

## **Agenda for the Optical Networking Technical Committee (ONTC) Meeting**

### **Pre-GLOBECOM 2022**

Date: Monday, November 28, 2022

Time: 2-3 pm CEST

Place: Virtual Meeting

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Zuqing Zhu welcomed and thanked remote participants for attending the ONTC meeting. Zuqing shares the screen and introduces the agenda for the meeting. Round table introductions.

#### **2. Approval of the minutes from ONTC meeting from pre-OFC 2022**

[https://ontc.committees.comsoc.org/files/2022/05/Pre-ICC\\_ONTC\\_minutes.pdf](https://ontc.committees.comsoc.org/files/2022/05/Pre-ICC_ONTC_minutes.pdf)

Moved: Paolo Monti

Seconded: Suresh Subramaniam

Minutes approved after votes.

#### **3. ONTC 2022 award**

Zuqing explains how ONTC awards procedure works and encourages all those interested to contact Elaine Wong. Additionally, he introduces the ONTC awards subcommittee.

#### **4. Update on IEEE INGR WG by Dan Kilper**

Dan provides an update on the IEEE INGR WG. The WG is preparing a roadmap, which identifies short, medium, and long-term challenges and potential solutions in optical networking and communications. Dan emphasized that the goal is to engage with both industry and academia. It is an open process, and everyone is welcome to participate. The idea of the WG roadmap is that it will be a living document that is periodically updated, in order to originate a more stable roadmap to be released every two years. The process to converge to the stable roadmap is through a series of workshops that allow identifying the main rising interests in the area. This approach was successful in the past, e.g., when Dan led a workshop on integrated photonics and was able to identify speaker's interest areas from very interactive panels and discussions, involving also the audience.

Hence, it is expected that the WG will organize workshops for each roadmap area. First, a workshop on Quantum Communications has to be organized possibly in Feb/March time-frame, and possibly in collaboration with other players or with IEEE. Another idea is to have this workshop at OECC 2023. Other two workshops, one on Subsea Networks and one on Indoor Networks, will be organized, possibly coordinating with other committees that work on these same topics. Collaboration with industry players to prepare the INGR is also expected. Another area is Machine Learning in Optical Networks, which has been already accepted as workshop at ONDM 2023. Finally, Dan observed that in the Satellite communications group in INGR, there is a section focused on optical technologies for SatComm, and that the two WGs are coordinating to do a joint workshop. Dan encouraged everyone to be involved and those interested to contact him.

Zuqing thanks Dan, and asks if there is TC on Quantum Communication in Comsoc. Zuqing suggests to incorporate Quantum Communication topics into the ONTC, and tells that researchers working in that field are welcome to join and contribute in ONTC. Regarding the workshop on "Machine Learning for Optical Networks" at ONDM, Zuqing informed that he is one of the organizers, so anyone who wants to be a speaker or organizer can contact him.

Dan agrees that it makes a lot of sense for Quantum Communication to be part of ONTC, as large part of quantum communications happens exploiting fiber communications.

#### **5. ONTC endorsements of ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer**

Zuqing informs that ONTC can endorse and nominate ONTC members to become Distinguished Lecturers. Deadline for nominations is at the end of September and submissions will open in July. If you are interested, please drop an email to Zuqing. You have to be a COMSOC member and at least a senior member of IEEE to be eligible.

## 6. Newly elevated IEEE Fellows.

Zuqing reports a list of names of colleagues that have been elevated to IEEE Fellows, and emphasized that ONTC can endorse its members to be nominated as IEEE Fellow.

## 7. Statistics of Optical Network Symposium (ONS) in ICC/GlobeCom

Zuqing emphasizes that ONS still suffers the competition from other symposia and tracks on adjacent topics. He also points out that, in the ONTC community, most people seem to prefer conference with shorter papers like OFC.

Zuqing presents statistics of ONS in ICC and GlobeCom. Paper submissions to ONS have dropped ~29% due to Covid-19 pandemic (2020/2021 versus 2019), but started to rebound since GlobeCom 2022. Suresh provided an update on GlobeCom 2022. It will be a hybrid conference, and there will be 2 sessions, with 5 papers each, with in-person presentations, and all others will be virtual sessions. Number of submissions went up, and top papers will be invited to JOCN. Suresh suggested that Murat Yuksel, as ICC 2023 TPC Chair, can contact JOCN EiC Andrew Lord to see if it is possible to have a special issue for JOCN. This is a good opportunity, and we should aim to extend it to ICC.

Zuqing expressed satisfaction by observing that GlobeCom submissions went up from 46 papers to 64 papers.

Raul Munoz (the other ICC 2023 TPC chair) confirms that ICC 2023 received more papers than ICC 2022, but less than Globecom 2022. Paper topics are balanced between networks and systems. Regarding the timeline, chairs have completed the review assignment phase, so TPC members should have already received review invitations. Deadline for reviews is Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, with the goal of completing the review process just after Christmas.

Murat observes that there is a significant amount of papers in optical wireless communications (OWC).

Zuqing confirms that OWC is an important area in our community, so we should encourage for paper submissions and ONTC participation from OWC researchers. Then he asked Suresh if he believes having JOCN invitations for top-scored papers has helped get more submissions.

Suresh replies that it might be case, as it is always a good idea to associate conference technical program with a journal special issue, and that is very important that the TPC co-chair engage with the community and promote submission.

