Technical Committee on Microphones and Applications

**Report on TC meeting held in conjunction with the 131st AES convention, NY, NY, USA, Oct. 20th 2011**

**Attendees:**

Ken Platz, Shure Inc., platz\_ken@shure.com
Roger Grinnip, Shure Inc., grinnip\_roger@shure.com
Jackie Green, AudioTechnica, jagreen@atus.com
Tad Rollow, Sennheiser, n/a at the time
Rob Baum, Microsoft/Contractor, rob.baum@gmail.com
Eddy Bøgh Brixen, EBB-consult/DPA Microphones, ebb@ebb-consult.com

The meeting was convened by chair Eddy B. Brixen.

**Report from AES130**

No Comments.

**Wireless microphones**

During the initial discussion on committees’ area of interest the question came up whether or not wireless microphones are covered by the TC-MA. As no other committees are dealing with this, it was decided that this is a topic that definitely should be taken care of by this committee.

**Conference on microphone technology**

The committee found that even though many microphone brands are represented at the convention exhibitions only few papers on the topic are presented. If we want to attract a larger number of people in the microphone business presenting serious papers the only way would be by organizing dedicated events.

A number of models were discussed. The traditional conference format is a 2-3 day “stand alone” event. However, it might be possible to gather more people if a conference like this was held in conjunction with a major event like Infocomm, Light & Sound, CES, etc.

Further it was discussed that it might be possible to organize a dedicated conference in collaboration with SMPTE, an organization which in many ways is comparable to the AES.

As to the program of a conference, wireless microphones, arrays, and DSP in microphones should become major topics.

**Questionaire**

Regarding considering organizing an international microphone conference it was decided that the chair should work out a questionnaire in order to investigate views on this among the members of the committee as well as the members of the AES SC 04-04.

**Proposals for the upcoming conventions**

Still it is important that tutorials on microphone placement and microphone application are organized. The committee is willing to provide presenters if necessary.

**Emerging trends**

Trends are to some degree determined by other industries. Mems microphones are not yet seen in professional audio. However, their role in communication is evidential. So sooner or later they will invade and take over from the traditional the more conservative range of technologies.

NASA has published tech briefs on laser microphones that present serious solutions.

Even though years have been used to refine the AES42, the market has driven the “USB-microphones” to their position as the preferred format in semiprofessional and home recording.

Batteries – especially for wireless microphones - are an area of great interest. Surprisingly many engineers still prefer replaceable batteries from rechargeable. This will change.

The difficulties of getting some of the rare earth materials for magnets may affect the microphone selection available on the market. In the future the effect might become fewer dynamic microphones or rising prizes.

Minutes by Eddy B. Brixen