



INFORMATION ON NEXT MEETING

AUDIO OVER IEEE 1394 / FIREWIRE & GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 18th of June 2002, 1700h at Rest. zum äusseren Stand, Zeughausgasse 17, Bern

17h00-18h30 Presentations on Firewire
18h30-19h15 Aperitif
19h15-19h45 General Meeting (for AES Members only)
19h45 Dinner at Restaurant zum äusseren Stand

SPEAKERS: Dr Steven Harris, BridgeCo
Bob Moses, Island Digital Media Group, Seattle
Keith Warburton, Glyph Technologies Inc.

ORGANIZER: Patrick Roe, LEMA-EPFL

LANGUAGE: English

The next Swiss Section meeting to be held on the Tuesday 18th of June will include both a meeting on the topic "Audio over IEEE 1394 / Firewire" and the Swiss Section General Meeting.

Participants are asked to register by postcard or on the Website until the 14th of June and clearly indicate whether they intend to stay for the aperitif, General Meeting and Dinner. Members and non-members are welcome to come to the Firewire Meeting, aperitif and dinner, however the General Meeting is reserved to the Swiss Section members only. A fee of 20 SFr.- will also be charged to the non-members for the aperitif and general organisation (the aperitif is free of charge for Swiss Section Members and speakers). AES Enrolment forms can be found at www.swissaes.org and some enrolment forms will be available at the meeting. The cost of the dinner is 50 SFr.- Payment is to be made at the meeting during the aperitif and all participants will be given token in exchange as proof of payment (green for members, red for non-members and orange for those just attending the aperitif and blue for those members just attending the General Meeting but not the Dinner (this will be fun...))

Programme of "Firewire" meeting

"Introduction to IEEE 1394" 17h00-17h30
Dr. Steven Harris, BridgeCo.

"Home networking using IEEE 1394 in combination with other technologies", 17h30-18h
Bob Moses, Island Digital Media Group.

"Storage Device Applications", 18-18h30
Keith Warburton, Glyph Technologies Inc.

Biographical Notes

Dr. Steven Harris is currently Director of Product Marketing at BridgeCo AG in Zurich. Previously Steve was Director of New Product Technology at Cirrus Logic based in Austin, Texas and in UK. AES activities include vice chairman of the AES UK section this year (will be chairman next year), vice chairman of AES SC-06 networking standards committee and chairman of the task group which created the AES42 standard for digitally interfaced microphones.

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REPORT ON APRIL MEETING

VARIABLE ACOUSTICS USING ELECTROACOUSTIC SYSTEMS

Joint Meeting with the AES French Section

Friday 19th of April 2002, 13h30-19h00 at La Rampe, Grenoble, France

SPEAKER: Jean-Paul Vian, CSTB

REPORTER: Joel Godel, Acustica

LANGUAGE: French

Just over twenty Swiss Sections members travelled by bus from Geneva airport to Grenoble to meet up with French members accompanied by Mike Williams for a joint French-Swiss Section Meeting of the 19th of April 2002.

The participants from both sections first visited the “Rampe”, a hall which is equipped with the French CSTB system “CARMEN” that can vary the hall acoustics using electroacoustic means. A revealing live demonstration of the system with two musicians was organised although it was difficult to appreciate the full possibilities of the system due to the hall being empty.

A guided tour of the acoustics part of the CSTB was then organized. The projects presented included a research project on active electroacoustic walls, a demonstration of an acoustic measurement using holography and a demonstration of the software version of “Acoubat” with auralisation and listening in an arm chair.

The meeting ended with an cocktail enabling the members of both sections to mix and chat.



Participants, including Professor Mario Rossi in the auralisation armchair, at joint AES French and Swiss Section Meeting on 19th of April 2002 at CFTB in Grenoble

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING

HEARING DAMAGE ISSUES

Thursday 23rd of May 2002, 1500 at Phonak AG, Stäfa

SPEAKERS: Beat Hohmann, SUVA Luzern
Dr. Volker Kühnel, Phonak AG

REPORTER: Attila Karamustafaoglu, Studer Professional Audio

Once again a successful meeting was held with more than 40 visitors joining the factory tour and the presentations at Phonak AG in Stäfa. First the visitors were split in two groups and guided through the high-tech factory producing hearing aids in many variations. From the individual production of paediatric ear-canal inserts over robot-operated plastic moulding machines to very fine pitch mechanical and soldering workplaces, the company was able to show a high amount of know-how in their business. The remarkable layout of the building has also to be mentioned, where practically no doors exist and easy communication is possible between people of all departments. Qualified personnel gave special explanations for certain design or manufacturing processes at various stages on the tour.

