmap document as per the discussion.

## **7. Any other business**

- Ralf asked for an update on PLC symposium in SmartGridComm, wanted to find out if ISPLC will have a dedicated symposium in SmartGridComm.

MEETING ENDED 17:55 (CEST)