The International Consortium for Telemetry Spectrum

www.TelemetrySpectrum.org

Fall 2020 Business Meeting Minutes

The 2020 Annual ICTS Business Meeting was conducted over several email discussion between November 7, 2020 and November 30, 2020 due to COVID restrictions and the cancellation of the International Telemetering Conference.

Respondents

Guy Williams (Chairman)	Gerhard Mayer (Region 1)
Christian Heberin (Vice Chair)	Sergio Penna (Region 2)
Tim Chalfant (Secretary)	Jamie Presser (Region 3)
Ray Faulstich (IFT)	Gilles Freaud
Eric Prescott	Darrell Ernst
Jean-Claude Ghnassia	Scott Hoschar
Steve Lyons	Eric Presscott
Renaud Urli	Murdo MacKinnion
Ken Keane	Luc Falga

Non-Responding
Luiz de Souza

Call to Order & Welcome. A quorum of email participants was confirmed and business was conducted over several email messages. A proposed agenda was emailed to responding members. In leu of a full agenda, several items were deferred and 4 items were approved for discussion and action/decision. Other agenda items will be deferred to the 2021 Annual Business Meeting.

Officer and Regional Coordinator Reports: Deferred

Outreach Project. Deferred

Announcement of 2021/2022 Regional Coordinator Selection

After email discussions, the 2019/2020 regional coordinators announced their nominations/election results for 2021/2022 Regional Coordinators as follows;

1. Mr. Luc Falga has been selected as the Region 1 Coordinator by Dr. Gerhard Myer. Dr. Mayer will remain in the ICTS as a Past Officer.

2. Mr. Guy Williams has been selected as the Region 2 Coordinator by Sergio Penna. Mr. Penna will remain active in the ICTS as a Past Officer.

3. Mr. Jamie Presser will remain as the interim Region 3 Coordinator. We are actively seeking nominations for ICTS Region 3 Coordinator and Mr. Presser has agreed to remain on until a replacement can be named.

Chairman — Mr. Guy Williams guy.williams.2@us.af.mil
Vice-Chairman — Mr. Christian Herbepin, christian.herbepin@airbus.com
Secretary — Mr. Timothy Chalfant timothy.chalfant@us.af.mil

ICTS Officer Nominations/Elections

Nominations for 2021/2022 Officers were received from the membership.

Chairman; Mr. Christian Herbepin was nominated for Chairman. Mr. Herbepin accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received from the membership.

Vice Chairman; Mr. Luiz Souza was nominated for Vice Chairman. We were unable to confirm Mr. Souza's acceptance of the nomination and his nomination was tabled. Mr. Scott Hoschar was nominated.

Secretary; No nominations were received. Mr. Chalfant agreed to serve as Secretary until another nomination can be made.

New Members; Mr. Luc Falga was nominated by Dr. Gerhard Mayer for regular membership. Mr. Luc Falga, is a well-recognized telemetry expert working for Airbus Toulouse. He regular membership was polled by Email with 14 responding to confirm. Our current membership is 17. The quorum was exceeded and Mr. Falga was confirmed as a ICTS member.

A ballot was prepared for the 2021/2022 Officers and circulated via Email. Reply's were received from 17 of 18 regular members (Mr. de Souza missing). The results were recorded by the Secretary as follows;

Mr. Herbepin was elected by a vote of 17-0-1 as the 2021/2022 ICTS Chairman

Mr. Scott Hoschar was elected by a vote of 18-0 as the 2021/2022 ICTS Vice Chairman.

Mr. Tim Chalfant was elected by a vote of 17-1 as the 2021/2022 Secretary.

Future of the ICTS

A discussion on the future of the ICTS was conducted. The question was raised based on several indicators that maybe the ICTS should be concluded. A question was raised asking; Do we still have a valid mission?
- The ICTS Associate Members list has been decreasing (mainly due to returned bad email addresses)
- Hits to the ICTS website are minimal (6-12 per month)
- ICTS Special Session attendance at ITC and ETTC has been low
- ICTS reported activity has been minimal (out-reach efforts, threat news, Newsletter content)
- Member Participation in the ICTS is minimal (Email responses, nominations, news, …)

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Some notes from the discussion include;

- *... The 2007 WRC galvanized the cadre of ICTS members with a clear objective in mind. So..., it appears we need to experience the "common problem/ threat" and have a mission in terms of a specific objective(s) to negate or mitigate the problem. ... Clearly a repository of relevant papers, technical documentation is useful and this is where the ICTS web site may come to the fore. ... ICTS will no doubt become more dependent upon virtual communications.*

- *I would not support the ICTS folding, but rather going into an INACTIVE status. I think the "inactive" status of the ICTS allows you to maintain the ICTS WEB site for information dissemination and possible recruitment of that new blood, and it keeps the core group engaged and collaborating virtually and available to energize if needed (or should I say when needed) to address a future threat to TM spectrum.*

