

AES Technical Committee on Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement

Minutes from Technical Committee meeting– AES Show Fall 2020

Tuesday, 27 October 2020, 12 – 1pm (EDT), MS Teams

Attendance:

Adam Hill (chair) – AH, Elena Shabalina (vice-chair) – ES, Andy Wardle – AW, Eddy Brixen – EB, Etienne Corteel – EC, Bruce Olson – BO, Ben Kok – BK, Neil Shaw – NS, Samuel Moulin – SM, Steve Hutt – SH, Tom Bland – TB, Ugis Vilcans – UV, Michael Lawrence – ML, David W. Robb – DW, David Prince – DP

Apologies:

Jim Brown – JB, Boris Rehders – BR, James Hipperson – JH, Tim Kuschel – TK, Peter Mapp – PM, Kurt Graffy – KG

NOTE: Several members did not receive the meeting details + agenda via email the week before the meeting (possibly hidden in their junk email folder).

1. Proposed actions from AES 148 Virtual Vienna minutes (see attached).
 - Actions from the Vienna meeting were reviewed. Most actions align with items appearing later in this meeting's agenda.
 - AH noted that some of the actions were delayed due to the ongoing pandemic.
2. AES 149 Fall Show 2020 – sessions supported by TC-ASR
 - AH highlighted the five sessions supported at the convention by the TC-ASR and thanked all of those from the committee that had given their time to prepare and deliver these sessions.
3. AES 150 Europe (TBC)
 - AH noted that unless otherwise alerted, the TC expects the next convention to be held online and therefore avoid repeating any sessions from this convention (which aligns with the points raised by EC and ES at the Virtual Vienna meeting).
 - AH opened the floor to suggestions for sessions, with the following response:
 - EC suggested a session on subwoofer system configuration in sound reinforcement, bringing in experts from various areas to present.
 - EC suggested one or two sessions related to immersive audio in live sound, to be delivered by L-Acoustics

- EC noted that he prefers a maximum of two of his suggestions being used to allow time for others to be included in the convention.
- ES suggested a session consisting of a collection of invited presentation, focused on a specific topic, possibly on environmental acoustics (namely prediction of noise propagation) or on annoyance due to music-based noise. Both topics are strongly linked to the recent TC-ASR report that was published as an AES Technical Document this past May. NS noted that it would be useful to include someone from SoundPLAN for this session, with ES agreeing, suggesting that SoundPLAN could contribute sessions on fundamentals of noise propagation modelling. NS also suggested getting in touch with Diana Deutsch at UC San Diego to contribute a talk on the psychoacoustics related to these topics.
- ML suggested getting in touch with Ethan Winer to run a session on audio myths (which he ran at a previous convention several years ago). The committee agreed that such a session would draw lots of interest. NS suggested that we contact George Augspurger to possibly contribute to this session.
- **Action (EC):** EC to develop draft proposals for two sessions, one related to live sound subwoofer system configuration and one on immersive audio for live sound.
- **Action (ES + NS):** ES to explore options for invited presentation session and make initial contact with possible presenters. NS to assist with contacts, such as Diana Deutsch.
- **Action (ML + NS):** ML to contact Ethan Winer about a potential session. NS to discuss with ML about approaching George Augspurger to contribute to the session, if appropriate.

4. TC-ASR membership/leadership

- AH noted that there were no leadership changes. There were 5 new members added to the TC, although due to issues with the membership system, Tobias Goldmann and Olushola Aremu still need to be officially added to the list.
- **Action (AH):** AH to ensure all new members have been added to the TC membership list online.

5. Proposed new activity for TC-ASR – open to suggestions

- BO suggested that there is potential for commencing some initial standards work relating to the recent AES Technical Document that the TC produced. This could start as small documents indicating best practice for certain relevant areas. Eventually, this could grow to more substantial standards. BO suggested that the TC use its online forum + email list to involve more members in this work.

- ML suggested that the TC have more of a focus on engaging with working live sound engineers, as they are currently of the viewpoint that the AES is too theoretical/inaccessible to them. Consider developing some short + easily understandable documents or videos to help in spreading key knowledge in the industry. ES noted that R&D engineers should be included in this focus, to make sure the TC is connecting with all key members within sound reinforcement. A series of events/resources to help transfer fundamentals to practice may be worth considering, with more complex topics available for the R&D engineers.
- AH noted possible “Healthy Ears Limited Annoyance” initiative developing within the AES, in line with WHO Make Listening Safe initiative findings. EC commented that bringing together the AES + WHO for such an initiative would give it more weight and expand its reach. AH noted that work will likely commence on this once the WHO has released its findings, potentially in 2021. There may be scope for working with other AES TCs on this.
- EB noted that he continues to make progress on determining best practice for subjective evaluations (listening tests) for sound reinforcement systems. There has been broad support for this work within industry. It is an area that needs to be taken more seriously and has the potential to feed into some form of standards document in the future. EC suggested that EB follow up with Scott Sugden on this work, as Scott is passionate about this topic. ES noted that engineers from d&b are also happy to participate in this work.
- ES brought up the potential for the next AES Sound Reinforcement conference, potentially taking place in 2022 or 2023, hosted by d&b in Germany. ES is looking for 7 – 8 people to contribute to the planning + organization. AH, AW, ML and EC offered to contribute. EB offered to act as a mentor, as he was one of the chairs for the previous SR conference in Denmark. EC noted that the conference should only be held once the industry has had time to recover from the disruption due to the pandemic. ES suggested the next step aside from assembling the organization team is to approach the AES for guidance on the process.
- TB had a discussion point on loudspeaker specification standards, which AH suggested he take to the TC forum or email list, as time was running out for the meeting.
- **Action (AH + BO):** BO to feed back thoughts on potential standards work stemming from AES Technical Document to AH. AH to progress ideas in consultation with the members of the TC.
- **Action (ML + ES):** Begin to consider new methods of reaching live sound engineers and R&D engineers with TC-supported sessions and/or online content.

- **Action (EB):** Discuss work on subjective evaluation of sound reinforcement systems with Scott Sugden as well as consider how findings could eventually be rolled into relevant work with AES standards (discuss with BO, where necessary).
- **Action (ES):** Commence exploratory work on next AES SR conference, tentatively to be held at d&b in Germany. This should include forming an initial organizing committee (with EB serving as mentor) and contacting the AES to discuss the procedure.
- **Action (TB):** Start a discussion on the TC's forum on loudspeaker specification standards.

6. Any other business

- No other business was raised. AH thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes compiled by AH, 28 October 2020.