

Minutes from the meeting of the Audio Engineering Society
Technical Committee on Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement

September 24, 1999, 5:30 PM

Jacob Javits Convention Center, New York.

Attending:

Mendel Kleiner (chair TCASR):mk@ta.chalmers.se
Kurt Graffy (vice chair TCASR):kurt.graffy@arup.com
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Jiri Tichy:tichy@sabine.acs.psu.edu
Jan Voetmann:jv@delta.dk

Paul Bauman volunteered to arrange a workshop for the AES Paris AES 108 convention in Paris February 2000. The topic could be "Design of linear array sound systems" and/or "New technologies for tuning sound reinforcement systems". Paul will define the scope better as he comes back to France and will get in touch with Xavier Meynial. Bruce Olson indicated willingness to take part in the arrangement of the workshops. Another suggestion by Kurt Graffy was a workshop on linear arrays.

The meeting then discussed the possible activities for the AES 109 convention in Los Angeles, September 2000.

It was suggested to repeat what was going to be done at Paris AES 108. Paul Bauman and Jim Brown suggested a workshop on "On and off line measurement techniques for optimization of sound reinforcement, various measurement systems, pros and cons".

Wolfgang Ahnert suggested a paper session on "New solutions in sound reinforcement for good intelligibility.

Kurt Graffy suggested further tutorials on sound system interaction with rooms and also a paper session "Sound reinforcement in themed environments (or theater sound)". Kurt Graffy volunteered to try to put together such a session.

Bruce Olson mentioned that there is a theater in Los Angeles with three separate sound systems and Jim Brown suggested that one should have a technical tour to and including a off-site workshop on site at this theater (about 6 blocks away from downtown LA). Bruce Olson will try to arrange this.

The group then discussed the letter by Jan Voetmann. Jan Voetmann presented the ideas presented in the letter which were inspired by what happened at the AES 15th conference where many attendants showed little knowledge of room acoustics particularly small room acoustics. Jan Voetmann's suggestion is to set up a new committee on acoustics or small room acoustics, possibly as a subgroup under TCASR or as a separate work group or other group. The chair argued that the present TCASR already covers the field. Also Voetmann's letter suggests activities which are duplicated by other AES TCs. A discussion followed in which it was agreed that what the TCASR could do was to arrange tutorials and tutorial sessions, either by itself or in cooperation with other committees. Kurt Graffy suggested a small room session at the upcoming AES convention in Los Angeles. Jiri Tichy volunteered to give a tutorial. Mendel Kleiner suggested a session including a 50-minute presentation on

small room acoustics and Jiri Tichy volunteered to give such a presentation. Jan Voetmann will consider arranging such a session and will respond before October 1, 1999.

Wolfgang Ahnert commented on the relative lack of knowledge among users of room acoustics design programs. Mendel Kleiner suggested that Wolfgang Ahnert put together a tutorial paper session for Europe 2001 on "Measures for speech intelligibility of sound reinforcement system". Wolfgang Ahnert said he would consider arranging such a session.

A discussion then followed on Mendel Kleiner's question if the TC should be split into two separate TCs. The comments by the meeting participants were all negative to this idea.

Jim Brown suggested that one should have organized tutorials on various levels, which are repeating for example every third year, for example large room acoustics. Kurt Graffy agreed on the need for such tutorials and that the committee should have a more long range. These tutorials could be duplicated for AES conventions both in Europe and in USA.

Henrik Staffeldt brought up the idea to arrange a session or workshop on "Subjective aspects of sound reinforcement systems". Another idea was "Listening tests on sound reinforcement systems" possibly with participation by Alexander Thornton. Still another one was "How do you take the listening experience with you?" that could be arranged together with the Floyd Toole's TC.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Mendel Kleiner
Chair AES TC Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement

Summary of action items:

PARIS AES 108: Paul Bauman & Bruce Olson / Workshops "Design of linear array sound systems" and/or "New technologies for tuning sound reinforcement systems"

LOS ANGELES AES 109: Bruce Olson / Technical tour to and including a off-site workshop on theater sound at site of a particular theater in LA.

LOS ANGELES AES 109: Kurt Graffy / Paper session "Sound reinforcement in themed environments"

LOS ANGELES AES 109: Jan Voetmann / Tutorial session on small room acoustics