

AES Technical Committee on Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement
Minutes from Technical Committee meeting – AES Spring Show 2022
Monday, 30 May 2022, 11am – 12pm (EDT), MS Teams

Attendance:

Adam Hill (chair) – AH, Kurt Graffy (chair) – KG, Elena Shabalina (vice chair) – ES, Tom Bland – TB, Michael Lawrence – ML, Boris Rehders – BR, Marcel Kok – MK, Peter Mapp – PM, Tobias Goldmann – TG, Charlie Hughes – CH, Francois Montignies – FM, Samuel Moulin – SM, Thomas Mouterde – TM, Hannah Goodine – HG, Arica Rust – AR, Bek Kok – BK, Andy Wardle – AW, Eddy Brixen – EB, Eric Ferguson – EF, Jon Burton – JB

Apologies:

Neil Shaw – NS, Bruce Olson – BO, Soren Bech – SB, Etienne Corteel – EC, Scott Sugden – SS, Jos Mulder – JM

1. Minutes and actions from AES 151 Fall Show 2021.
 - The previous meeting minutes were reviewed for actions. AH noted that all remaining actions appear on the current meeting agenda, so there was nothing further to discuss.
2. AES 152 Spring 2022 – sessions related to and/or supported by TC-ASR
 - AH thanked the TC members who had contributed to sessions for the AES Spring Show. MK reported that his in person session was well attended. Others expressed enthusiasm for the return of in person sessions.
 - AH noted that the panel session proposed by AR was rejected by the convention committee, possibly due to a misunderstanding of what the session's technical requirements were. AR reported that the panel members have already signed on to do the session (on live sound system “shoot outs”), if accepted, for the fall convention.
3. AES 153 (New York – October 19-20, Online – October 25-28)
 - AH asked those in attendance if there was interest in putting on any further sessions for the fall convention, in addition to AR's online session.
 - Some members noted that they weren't interested in contributing an online session again and only wanted to deliver in person sessions going forward.
 - EB suggested a potential session on acoustic treatment of rooms, looking into real world measurements of certain materials' performance as well as cost effective treatment strategies.

- No other suggestions were put forward during the meeting.
- **Action (all members):** Contact AH, KG and/or ES if you have any proposals for tutorials/workshops/panel sessions for the next convention. The deadline is 31 July 2022.

4. Sound Reinforcement Conference

- AR (conference chair) gave a detailed update on the next Sound Reinforcement conference.
 - The conference is tentatively planned for January 2024 in Le Mans, France to coincide with Le Mans Sonore (<https://lemanssonore.fr/>).
 - The core activities within the conference will take place within Le Mans University, specifically tied to the university's acoustics lab (<https://laum.univ-lemans.fr/>). Prof. Manuel Melon will be the other conference chair.
 - The organizing committee has been identified as follows:
 - Chairs: Arica Rust, Manuel Melon
 - Vice-chairs: Hannah Goodine, Marcel Kok
 - Papers chairs: Elena Shabalina, Adam Hill
 - Treasurer: TBC
 - Workshop chairs: TBC
 - Mentors: Eddy Brixen, Peter Mapp
- AR reported that the organizing committee has been working with AES HQ to begin the process of submitting the formal conference proposal, which will be submitted towards the end of the summer.
- EB highlighted that the previous SR conference in Denmark, while successful from a content point of view, resulted in no profit for the AES.
- PM noted that the SR conference in Montreal was financially successful, which was partially achieved by personally inviting roughly half of the papers before the call for papers was published (this gave lots to promote early).
- KG noted that when deciding upon topics, the organizers should look at what was successful in Montreal and Denmark.
- ES suggested that the recent AES Technical Document produced by TC-ASR should be highlighted within the program and also that we should focus on inviting people from outside of the AES (such as the acoustics community).
- PM suggested a session on hearing protection (he could deliver something).

