

AES Technical Committee on Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement
Minutes from Technical Committee meeting– AES 156 Madrid 2024
Wednesday, 19 June 2024, 11am – 12pm (EDT), MS Teams

Attendance:

Elena Shabalina (outgoing vice-chair) – ES, Tobias Goldmann – TG (incoming vice-chair), Peter Mapp – PM, Andy Wardle – AW, Tom Bland – TB, James Hipperson – JH, Charbel Hourani – CH, Ugis Vilcans – UV, Thomas Mouterde – TM, Arica Rust – AR, Jos Mulder – JM

Apologies:

Adam Hill (chair) – AH, Marcel Kok – MK, Boris Rehders – BR, Etienne Corteel – EC, Jim Griffiths – JG, Scott Sugden – SS, Soren Bech – SB, Ben Kok – BK, Jon Burton – JB

1. Minutes and actions from AES 155 New York 2023
 - Minutes were reviewed for actions. All actions appearing on the minutes are either out of date or come up in this meeting's agenda.
2. AES 156 Madrid 2024 – sessions supported by TC-ASR members
 - Nobody from the meeting attended the conference.
3. AES 157 New York (8-10 October 2024)
 - ES asked if anyone from the TC is interested in running a tutorial, workshop or presents a paper
 - TM mentioned that he will present three papers.
 - AR mentioned that she will present a summary of the acoustics and sound reinforcement conference. She will also be awarded for her work in organizing the event. Congratulations, Arica!
 - TG mentioned to contribute to a paper.
 - JM mentioned that AH and JB are planning a presentation on the HELA initiative.
 - **Action (AH, AR, TM, TG):** Submit proposals for AES NY convention tutorials/workshops before the published deadline.
4. Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement Conference (Le Mans, France, 22-26 January 2024)
 - AR gave a debrief from the conference committee

- The conference took place on the campus of the Le Mans University. AR mentioned that it was a great benefit of being able to use the facilities for free and allowing 30 students to attend the conference. This was in line with the idea of bringing more young professionals to the conference.
- 166 people attended the conference, almost twice as many as at the last conference in 2017. For the first time, there were sponsored student grants and scholarships for attending the conference.
- There have been 2 poster sessions, a demo area, 3 keynotes, 26 submitted and approved papers.
- AR explained that the biggest challenge was to make the event more attractive to attendees, especially to make it affordable for students. The session agreed that this is important to attract younger professionals and connect them with the industry and research in acoustics and sound reinforcement.
- AR offered to circulate the conference post event overview document within the TC.
- ES asked about the lessons learned and guidelines for the organizing committee of the next conference
 - AR mentioned that an interval of three years would make sense for the next conference. This was agreed by the participants at the meeting.
 - JH noted that other industry events such as trade shows should be considered when setting the dates.
 - The new committee should plan approx. 2.5 years to prepare for the conference, starting by the end of 2024.
 - The new committee shall be supported by mentors of the former committee.
 - It is beneficial to cooperate with academic institutions (not only for venue allocation, also for access to students), more scholarships
- **Action (all):** For members who are interested, do not hesitate to reach out to AR for the document and any further questions.
- **Action (all):** Get in touch with AH or KG if you're interested in becoming a member of the organizing committee of the next conference.

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

- Healthy Ears, Limited Annoyance (HELA) certification scheme
 - JM provided an update on HELA. The curriculum for the certification is complete and has been circulated at the beginning of this year to the members of the TC.

- The certification will be published in two steps in Q4 this year. A baseline level for all that are working at live events. An advanced level for all people that are connected to sound.
- AESTD1007.1.20-05 update
 - AH noted already at the last meeting that the process of updating the TC's 2020 technical document will commence once HELA is launched.
 - TG and JM mentioned that there is interest in updating the document with new findings in the field. This should include the content of the last conference in Le Mans.
 - JH show interest to contribute.
 - JM mentioned that it would be a good idea to present the updated document at the next acoustics and sound reinforcement conference to give it more presence.
- Update from working group on noise control at live events
 - TG noted that all members have been extremely busy this year, so there hasn't been much time for any additional during the season. There is a good deal of further work that they have in mind, though.
 - JH + TM offered to join this group.
 - **Action (MK):** Add JH + TM to the working group.
- Update from working group on sound system standardization
 - None of the members of the working group attend the meeting. There is nothing further to report from the working group at this time.
 - TB and JH showed interest to join the working group, as much of its focus aligns with their research.
 - **Action (BR):** Inform the committee members about the research topics of the group and add JH, TB to the group.

6. TC-ASR membership/leadership

- ES has stepped down as VC but will remain in the TC. She is handed over her position to TG.
- ES and TG mentioned that there is still one vacant VC position
- New members: Alexis Campos, Paul Cabello, Dawid Stelmach

Minutes compiled by TG & AH, 21 June 2024.