

Technical Committee on Microphones and Applications

Report on TC meeting held in conjunction with the 128th AES convention, London, UK,
May 22nd, 2010

Attendees:

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Eddy B. Brixen (chair), EBB-consult/DPA Microphones, ebb@ebb-consult.com

Proposals for future convention events

AES129, San Francisco

Repeat of workshop: Single-unit surround microphones

This workshop is already in the pipeline for London. The workshop should present available microphones in a kind of “shoot out”. There are a number of these microphones available and more units are on their way. All manufacturers of these units are invited to make a contribution (contact the TCMA chair).

AES129, SF/CA

Workshop: Noise Cancelling Microphones

This workshop should present various techniques used for reducing background noise. Either single pressure gradient microphones, beam steering array microphones or noise suppression from DSP-assisted circuitry or using blind source separation algorithms (BSS). There is a general interest in the field of voice over internet, communication in extreme environments, public safety, etc. During the coming period the committee should find relevant panelists for this workshop.

Still to be scheduled:

Tutorial: Interfacing microphones (or: 10 ways to destroy your microphone signal)

An idea regarding a tutorial on microphone interfacing was presented. Especially problems of passive splitting of microphone signals in live or studio applications should be discussed/presented. Jim Long was mentioned as a panelist. The tutorial should rather cover practical aspects than being a theoretical tour de force.

General discussion

Except for the chair, the participants of this meeting were not familiar with the work of the TC. Hence a part of the meeting was informative. In the discussion about the future activities it was underlined that ongoing tutorials and practical workshops are important especially to newcomers in the field.

Emerging trends

It seemed like nothing new have been brought to the market within the last half year. The number of microphones with build-in digital interface is growing slowly. Still only a few brands offer this solution.

Eddy B. Brixen
July 2010