- JB offered to help bring in system engineers. AR noted that the timing of the conference (January) would be ideal to attract such individuals.
- AR suggested that SoundGirls should be involved and help to promote the event. Those present strongly supported this idea.
- AH suggested to also get involvement from the WHO, considering their recent Global Standard on Safe Listening Venues and Events.
- ML noted that the audiology community isn't well educated in sound reinforcement issues. How could we get this community involved with this event? AR suggested the possibility of making one of the core topics on hearing loss/noise exposure.
- ES suggested a session related to the HELA (healthy ears, limited annoyance) initiative from the AES Technical Document. There are many outstanding research questions that could be raised at the conference as well as the possibility of launching the proposed certification scheme for working live sound engineers.
- AH supported this, noting that if this were to happen, work on this certification scheme would need to commence very soon and have support from the AES (and ideally the Make Listening Safe initiative within the WHO). AH is happy to lead on this, with support from ES and others.
- PM raised the question regarding the length of the conference. After a discussion on this, it seems likely that the core conference will be three days with a possible fourth day of visits/demos/etc. BK noted that the recent in person convention in the Hague was over two days, but in his opinion it would have been more effective to have it three days as it would give more motivation for people to travel long distances to attend.
- AR noted that the conference length will be defined once a set of core topics has been identified.
- AR suggested that there is a possibility of half or full day tours of L-Acoustics and the university labs.
- Regarding the conference format, AR suggested that it would be in person, not hybrid. There could be the possibility to record sessions, though, to allow AES members to view after the conference.
- **Action (all members):** Contact AR if you are interested in acting as treasurer within the conference organizing committee.
- **Action (all members):** Contact AR if you are interested in acting as a workshop chair within the conference organizing committee.

5. Working groups, standards work, or other TC-related activities

- Update from working group on noise control at live events

- MK gave a general overview of the group's progress to date. TG had recently given a presentation to the group on the quantification and measurement of sound system directivity off-site (for noise pollution monitoring). A practical method for data acquisition in the field is essential and TG has laid the groundwork for this.
- TG then gave a more detailed overview of what he presented to the working group. Key to this work is identifying how many measurements are required to adequately deduce system off-site directivity.
- MK noted that the Dutch Ministry of Health is currently supporting research on high intensity low frequency sound exposure, with field work carried out by students at the Ghent University (at major music festivals). This work could perhaps be presented at the SR conference.
- Update from working group on sound system standardization
 - BR noted that members of this group had recently been extremely busy, therefore there has been little progress in this area.
 - Due to his ongoing work on the topic, it was suggested that EB join this group (EB was happy to do so).
 - EB highlighted that AES Standards are currently working on a closely related topic and the TC should aim to work closely with them. BR agreed.
 - PM gave more detail on current work with AES Standards (SC 04-08) and that they hadn't yet considered sound system "shoot outs". He welcomed involvement from members of the TC. He also noted that there is a relevant IEC standard that should be consulted within this work.
 - TB suggested that there are strong links between the two current TC working groups. He offered to join this group to provide a clear communication link between the two.
 - **Action (BR):** Add EB, TG and PM to this group. Liaise with PM to form link between the relevant AES Standards groups.
- WHO Global Standard on Safe Listening Venues and Events
 - AH gave an overview of the WHO's recently released Global Standard on Safe Listening Venues and Events (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240043114>).
 - AH suggested that this is a very common sense and practical document that will provide a good starting point for improvements and standardization of sound exposure regulations across the world (in the long term). It will also feed into the HELA initiative. The TC's AES Technical Document strongly influenced this WHO Standard, with direct contributions from AH, MK, EC, JM and JB.

- AH also noted that there is a research project in its early stages in Nottingham, UK, where the focus is on using the city as a lab. The aim is to launch a long-term project looking into sound exposure at small to medium sized music venues.

6. TC-ASR membership/leadership

- AH noted that there were no TC leadership changes and welcomed the two new members to the TC (Charbel Hourani and Hannah Goodine).

7. Any other business

- MK prompted AH to mention certain TC members' involvement with Internoise 2022 (<https://internoise2022.org/>), which will take place in Glasgow, UK at the end of August.
- AH and ES are main topic chairs for the sound reproduction track at the conference, with MK (and others) chairing sessions within this main topic. TC members are encouraged to attend if they are in the area in August.

Minutes compiled by AH, 16 June 2022.