Murat observes that having a JOCN special issue twice per year may not be practical.

Suresh replies that the GlobeCom invited papers are only few, and will represent only a section of a regular JOCN issue.

Roberto Rojas asks how many papers in GlobeCom 2022 were local (from Brasil)

Suresh replied not a whole lot, and his view is that paper submission increase is not due mostly to local authors.

Zuqing encourages the practice of inviting top scored paper also for the future.

## 8. TPC Chairs in ICC 2023/ GlobeCom 2023

ICC 2023 (Rome, Italy):

ONS Chairs: Raul Munoz (CTTC, Spain), Murat Yuksel (University of Central Florida)

GlobeCom 2023 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia):

ONS Chairs: Jerzy Domzal (AGH University of Science and Technology, Poland), Nicola Andriolli (CNR, Italy)

ICC 2024 (Denver, Colorado, USA)

ONS Chairs: Nominations submitted.

GlobeCom 2024 (Cape Town, South Africa)

ONS Chairs: Nominations submitted.

Zuqing informed that there are some issues with ICC24 ONS chair nominations, so the process got delayed and now Comsoc is selecting the symposium co-chairs. For GLC24, ONTC has sent the nominations, 4 nominations.

## 9. Other future conferences, OFC, ICC, GLC

GLOBECOM 2022, December 4-8, Rio De Janeiro, Brasil

OFC 2023, March 5-9, 2023, San Diego, CA, USA

ICC 2023, May 28-June 1, Rome, Italy

ECOC 2023, UK

GLOBECOM 2023, December 4-8, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
OFC 2024, March 24-28, San Diego, CA, USA  
ICC 2024, 9 - 13 June 2024, Denver, Colorado, USA  
ECOC 2024, Germany  
GLOBECOM 2024, December 8-12, Cape Town, South Africa  
ICC 2025, 8 - 14 June 2025, Montreal, QC, Canada

Elaine provided updates on OFC2023, where number of submission has grown (+29% compared to 2022, very close to pre-pandemic numbers). Paper decisions are undergoing and Elaine wanted to thank all TPC members. OFC 2023 will have many special events to encourage students and other people to attend in person.

Zuqing mentioned that N3 received more than 90 papers, and first round of review is already done. Decisions will be communicated before middle of December.

Elaine observes that next ONTC meeting might be in-person at OFC.

## 10. Other conferences sponsored ANTS, ICNC and OFC 2023

IEEE ANTS 2022

December 18-21, 2022, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

<https://ants2022.ieee-ants.org/>

IEEE ICNC 2023

International Conference on Computing, Networking and Communications

February 20-22, 2023, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

<http://www.conf-icnc.org/2023>

IEEE ONDM 2023

International Conference on Optical Network Design and Modelling

May 8-11, 2023, Coimbra, Portugal

<https://ondm2023.inescc.pt/>

## 11. Journal updates

IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management

Special Issue on "Robust and Reliable Networks of the Future"

Update from Massimo Tornatore: this is third year, and special issue had around 60 submissions each year. Network resilience is still a timely topic.

IEEE/OSA Journal of Optical Communication and Networking

Update from Laurent: A new format (letters limited to 2 pages) has been introduced, to disseminate very impactful research results, especially targeted for contributions from operators. If you have specific questions, please reach out to Laurent.

Francesco Musumeci asks if it can be used to advertise/release datasets (and corresponding description) in a two-page paper.

Laurent reiterated that the 2-page letter is intended for high-impact contributions, but clear guidelines on what is acceptable or not have not yet been finalized. Nonetheless, if authors have questions before submitting, they can reach out to Laurent or EiC Andrew Lord.

Elaine asks if high-scored OFC papers can be submitted in this form.

Laurent observes that high-scored OFC papers are already invited in the traditional format, since they usually have a special issue.

Roberto Rojas asks if the 2-page letter is intended for fast revisions and publication.

Laurent replies that emphasis is not on fast review process, but on high impact.

## 12. Vacancies in Trinity College Dublin (TCD).

Zuqing announces positions in TCD, and suggests reaching out to Marco Ruffini, if interested.

### 13. Any Other Business (AoB)

Zuqing told that there is an ongoing process to restructure TCs, more details will be provided in the next meeting.

#### Attendees

| Name                  |
|-----------------------|
| Massimo Tornatore     |
| Memedhe Ibrahim       |
| Zuqing Zhu            |
| Anuj Agrawal          |
| Carlos Natalino       |
| Roberto -             |
| Elaine Wong           |
| Jerzy Domzal          |
| Krzystof Walkowiak    |
| Anny Xijia Zheng      |
| Pascal Lorenz         |
| Luca Valcarengi       |
| Dan Kilper            |
| Fen Zhou              |
| Francesco Musumeci    |
| Marija Furdek         |
| Raul Munoz            |
| Imran Shafique Ansari |
| Suresh Subramaniam    |
| Roberto Rojas – Cessa |
| Rupeixu               |
| Laurent Schares       |
| Murat Yuksel          |
| Ricard Vilalta        |
| Lena Wosinska         |
| Marco Ruffini         |
| Yusuke Hirota         |
| Jun Zheng             |
| Hina Tabassum         |
| Paolo Monti           |
|                       |