After these very interesting one and a half hours, the two organizations SGA and AES welcomed the participants to the talks. Beat Hohmann started with his speech about music-induced hearing loss. First an overview was given on the causes and effects of hearing loss, like the standard hearing curves and the physiognomy of the human ear. Then the situation of Swiss laws concerning noise at working places were addressed and explained that for a 40h-week the average noise should not be higher than 87dB(A). His institution has worked on an interesting issue recently, namely that professional musicians often suffer from levels higher than 87dB(A) per working week and therefore show hearing losses.

So for some musicians it is even recommended to wear ear protection during their "work". A presentation of a study on the behaviour of young people listening to modern music completed this interesting speech.

After this, Dr. Volker Kühnel from Phonak gave a speech "Psychology and audiology in normal and hearing-impaired persons". Rounding up the explanations about the physiognomy of the human ear, one interesting point was explained, that hearing damage affects not only the levels but also the ability to discriminate frequencies which makes it impossible to correct the damage back to 100 percent, as is possible with glasses for sight. Today's hearing aids are therefore highly sophisticated signal processors, which do multiband dynamics processing as well as adaptive focusing to sound sources using multiple microphones. Various tools have been developed by Phonak to register the ear curves of hearing impaired people at different levels and to program the hearing-aids accordingly. Some design aspects were also explained, like power considerations, since amplifications of up to 90dB have to be supplied by 0.9 to 1.3 Volts at less than 2mW. Further features are integrated, such as reception of FM signals from dedicated microphone transmitters as well as the ability to use mobile telephones with hearing aids.

A dinner at the restaurant Sonne in Stäfa finished this very interesting meeting. The Swiss AES section wants to thank Phonak AG again for their efforts and hospitality.

Reminder

The programme for the Autumn will be announced in the Aug-Sept. Newsletter. We can however announce that the AES Swiss Section will have a Stand at the "Light and Sound Messe" between October 12-14, 2002

INFORMATION ON NEXT MEETING (continued)

Biographical Notes (continued)

Bob Moses is Currently President of Island Digital Media Group in Seattle. Bob is the founder of Digital Harmony Technologies and Rane Corporation. His AES activities include Vice Chairman of Western USA region and past governor and vice chair of SC06-02 IEEE1394 standards committee.

Keith Warburton is currently European Sales Director for the Global Distribution Group. He has been involved with Glyph since 1997, helping with R&D, test, qualification and sales & marketing. Global acts a “glyph Europe” and Keith has been active in the audio business since 1987, working with Digidesign, Blue Systems products and now with the Global Distribution Group.

Swiss Section General Meeting

Our current Section Chairman, Patrick Roe, will open the General Meeting at 19h15. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- 19.15-19.20: Summary of Swiss Section activities over last 2 years from Section Chairman, Patrick Roe
- 19.20-19.25: Report on membership from Section Secretary, Attila Karamustafoglu
- 19.25-19.30: Financial report from Section treasurer, Alain Roux
- 19.30-19.40: Election of incoming Swiss Section Committee
- 19.40-19.45: Any other matters or questions, Close of Meeting

Proposed incoming Swiss Section Committee up for election

Two members of the outgoing Section Committee, Patrick Roe (Chairman) and Markus Erne (Vice-Chairman) are retiring after ten years and fifteen years of service respectively in the committee. Two new Members have been put forward to replace them:

Véronique Adam of LEMA-EPFL and Gabriel Leuzinger.

If any Member wishes to propose any other candidates for the Section Committee elections, they should notify the Section

Chairman, Patrick Roe (EFFL-STI-TOP-LEMA, CH1015 Lausanne) in writing before the 15th of June 2002.

The new Section Committee being put forward for election at the General Meeting therefore comprises the following eight Members:

Terry Nelson
Patrick Boehm
Walter Koeller
Véronique Adam

Attila Karamustafaoglu
Alain Roux
Joël Godel
Gabriel Leuzinger

Sign off Note from Newsletter Editor

This is the final sign off from your current Swiss Section Newsletter Editor. After 12 years and 83 “runs” (quite a good innings as they say in Cricketing England) I am retiring to an editing-free life.... There have been some hairy moments and some fun ones and somehow deadlines have been met. This is greatly due to the help of hard working, flexible conspirators whom I would all like to thank (too many to name here). Thank you also to all of you readers for being just that, faithful readers.

Patrick Roe
Newsletter Editor