

INFORMS Telecommunications Technical Section (TTS) Business Meeting Minutes

March 21st 2016, Boca Raton, FL

Minutes taken by Ivana Ljubic (ESSEC Business School)

Meeting called by the Chair Mauricio Resende (Amazon)

Present at the meeting: Mike Bartolacci (Pen State Berks), Walid Ben-Ameur (TELECOM SudParis), Stanko Dimitrov (University of Waterloo), Luis Gouveia (University of Lisboa), Bernard Fortz (ULB Brussels), Arie Koster (RWTH Aachen), Ivana Ljubic (ESSEC), Albena Mihovska (Aalborg University), Eli Olinick (Southern Methodist University), Dimitri Papadimitriou (Alcatel-Lucent), Jamol Pender (Cornell), S. Raghavan (University of Maryland), Mauricio Resende (Amazon), Michael Segal (Ben-Gurion University and Cambridge University), Mateusz Żotkiewicz (Warsaw University of Technology)

Summary of the meeting in Boca Raton: This year the conference was organized by Bernard Fortz and Dimitri Papadimitriou. The organizers pointed out that they were contacted very late so that it was not easy to mobilize many participants. Overall, the participation was below the expectations, with a majority of participants coming from Europe. They stressed that more networking activities are required from our members in the US. Telecom companies are hit by recession, with many R&D departments being recently dissolved (AT&T, for example).

This year it has been decided to announce the Best Paper Award of the Telecom Section during the meeting at Boca Raton. Four finalists have been invited to give presentations at the conference. The members of the committee (Young Myoung Ko, Eli Olinick and Abdullah Konak) decided give the award to S.Chen, I. Ljubic, S. Raghavan for their paper "The generalized regenerator location problem" (INFORMS Journal of Computing, 2015). An honourable mention award was given to Jamol Pender for his paper "Nonstationary Loss Queues Via Cumulant Moment Approximations " (Probability in the Engineering and Informational Sciences, 2015).

Next meeting: Traditionally, INFORMS Telecom Section organizes a conference every second year, so the next one shall be scheduled for 2018. The overall opinion was that the next meeting shall take place at the university facilities where the running costs are significantly lower than in a hotel. For attracting more participants, determining the optimal location (and the time of the year) for the next meeting, an online survey will be sent to the members of the section addressing the following questions:

- Conference proceedings yes or no? In which form: short abstracts, extended abstract, full papers? LNCS-like proceedings or a post-conference journal special issue?
- Which time of the year?
- Preferable locations?

After the survey, the section will ask for proposals.

European Network Optimization Group (ENOG) organizes every second year INOC conference – the next one is planned for 2017. Bernard Fortz mentioned a possibility to organize a joint INFORMS Telecom – ENOG meeting in one of the following years.

Special issue: It has been decided to organize a post-conference special issue in an international journal. Several journals have been proposed – the consensus was reached for the journal “Networks” – the special issue will be co-edited by Bernard Fortz, Dimitri Papadimitriou and Mauricio Resende. The issue will be devoted only to the papers presented at the conference and the CFP will be sent out soon.

Budget: Our treasurer, Mike Bartolacci (Pen State Berks) will prepare the annual treasure’s report for our next meeting at the annual INFORMS conference at Nashville. In summary, the section’s budget is positive, although the meeting in Boca Raton induced some financial losses (exact amount still to be clarified with the Renaissance Boca Raton Hotel, where the meeting took place).

At the INFORMS annual meeting in Nashville, Stanko Dimitrov and ?? will take care of the sessions organized by our section. The call for the Dissertation Award 2016 will be posted soon. The award will be announced at the meeting in Nashville.

Next elections: Next elections will take place this autumn (per email), and the new officers will be appointed at the meeting in Nashville.