

Minutes for the Optical Networking Technical Committee (ONTC) Meeting

Globecom 2020

Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021
Time: 2:30 am EDT, 11:30 am EDT
Place: Virtual Meeting



1. Welcome and Introductions

Luca welcomed and thanked remote participants for attending ONTC meeting(s).
Luca briefly introduced agenda for the day.
Round table introductions.

2. Approval of the minutes from ONTC meeting from ICC 2020

Error noted on minutes, revised version on website now.
Moved: Zuqing Zhu/Matt Cao
Seconded: Andrea Bianco/Shiwen Mao
Minutes approved after votes.

3. Frontiers in Research Presentation

Title: Vision on Networking in the Age of AI
Presenter: JJ Vegas Olmos from NVIDIA

Abstract: This presentation will provide information on how AI is meeting networking, and some general trends and directions NVIDIA identifies in the field.

NB: A copy of JJ's slides can be found on the ONTC webpage under "Meetings"

Vincent Chan recommended to reach out to Loukas Parachis on the topic of aggregators of high performance computing and to speak at the next ONTC meeting on multilayer networking.

4. IEEE ComSoc Policies and Procedures

Luca reports changes to ComSoc P&Ps and ONTC needs to align to these changes.

- <https://www.comsoc.org/about/board-governors/governance/policies-procedures>
 - B.5.6 Technical Committees Board
- B.5.6.4.4 Minimum Mandatory/Recommended Policies for Technical Committees' P&Ps
<https://ontc.committees.comsoc.org/policies/>
- ONTC awards for 2020 have not been awarded as ComSoc P&P changes require ONTC Award Subcommittee to be established. Subcommittee members are to be elected by TC and endorsed by TEA Council.
- The interpretation of an "active member" who has the right to vote, is left to the TC.
- Luca proposes that voting members for the ONTC Award Subcommittee, are members who have participated in 3 out of 5 previous meetings and also former officers of ONTC.
- Luca called for candidates for the ONTC Award Subcommittee (2 year term).

5. Conference updates and reports

Globecom 2020, 7-11 December, Taipei

- ONS Chairs:
 - Jijia Chen (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden)
 - Abdelmoula Bekkali (TOYO Electric Communications, Japan)
 - Submissions
 - 58 Papers: 26 networks, 32 systems
 - Accepted 21

- Best paper award
Can Zhang, Søren Forchhammer, Jakob Dahl Andersen, Tayyab Mehmood, Metodi P. Yankov, and Knud J. Larsen
“Fast SD-Hamming Decoding in FPGA for High-Speed Concatenated FEC for Optical Communication”.
- Allocated 4 sessions

ICC 2021, 11-15 June, Montreal, Canada

- **ONS Chairs:**
 - Chadi Assi (Concordia University, Canada)
 - Elaine Wong (University of Melbourne, Australia)
 - Submissions
 - 52 submitted papers: 20 networks, 30 systems
 - Paper review is on-going
 - Allocated 4 sessions

- **OFC 2021, June 1-5, San Francisco, CA, USA**
 - Elaine Wong (N4 chair) and Reza Nejabati (N2 chair) provided update on the postponement of the meeting. All invited, tutorial and symposium speakers are locked in.
 - Regular submission deadline: 26 Jan 2021
 - Paolo Monti (Demo zone chair) commented on deadline of demo zone contributions being one month after the regular paper deadline.
 - Jane Simmons (N3 and Steering Committee Member) commented that there are no updates from OSA yet.
 - Vincent Chan commented on long-range planning committee with Steve Alexander as Chair. Atrophy of network and system architecture papers. Lack of interest from industry in this space. Network companies have recently disengaged. Recommend each year one TPC Chair should be from ComSoc. TPC N Track Chair has oversight of Show Floor Programming.
 - Filippo Cugini commented that OFC is working as is and we should be cautious before proceeding with changes.
 - Laurent Schares commented that main problem is decline of participation by service providers and cloud providers in terms of contributed papers. Networking shall be strengthened. About moving it to June - controversial feeling but was mainly due for the show floor.
 - Lena commented on ECOC being virtual exhibition and wondered if there are any feedback on how effective this is. Also, discussed relevance of ONDM being more dedicated to the ONTC community interests.

