Agenda for the Optical Networking Technical Committee (ONTC) Meeting

OFC 2023
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Time: 7.30 - 8.30 pm CEST
Place: In-Person (Room 14.A) and Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Massimo welcomes everyone for joining.
Roundtable introduction of in-person participants.
Massimo shares the slides and presents the agenda for today's meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes from ONTC meeting from pre-GLOBECOM 2022

(http://site.ieee.org/comsoc-ontc/files/2023/02/Pre-GLC_ONTC_minutes_28112022.pdf)
Moved: Luca Valcarenghi
Seconded: George Rouskas
Minutes approved after votes.

3. 2023 ComSoc TC Innovation Support.

Massimo: many of us are involved in topics that can be considered as breakthrough innovations. So, whoever is interested, we can provide our support. This is an open call to everybody interested. If you have no specific comments at the moment, please if you have any questions latter, send us an email.
Luca: is it open call that everyone submits or do we discuss within the ONTC level?
Massimo: I believe that we need to agree at the ONTC level
Vincent: I promoted this when I was president. To get part of the money, you have to be coordinated within ONTC so that there is no ambiguity and that you are worthy of getting this support. I suggest to use this opportunity to meet more frequently, I think it would give this group an opportunity to do interesting things.

4. 2023 ComSoc TC Campaign Video

Massimo: the other opportunity is to develop videos to promote the works that our technical committee does.
Vincent: you can ask the staff to produce a professional video. It is very important to get publicity since we are in the process of re-organizing the TC.
Cyn: the expectation is that you can spend 1000$ with IEEE TV and they will help you create the video and re-edit it to give you a professional version.

5. ONTC endorsement of ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer

Massimo: we encourage anyone interested to please apply. You may contact Zuqing via e-mail. I think Marija Furdek was selected last year.

6. Statistics of ONS in ICC/Globecom

Massimo: now we move to conferences and dissemination of our work. OFC and ECOC have become the main outlet for conference papers, and the contribution to ICC and GLC has gone downwards compared to earlier years, for example 2011. There is an expected low during the pandemic, 2020 and 2021 are all-time lows. However, there was a rebound in GLC 2022 and we hope to re-consolidate in 2023. We have also been discussing how to deal this because if these trends continue it may be that the symposiums are dis-continued. One reason in the low number of submissions if the focus of the community in ECOC and OFC. Finally, there is also the impact of competition from other symposia/tracks.
Murat: I brought this idea before: I think we should expand the scope and emphasize Quantum and Networking in ONS, maybe changing the name, but I think that Quantum Communications and Quantum Networking should be put together.
Dan: Do we know why do we have such a high number in 2016?
Massimo: one action that has been taken is the possibility to have special journal issues, e.g., JOCN, associated with the symposium.
Suresh: We did it in 2022, and this was the first time after a while. Andrew is quite open about it, and he wants to see how successful the current special issue will be before committing to more.

Massimo: how many papers are invited?

Suresh: eight paper have been invited

Raul: We discovered that around 50% of the papers are on optical wireless and it was surprising that this is the trend. This means that fiber optical community maybe does not consider this as the symposium that represents them. It was surprising trend to see

Vincent: I do not know what is the status now but I think there should be a merge between optical free space and optical fiber, and since I know both camps, I can help. Now there is another track in Quantum, and a paper I submitted I did not know whether to submit it to ONS or Quantum. I think you should reach to Quantum group so that you can be stronger as one group.

Massimo: I agree. The idea would be to have a single symposium Optical Networks and Quantum Communications

Andrea: I was going to say something similar. I think areas like Quantum and Machine Learning would require coordination between symposiums. We have to change title and call for papers, but we need to look into this.

Luca: I think what needs to be done is with the GITC since that is where these decisions are made. I think Zuqing can help us on this point.

7. ICC 2022, Glebecom 2022 and ICC 2023

Massimo: the number of papers in terms of submissions and accepted are reported here. For ICC 2022, we had 46 submitted papers and 20 accepted papers while Globecom 2022, 64 papers submitted and 25 papers accepted. Raul, do you want to say something in preparation of ICC in Rome.

Raul: submission numbers are higher than previous year, and that was expected due to the pandemic. Now we have finished the camera ready version of the papers and we are collaborating with Murat on the next steps.

Massimo: there is no special issue in some journal in this case, correct?

Raul: No. we discussed but we did not consider it.

Luca: You said that 50% of submitted papers were on optical wireless. What about the accepted papers, what is the ratio?

Raul: if I remember well, the ratio is a bit higher for optical fiber, but the difference is not too high.

8. Future ICC/Globecom Conferences

Massimo: The ONS chairs for ICC 2023, Globecom 2023 and ICC 2024 are already assigned, and nominations are opened for ONS chairs for Globecom 2024. If you are interested to have endorsements just contact us.

