

Meeting Minutes

IEEE ComSoc Technical Committee on Smart Grid Communications (TC-SGC)

Location: After IEEE ICC 2020, Virtual Conference

Time: 12:00-13:20 EDT, Thursday, July 1, 2020

List of Attendees:

First Name	Family Name	Organisation
Andrea	Tonello	Klagenfurt University, Austria
Anil	Mengi	Devollo AG, Aachen Germany
Andreas	Reinhardt	TU Clausthal, Germany
Chris	Develder	Ghent University
Christian	Wietfeld	TU Dortmund University, Germany
Gautham	Prasad	The University of British Columbia, Canada
Ghassane	Aniba	Ecole Mohammadia d'ingénieurs (EMI), Rabat, Morocco
Giacomo	Verticale	Politecnico di Milano, Italy
Gyorgy	Dan	KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
Hans-Peter	Schwefel	Aalborg University, Denmark GridData GmbH (GE)
Hao	Wang	Monash University
Kun	Yang	University of Essex, UK
Lalitha	Sankar	Arizona State University, USA
Marco	Levorato	University of California, USA
Petar	Popovski	Aalborg University, Denmark
Ralf	Lehnert	Technische Universität Dresden, Germany
Stefano	Galli	IEEE
Sudip	Misra	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), India
Thanasis	Papaioannou	Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB)
Vincent	Chan	MIT, USA
Yan	Zhang	University of Oslo, Norway
Yang	Fang	Tsinghua University

Agenda

- **Call to order**
- **Approval of the agenda**
- **Approval of previous meeting minutes**
- **TC structure and status**
- **Reports on nominations, conferences and journals**
- **Workshop on smart grid communications**
- **TC awards and committee**
- **Any other business**

The meeting was called to order by TC-SGC Chair Andrea Tonello at 12:00 EDT.

- (1) The chair introduced the agenda, which was agreed upon. Also, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed upon.
- (2) The meeting continued with the **introduction of the mission of the TC**. The Chair introduced the **officers** and reported on the status of the currently **eight special interest groups (SIG)**. For several of the SIGs, new chairs have volunteered. There are some SIGs which have still vacant chair positions and for which still volunteers are welcome:
 - SIG Active Distribution Grids and Microgrids
 - SIG Smart metering, Demand Response and Dynamic Pricing
 - SIG ICT-Enabled Transactive Energy and Grid Economics
 - SIG Energy Internet and Energy System Integration

A new SIG on “AI and Computational Intelligence for Smart Grid” has been proposed which shall be merged with the SIG “Big Data Management and Analytics”.

With regard to the SIG Smart metering, Demand Response and Dynamic Pricing it was proposed to include representatives from regulators.

The meeting agreed that the chairs may consider to reduce the number of SIGs or merge them, if this better matches to the interests of volunteers within the TC.

- (3) The Chair introduced the membership development, the **process to become a member** of the TC. The membership has increased by roughly 9% since beginning of 2020.
- (4) The chair reported on **nominations** for **symposia chair positions** at upcoming conferences and other positions and **awards** within IEEE. Calls for Nominations are announced regularly via the TC-SGC mailing list.

With regard to **GLOBECOM** Smart Grid track, the competition with the Smart Grid Comm conference was discussed. It was agreed that if the dedicated Smart Grid Comm track would not be available in GLOBECOM, Smart Grid related topics would be potentially spread across other GLOBECOM symposia. Therefore, a dedicated track at GLOBECOM ensures the visibility of the respective topics and TC.

Lalitha Sankar reported on the status of the upcoming **SmartGridComm conference 2020**. This will be held as virtual conference with a high level of real-time interaction of the participants. In this context it was recommended to leverage experiences of IEEE WCNC and INFOCOM which have built their virtualized conferences on a new tool called duetone (see also duetone.com). This tool has been tailored to the requirements of ComSoc-like conference and is also much cheaper than established commercial tools.

SmartGridComm 2020 will feature in addition to the main program 4 workshops as well as

3 tutorials. In addition, Best paper awards will be reintroduced.

The **SmartGridComm 2021** will be organized in Aachen, Germany, by Antello Monti and Ferdinanda Ponci.

With regards to the relationship between the **TC and SmartGridComm steering committee** it was highlighted that although no formal relation has been established, the current chair as well as a vice chair of the TC are members of the steering committee. Nevertheless, a formal relation might be established in the future to ensure a close interaction, while preserving the independence of both committees.

- (5) The chair reported on **special issues of journals** organized by TC-SGC members. The **JSAC SI on Communications and Data Analytics** in Smart Grid will be published in 1st quarter 2020. The MDPI Energies- Special Issue on Power Line Communication Evolution: new Challenges and Innovative Solutions. The chair reported on the **outcome of nominations for recent conference tracks** (ICC, Globecom, SmartGridComm 2020/ 2021).
- (6) The chair reported on the **selection process** for the TCSGC **Outstanding Service and Technical Achievement Award**. The outcome will be announced at SmartGridComm 2020. It was noted, that there are new rules to be considered for the TC awards. Those rules will be soon made available and need to be considered in the upcoming selection process.
- (7) The chair introduced the concept of a **Workshop on Smart Grid Communications** which shall foster the interaction between academia and industry by a less formal setting, allowing for presentation without scientific full papers, which accommodates the requirements of industry better. It was generally agreed that industry contributions shall be valued by appropriate criteria, which may be different from purely academic criteria. It was proposed to consider asking SIG chairs to organize such workshops in a series, so that each of the events would have a dedicated focus.

With regards to an increased inclusion of industry, the initiative of a Smart Grid Symposium was mentioned, which aims to focus on industry presentations. This initiative is supported by several IEEE societies, including ComSoc.

- (8) Upcoming meetings: The **next meeting** will take place as virtual meeting in the context of the **SmartGridComm 2020**.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:20 EDT.

(Minutes by Fang Yang, TC Secretary, and Christian Wietfeld, TC vice-chair)