- **GC 2021, December 7-11, Madrid, Spain**
 - Rudra Dutta, North Carolina State University
 - Mauro Biagi, University of Rome "La Sapienza"
- **OFC 2022, March 6-10, San Diego, CA, USA**
- **ICC 2022, May 16-20, Seoul, Korea**
 - Marco Ruffini, Trinity College Dublin
 - Steve Hranilovic, McMaster university
- **Globecom 2022, December 4-8, Rio De Janeiro, Brasil (Nominations sent)**
 - Guido Maier
 - Suresh Subramanian
- **ICC 2023, May 28-June 1, Rome, Italy**
 - No nomination request from ComSoc yet. Please send Luca an email if you are interested in co-chairing.

Other upcoming conferences:

- ONTC co-sponsored
 - DRCN 2021 (19th-22nd April 2021, Milan)
 - Submission Deadline: 3rd January, 2021 (EXTENDED)
 - <https://www.drcn2021.polimi.it/>
 - ONDM 2021 25th International Conference on Optical Network Design and Modelling (June 28-July 1, 2021, Gothenburg, Sweden)
 - Submission Deadline: March 12, 2021
 - <https://ondm2021.chalmers.se/>
 - Paolo Monti commented on JOCN Special Issue from the conference
 - The 30th International Conference on Computer Communications and Networks (ICCCN 2021) (July 19 - 22, 2021, Athens, Greece)
 - Submission Deadline: February 19, 2021
 - <http://www.icccn.org/iccn21/index.html>
 - George Rouskas commented on lower acceptance rate than ICC and Globecom (28%), 8 tracks but many topics

6. Journal updates and reports

- IEEE Open Journal of the Communications Society Special Issue Machine Learning for Optical Communications and Networking
 - Submission deadline: 1 February 2021
 - <https://www.comsoc.org/publications/journals/ieee-ojcoms/cfp/machine-learning-optical-communications-and-networking>
- IEEE Communications Magazine, Series on “Optical communications and networks”
Continuous submission, three issues per annum (accepts 10-15 papers yearly, acceptance ratio 25-30%)
<https://www.comsoc.org/publications/magazines/ieee-communications-magazine/cfp/optical-communications-and-networks>
- IEEE Networking Letters continuous submission
 - <https://www.comsoc.org/publications/journals/ieee-lnet>
 - George Rouskas commented that journal will get an impact factor early 2022. Time to first review is 6 weeks. Up to 5 pages long (5th page charged). Submissions across the field of networking.
- IEEE/OSA JLT Special Issue on: 6G Mobile Networks
 - Submission deadline: May 31, 2021
 - <https://www.ieee-jlt.org/Call-for-Papers>

JOCN updates (Jane Simmons)

- Special Issue: Advanced Monitoring and Telemetry in Optical Networks
- Submission deadline: February 24, 2021
- https://www.osapublishing.org/jocn/journal/jocn/feature_announce/amton.cfm
- The OFC 2020 Special Issue is complete and posted on IEEE Xplore and the OSA Publishing site. It spans the Jan and Feb issues. For the first time, the SI includes Invited Tutorials on networking topics (previously, these papers were published in JLT’s OFC SI).
- For the first time, JOCN has been selected to host a special issue for the ECOC 2020 networking papers (similar to the OFC SI). The invitations have been sent out.
- Continue to partner with ONDM. The ONDM 2020 special issue will be published later this year. We will also have an ONDM 2021 special issue. We want to emphasize that most of

the papers selected for the special issue will be the shorter 3-page papers, as opposed to the full-length 6-page papers.

- The average time from submission to publication for 2020 JOCN papers was 112 days (subtract out ~30 days for comparison with IEEE-managed journals). Three years ago, this metric was 169 days. The quality of papers has noticeably improved as well. The JOCN editorial board is very strong and dedicated.
- Please remember to use the most up-to-date paper template, restrict the abstract to ~200 words, do not use “et al.” in the references, do not use footnotes.
- If there is a need to perform studies on backbone US networks, please see the topologies at: <http://monarchna.com/topology.html> NSFNet and USNet are not realistic topologies.

