



INFORMATION ON NEXT MEETING

AES42 Digital Microphones and Controllers - Technology and Application -

Wednesday, 16th of May 2012, doors open at 17:00 (beginning at 17:30)
Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRF, Fernsehstrasse 1-4, 8052 Zurich
Studio 6 (HD sports studio)

SPEAKERS: Dr. Helmut Wittek (Schoeps Mikrofone GmbH)
Stephan Flock (DirectOut GmbH)

ORGANISER: Gabriel Leuzinger

LANGUAGE: German or English

The first revision of AES42 has been released in the year 2001, based on major development work contributed by Beyerdynamic and other German microphone manufacturers.

Digital microphones are in fact analogue microphone capsules digitized directly inside the microphone body. So the first challenge is to fit a very high quality converter with large dynamic range into a small microphone. And like all digital equipment, clocking and synchronizing is another essential task. But there is also the requirement of power supply and control.

The two speakers are representing both sides required for a digital microphone system: Dr. Helmut Wittek on the microphone side and Stephan Flock on the controller side.

They will talk about different tasks and requirements, solutions, real advantages, applications and practical questions for successful usage of a digital microphone system, also if it is operated in conjunction with its analogue counterparts.

The hands-on demonstration setup built up in studio 6 will consist of a mixed system (of different manufacturers) with a special digital microphone, with Mode 1 and Mode 2 digital microphones, with analogue microphones for comparison, everything interconnected and remote controlled over MADI.

Agenda:

17:00 doors open
17:30 1st presentation
18:15 break
18:30 2nd presentation
19:15 hands-on demonstration
20:00 optional dinner

Please subscribe as usual at the web address:
www.swissaes.org (under programme)

You're invited to continue the discussion in a nearby restaurant. Please sign-in also for the optional dinner (at your own expenses).

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Helmut Wittek was born in 1973. At the age of 6 he joined the renowned Tölz Boys Choir, becoming a soprano soloist and later a singing teacher. After studies in musicology in Munich, he studied sound and video engineering at the Fachhochschule and the Robert-Schumann-Hochschule in Düsseldorf, receiving the Dipl.-Ing. degree in 1999. He joined the Institut für Rundfunktechnik (IRT) in Munich in 2000 as a research engineer and worked with Günther Theile on Wave Field Synthesis, Stereo and Surround recording techniques and binaural audio. Aside his official job he started a PhD at the University of Surrey (Dr Rumsey, Dr Theile) in 2002. In 2008 he was awarded a Ph.D. at the University of Surrey. Since 2005 he has been with SCHOEPS Mikrofone GmbH, Germany, as a Sales and Development engineer. In 2007 he was appointed Head of Engineering and technical support. In 2009 he became Managing Director (Engineering) of

SCHOEPS Mikrofone GmbH. Wittek is member of the VDT, and has written a number of papers for VDT and AES international conventions. He frequently is giving lectures, chairs workshops and holds practical seminars and he works as an associate professor for the Hochschule der Medien, Stuttgart. Furthermore, he is the host of the Web site www.hauptmikrofon.de, a forum for stereo and surround recording.

Stephan Flock studied audio and video engineering in Düsseldorf from 1986 to 1991. Starting in 1992, he was working for the Recording Center of Deutsche Grammophon GmbH as a sound engineer and Tonmeister. Even today he is still involved as Tonmeister for the Emil-Berliner Studios, which had been emerged from DG. Since 2001, he has engineered the design of several devices which are marketed under the brand of RME. In 2009 the company DirectOut GmbH has been launched, where Stephan Flock currently covers the positions of CEO and development engineer.

REPORT ON GENERAL MEETING

Generation 2 Audio Networks and General Meeting

24th of May 2011, at Hotel Ador, Bern

SPEAKERS: Kieran Walsh, Audinate
Gints Linis, Telos Systems
Claude Cellier, Merging Technologies
Attila Karamustafaoglu, Studer Professional Audio GmbH

REPORTER: Attila Karamustafaoglu

Around 36 people gathered for this meeting in Bern. The first part of the event consisted of the General Meeting, where 18 voting members were present. The membership count was reported to be currently 159. Further on, Gabriel Leuzinger gave some information about the financial situation. The budget is constantly becoming tighter but careful management of the funds still allowed to close the year with a

minimum cash reserve until the next disbursement from the AES headquarter arrives.

The next then was the committee elections. Except the already announced resigning of Attila Karamustafaoglu all existing members were candidates for the re-election. Unfortunately no new candidates had followed the call for participation in the committee, so the election candidates were the six remaining ones.

All allowed members gave their vote in their favour, meaning that the re-election took place in a fast and uncomplicated way. Attila Karamustafaoglu thanked the members for their support and membership throughout his time in the committee. The new committee now consists of following members:

- Terry Nelson (chairman)
- Gabriel Leuzinger (vice-chairman)
- Véronique Adam
- Patrick Boehm
- Christoph Jäger
- David Norman

The second part of the meeting was formed by the four technical presentations about the current generation of audio networks. All being Ethernet based, they are still different and all have their pros and cons. Please refer to the download section on the website to access all presentations held.

After the meeting about 20 persons enjoyed a dinner at the nearby restaurant “Tre Fratelli”.

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING

A combined meeting of the Diploma Ceremony for the graduates of the 2011 “Sound Technician” exams and An Evening with Wes Dooley”

23rd of February 2012, at Paul Klee Zentrum, Bern

SPEAKER: Wes Dooley

REPORTER: Terry Nelson

The 23rd. of February saw the biannual special meeting of the AES Swiss Section for the presentation of the Federal diplomas to the graduates of the “Sound Technician” exams for 2011 organised by the Education Committee of the Swiss AES. The event was held at the Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern and was an ideal venue for this special occasion.

The 2011 exams saw a record number of 59 candidates and 49 graduates, with the majority of candidates coming from the three schools conducting the syllabus for the “Sound Technician” diploma.

As has now become the custom, we had the pleasure of a special guest speaker to address the graduates after the diploma presentation and this was followed by the traditional apèro offered by both the Swiss AES and the Education Committee before leading on to the evening address in the series of “An Evening With...”

Our keynote speaker was Wes Dooley of Audio Engineering Associates and the subject material was very much based on the use and design of microphones – particularly ribbon ones!

The address for the students opened with a clip from the film, “The Wizard of Oz”, where the wizard is revealed to be an ordinary person

hiding with a microphone. The point made here was that sound engineers are ‘wizards’ – we are the people that make the magic happen for the artist and are the vital link between the artistic intent and the final product.

The fact that the graduates were accompanied by numerous parents/friends/family was an opportunity for them to have a better understanding of what our industry is about and what we do in it, an interesting discovery for many people!

“An Evening with Wes Dooley” was the opportunity to be reminded about the history of the development of the ribbon microphone and the special characteristics offered by this type of transducer. As Wes pointed out, ribbon microphones are not the only option for sound capture by far but do exhibit special qualities that we would be unwise to ignore.

A selection of microphones from AEA were used with the sound reinforcement system in order to demonstrate some of these characteristics and to compare them with other microphones also being used.

The meeting was followed by the optional dinner at the neighbouring Schöngrün restaurant, together with some lively discussions between attendees.

Special thanks go to Wälo Hurzeler for his coordination with the ZPK and the AES EC secretary, Laura Goeldin (plus assistants), for visitor coordination.

Warm thanks are extended to Gotham Audio SA and Bleuel SA for sponsoring prizes to the candidates who obtained exceptional results.



Graduates of the 2011 Sound Technician exams



Wes Dooley