

AES Technical Committee on Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement
Minutes from Technical Committee meeting – AES New York 2022
Tuesday, 25 October 2022, 11am – 12pm (EDT), MS Teams

Attendance:

Adam Hill (chair) – AH, Kurt Graffy (chair) – KG, Elena Shabalina (vice chair) – ES, Michael Lawrence – ML, Boris Rehders – BR, Marcel Kok – MK, Peter Mapp – PM, Tobias Goldmann – TG, Francois Montignies – FM, Hannah Goodine – HG, Arica Rust – AR, Ben Kok – BK, Andy Wardle – AW, Eddy Brixen – EB, Jon Burton – JB, Charbel Hourani – CH, Tim Kuschel – TK, Ugis Vilcans – UV, James Hipperson – JH, John Woodgate – JW, David Prince – DP, Etienne Corteel – EC

Apologies:

Eric Ferguson – EF

1. Minutes and actions from AES 152 Spring Show 2022 (see below).
 - 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 153 New York 2022 – sessions related to and/or supported by TC-ASR
 - AH thanked the TC members who had contributed to sessions for AES New York.
 - EB reported that the in-person event was well-attended and seemed to have gone well.
 - Some members highlighted that the in-person and hybrid components of the convention were more like two separate events now, which may not be ideal. Many members expressed the need to retain an online element, without missing key in-person sessions that aren't streamed online. Accessibility is important.
3. AES 154 (Helsinki, 13-15 May 2023)
 - BR suggested a session on estimation of direct sound SPL based on the excitation spectra for live event applications (not related to AES75, though). JH, TK and PM interested in contributing (although PM may consider a related session on voice alarm systems).
 - EB suggested a session on vibration in microphones at live events (with drum mics, risers and stages, for example). The format of this session is TBC.

- AH asked if BK still would like to bring back one of his old acoustics sessions. BK indicated that he was happy to do what the TC felt was needed, but was scaling back activities. Perhaps a case study on a recent city council meeting room design.
- ES suggested a session on concert hall design for sound reinforcement (combining acoustics and sound reinforcement topics). BK mentioned that he did a case study on this at the AES convention in the Hague 2022. KG supported a session looking into case studies for problematic venues. EB suggested a title “My worst room ever”. BR was supportive and had examples to share. KG suggested that maybe this could be two sessions: (1) case studies and (2) acoustics vs. sound reinforcement in venues. TK said he could offer a case study from Australia on road tunnels (which are very difficult “rooms”).
- **Action (BR):** Organize session on SPL estimation due to excitation spectrum.
- **Action (EB):** Organize session on microphone vibration at live events.
- **Action (ES + KG):** Organize session(s) on problematic venue case studies and designing venues for acoustics and sound reinforcement.

4. Sound Reinforcement Conference

- AR gave an update on the planning for what is now the AES Conference on Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement, set to take place in Le Mans, France, 22-26 January 2024.
- AES have approved the conference. Some reservations about it coinciding with NAMM, but organizing committee felt that there was minimal overlap of the target audience.
- AR noted that key sponsors have already been secured with more to follow shortly.
- KG asked about issues with capacity. AR noted that the maximum capacity of the venue was just under 200, but the conference was targeting 150 attendees.
- AR said that soon the committee will be reaching out to people for contributions (keynotes, papers, workshops, tutorials). ES asked for any suggestions for paper sessions and EC asked for suggestions for workshops.
- JB offered to bring in some high-profile sound engineers to contribute, if appropriate. AR indicated support for this.
- AR noted that the goal was to reach a wide and diverse audience. For instance, it is hoped that SoundGirls will be involved in some capacity.
- PM noted that although the conference won't be fully hybrid, there will be the ability for people not able to attend to view the session recordings. A streaming option may be provided, depending on budget and demand.

- ES thanked AR for the hard work to date on the conference. All in attendance agreed. It is looking to be a very exciting and interesting event.
- **Action (all TC members):** Contact AR if you wish to organize/support a session at the conference.

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

- Update from working group on noise control at live events
 - MK gave an update on this group's activities and noted that progress has been slow due to all group members being busy with festivals over the summer.
 - There is a case study planned for summer 2023, which could feature as a paper at the conference in Le Mans in 2024.
 - MK noted that there is some interest within the group in investigating temperature inversion effect predication.
- Update from working group on sound system standardization
 - BR gave an update on this group's activities and, like MK's group, not much has happened due to busy schedules over the summer.
 - BR is now aware of relevant AES Standards work in this area (PM is the chair) and is in conversation with the relevant people.
 - BR noted that a topics list has been created and a discussion has been commenced. It is important to not reinvent/redo the work of AES Standards and the relevant ISO documents already in existence.
 - **Action (BR):** Add JH to the working group member list.
- Healthy Ears, Limited Annoyance (HELA) certification scheme
 - AH gave a very brief update on this initiative, noting that the educational component of the initiative (a certification scheme) is planned to launch at the 2024 conference, as long as AES supports the initiative and the content can be written in time.
 - **Action (AH):** Circulate executive summary of HELA certification scheme to TC membership with the minutes of this meeting.

6. TC-ASR membership/leadership

- AH noted that Alejandro Bidondo is no longer a vice-chair (removed by AES Technical Council) and that the TC is in search of new vice-chair, preferably from outside Europe.
- AH mentioned that the TC is due for a membership list "clean-up" (last done in 2017). This will take place in the next 6 months.

- **Action (all TC members):** Pass suggestions for new TC vice-chair to AH, KG and ES.
- **Action (TC leadership):** Conduct membership list clean-up before next AES convention.

7. Any other business

- There was no other business discussed.

Minutes compiled by AH, 21 November 2022.