7. Book Updates

- Availability of the "Optical Networks Handbook"
 - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dr-ioannis-tomkos-086b102_springer-handbook-of-optical-networks-activity-6722742319226871808-QcPn
- Invitation for proposals to interested Book Editors or/and Book Authors for Books related to the general areas of Optical Communication Systems & Networks (as part of the Book Series that Biswanath Mukherjee and Ioannis Tomkos) are handling
 - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dr-ioannis-tomkos-086b102_optical-networks-activity-6725384313287778305-hYha

8. Strategic Planning Committee Report

- Luca reported that in the latest ComSoc’s Strategic Planning Committee meeting, during the Topics Radar, a proposal to start two Emerging Technology Committees (ETCs) (<https://www.comsoc.org/about/committees/emerging-technologies-initiatives>) was raised.
 - ETC on Optical Connectivity (i.e. optical interconnects)
 - ETC on Data Centers (including edge cloud).
 - Could be due to partial/limited view from ComSoc on ONTC covers.
- Luca is in contact with TAOS about this issue. Luca recommended to start two Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on these topics within ONTC to collaborate with the two ETC. Volunteers from ONTC community are appreciated to lead these SIGs.
- Reza commented on multiple groups with significant overlap, e.g. GLOBECOM. Should focus all optical networking activities.
- Marco Ruffini suggested the name of “edge connectivity” to encompass access and edge computing.
- Vincent recommended chairs of ONTC, Taos, HPSC to draft list of other network segments covered. Looking at TC reform to consolidate and focus areas to have critical mass. Comsoc retreat on Jan. 23rd and decision between the chairs should be finalised before then.

9. Voting Pending

- Proposal to name ONTC Service Award under Prof. Melathi Veeraraghavan where ONTC Award Committee will vote on.
- All voting to use vTools <https://voting.vtools.ieee.org/>. See Tutorial <https://site.ieee.org/vtools/welcome-vtools-voting-page/>

10. Other business and adjournment

Luca thanked all attendees and adjourned meeting.

Attendees:

Name	Attendee Email
John Nolan	john.nolan@firstmilennetworks.co.uk
Xiaojun Matt Cao	cao@gsu.edu
ComSoc President, Vincent Chan	chan@mit.edu
Koteswararao Kondepu	koteswararao.kondepu@gmail.com
Luca Valcarenghi	luca.valcarenghi@santannapisa.it
Gustavo Figueiredo	gustavo@dcc.ufba.br
Lena Wosinska	wosinska@kth.se
Massimo Tornatore	massimo.tornatore@polimi.it
Paolo Monti - Chalmers	mpaolo@chalmers.se
Raul Muñoz CTTC	rmunoz@cttc.es
Jane Simmons	jsimmons@monarchna.com
Hussein Mouftah	mouftah@uottawa.ca
George Rouskas	rouskas@ncsu.edu
Marco Ruffini	marco.ruffini@tcd.ie
Shiwen Mao	smao@ieee.org
Filippo Cugini	filippo.cugini@santannapisa.it
Anuj Agrawal	phd1501202003@iiti.ac.in
Nelson Fonseca	nfonseca@ic.unicamp.br
LAURENT SCHARÉS	schares@us.ibm.com
Maite Brandt-Pearce	mb9g@virginia.edu
Gustavo Figueiredo	gustavobf@ufba.br
Paolo Monti Chalmers	mpaolo@chalmers.se
Maurice GAGNAIRE	maurice.gagnaire@telecom-paris.fr
Luca Valcarenghi	luca.valcarenghi@santannapisa.it
Yusuke Hirota	hirota.yusuke@nict.go.jp
Krzysztof Walkowiak	krzysztof.walkowiak@pwr.edu.pl
Elaine Wong	ewon@unimelb.edu.au
Reza Nejabati	eezrn@bristol.ac.uk
Andrea Bianco	andrea.bianco@polito.it
Zuqing Zhu	zqzhu@ieee.org
Anuj Agrawal	phd1501202003@iiti.ac.in
JJ Olmos	juanj@nvidia.com
Miquel Garrich	miquel.garrich@upct.es
Pascal Lorenz	pascal.lorenz@uha.fr
Anuj Agrawal	phd1501202003@iiti.ac.in