- *... current (and probably for the foreseeable future) COVID travel restrictions in place and budgetary pressures a fact of life, the ICTS will no doubt become more dependent upon virtual communications to maintain our worldwide collaboration.*

- *... the principal ICTS mission -- garner international support for the AMT allocation proposals at WRC-07 – has long since been accomplished. That said, I believe we should keep the organization alive, but inactive, against the possibility that some serious threat emerges in the future. This would also respect our duty to be good stewards of taxpayer funds.*

- *The need for a voice to promote the protection of the Telemetry Spectrum is important, ... the needs of Region 3 are vastly different between the Northern and Southern hemispheres, so the information I am able to provide ... does not reflect the challenges faced by the North. Therefore, I tend to agree that perhaps ICTS go into stasis.*

- *We can take our Annual Newsletter, reformat it into a Conference paper and have it presented at ETTC (by the Region 1 Coordinator or member), ITC (by Region 2), and SETE (?) (by Region 3), This would keep the topic current (telemetryspectrum encroachment) in the forums used by telemetry folks- and this can be done with a on-call/minimal staff- All we need is someone in each region willing to present the paper. No ICTS special sessions, only a virtual annual business meeting.*

- *The ICTS is like many organizations - they die when they become irrelevant or uninteresting... But technology doesn't stand still and missions change their character over time. If this group cannot imagine anything changing the telemetry mission or affecting their spectrum, then by all means, disband the group. Have a great big party in Garmish, toast the victories of the past, smash the glasses in the fireplace, and go home. But I really don't think you should do that.*

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- Take a good hard look at the different kinds of telemetry applications that are or will be coming down the road. Will there be increases in the need to track super-fast vehicles and munitions that would result in a change to the telemetry standards?

- Take a very close look at the space environment…They will almost certainly raise the noise floor and/or possibly cause interference…This might be a good time to work with the space spectrum people - Space Frequency Coordination Group or SFCG.

- The coronavirus pandemic is projected to have a major impact on the world economy for years to come… The ICTS network might be a valuable resource to help our colleagues over those bumps.

- Are there the new technologies on the horizon that could impact telemetry. Photonics is one area where new windows are opening. There are almost certainly others. Are we going to have to routinely test systems in multimode networks? Have we solved all the problems with mixing virtual and real systems in tests? Is test the only thing the ICTS is interested in or are the other types of telemetry operations that the ICTS could become involved in?

- Is the ICTS still relevant. I think the answer is yes. We just have to make it attractive to our candidate members.

- I agree in principle with your bulleted statements, and begs the question does ICTS have a future in today's environment, or should we go relatively inactive with a core that could be 'mobilized' if and when the need arises

- Even if the last 2 years the activity has been minimal … I consider ICTS has still a valid mission d at least on 2 points: 1) The thread on the spectrum is probably less strong that 5 years ago but still present and could endanger our activities, 2) As a worldwide group we can contribute to the telemetry means evolution.

- I am also mindful that many of the addressees to this email were involved in the ICTS WRC'07 initiative and we will soon be celebrating the arrival of 2021.So to stay relevant we shall need (he says diplomatically) to recruit new blood.

- As a footnote, a glass of ITU house wine (Darrell's choice) by a traditional stone fireplace in Garmisch does sound rather appealing

- If we tell the IFT we are going inactive, what does that mean for our semiannual report to the board and the annual report for the ITC proceedings. Would we still want to present the Nichols award. If the answer to any of that is a yes, then why go "inactive". Since you propose to keep the core (officers and members 'active', really what else is there to do. Suggest just pare back on the stuff we would like to do, but don't have the resources, keep tuned in to the issues, try to recruit new blood, keep the newsletter going.

- ...need to scale back to "relevant" presentations at ETTC and ITC versus its own special session. ICTS still gives us that international voice for telemetry spectrum protection and still think that is worth not a total sunset.

- ... propose to keep an ICTS "hard core" of members to be mobilized on demand.

A consensus was apparent that our future position as a reduced activity (vs. "in-active") "On-call" status be pursued. No change will be proposed to the By-Laws as our status with the International Foundation for Telemetering will not change. While the ICTS will de-active its committee work (outreach, technology) and retain a core membership to serve the international telemetry community on a "on-call" basis. The ICTS core (Officer sand Members) will monitor WRC and local topics that could affect telemetry spectrum and provide report to the ITC, ETTC/ETC, and SETE as the primary forums to distribute this information.

All other topics were deferred to the next ICTS Business Meeting..

The next ICTS Business Meeting will coincide with the European Test and Telemetry Conference (tba, 2021).

Submitted by

Tim Chalfant, Secretary
International Consortium for Telemetry Spectrum

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