9. Other future conferences

Massimo: these are some other future conferences:
- ICC 2023, Rome
- ECOC 2023, UK
- Globecom 2023, Malysia
- ANTS 2023, India
- OFC 2024, San Diego
- ICC 2024, Denver, USA
- ECOC 2024, Germany
- Globecom 2024, South Africa
- ICC 2024, Montreal, Canada

Bob: GLC seem to be located in some obscure locations. Could this be a problem?

Massimo: I think other symposiums are not suffering, so not very sure and it is not so much in our control.

Massimo: do you want to mention other conferences, for example ONDM 2023?

Luca: It will be in Coimbra and we received 70 papers, half are short papers and half are long papers. We had a meeting this morning on the acceptance decision, but I think we accepted 32 which is below 50%. The conference will be in May, and we are satisfied by the outcome of the submission.

Massimo: is there an invitation for top-scored papers

Luca: I don't remember, I would need to double-check

Byrav: IEEE ANTS is a conference in India held in December, and it will be held in city of Jaipur. Dates are not finalized yet, but I welcome everyone to attend and to submit papers.

Bis: We have quite a bit of participation from various people from the community. I would encourage people to submit and participate in ANTS.

Massimo: I can also mention that ICTON has been re-initiated this year and it should be in Bucharest, but I am not sure if submission deadline is over yet.

10. OFC 2023 N-Track

Massimo: I was checking if Elaine is here to discuss for N-track

Ramon: These are not the final numbers but it is clear that there has been an increase in number of submissions, and numbers are as high as before the pandemic. For the N-track there is this new quantum sub-committee. Acceptance rate is around 52%.

Massimo: We have four tracks?

Ramon: there are five, four regular and the fifth is by invitation but it's part of N-tracks. This year for the first time we have a quantum sub-committee and after 3 years we will decide what happens next. We are also discussing what happens to the demo zone, we are checking to have a specialized demo-zone committee.

Elaine: the most important thing to mention is that we bounced back. Acceptance rate is 51% across all tracks. Even though the numbers have increased, we need to encourage more applications in N2 and N4. We hope that these numbers will increase in the next coming years. We were surprised with N2 submissions, but we do think that we will see an elevation in these numbers, so I want to thank everyone. I think the ONTC committee is very supporting in this, so please continue to support Jiajia who is the N-track chair.

Massimo: any other comment?

Vincent: what about the post-deadline papers?

Elaine: The percentage is 23% across all tracks and the reason why the numbers are small is because the submission number is small. We definitely need to encourage more submissions.

Ramon: for the last years we have seen very few post-deadline papers for N-track. For N3 there were 10 submissions, and for N2 the number was very low. The demo-zone number is higher but post-deadline continues to be low.

Massimo: any other comment? In the quantum committee, I would guess that most of the people submitting are from quantum communications. So, I guess a quantum network paper is harder to be appreciated. I would like to emphasize in this since I know it is hard to appreciate a network layer work looking at it from the physical layer point of view.

11. Journal updates

Massimo: Anyone wants to say anything here?

Vincent: I have an important news for JOCN. It was started with COMSOC and, 18 months ago OPTICA approached that they wanted 50% of the shares. I told them to go away. I expect them to keep coming back. I want to alert you, while it is good to share, 30% is fair.

Massimo: I wanted to mention this special issue for reliable networks of the future for TNSM, we are currently working on the 3rd edition. We had 65 papers submitted last year and it should continue further in the next years.

Byrav: About P-NET journal. We always welcome submissions and we can feature special issues from top-scored conference papers.

12. Any other Business

Bis: In the past we have complained that we have not had many fellows succeeding. So, some of the new fellows are Massimo himself, Zuqing Zhu, Maite Brandt Pierce, Andrew Lord and others.

Vincent: I want to add to the congratulations. In the past many complained that there were not many fellows from ONTC committee. Majority vote is problematic, since 60% of fellow selection committee members are from Wireless. There were a lot of people who did not get a fellowship in the last 5-6 years, so in the last year IEEE has decided to address this disproportion. I served on a fellow committee reform, and we are trying to keep a fairer balance. The new legislation is going to be enforced in 2024 within the society, and there will be no possibility for lobbying. The nomination is only seen by the society, and we're trying to change that since we want also the references to be seen.

Bob: Endorsements can be seen by society committee members and we are trying to get the society committee members to also see the references.

Massimo: if there are no other issues, I want to thank everyone for joining and see you in ICC 2023.

Attendees

Name
Luca Valcarenghi
Dan Kilper
Vincent Chan
Raul Munoz
George Roushkas
Carlos Natalino
Lena Wosinska
Paolo Monti
Yusuke Hirota
Ricard Vilalta
Carlo Centofanti
Biswanath Mukherjee
Ramon Casellas
Elaine Wong
Andrea Bianco
Suresh Subramaniam
Cyn Sikora
Ashwin Gumaste
Anny Zheng
Darli Mello
Avishek Nag
Bob Doverspike
Byrav Ramamurthy
Gokhan Sahin
Jerzy Domzal
Koteswararo Kondepu
Murat Yuksel
Shrinivas Petale
Suman Dey
Memedhe Ibrahimi
Massimo Tornatore