

SPHERIC Steering Committee meeting

Paris (Chatou) – Nov. 25, 2011

MINUTES

Participants

S.C. members

David Le Touzé (Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France, chair)
Nathan Quinlan (Nat. Univ. Ireland, Galway, Ireland, secretary)
Ben Rogers (Univ. Manchester, UK, webmaster)
Damien Violeau (EDF R&D, France, newsletter editor)
Andrea Colagrossi (INSEAN, Italy)
Moncho Gomez Gesteira (Univ. of Vigo, Spain)
Paul Groenenboom (ESI BV, Netherlands)
Xiangyu Hu (Technical Univ. of Munich, Germany)
Jason Hughes (Univ. of Plymouth, UK)
Jean-Christophe Marongiu (Andritz Hydro, Switzerland)
Stefano Sibilla (Univ. of Pavia, Italy)
Rade Vignjevic (Cranfield Univ., UK)

Were not able to attend the meeting:
John Biddiscombe (CSCS, Switzerland)
Andrea Colagrossi (INSEAN, Italy)

Invited participant

Thomas Rung (Hamburg Univ. of Tech., Germany)

1. Member list update

David Le Touzé prepared a list of SPHERIC members who showed no activity during the last 3 years. The list was reviewed by the Committee. It was decided that a member institution is viewed as active if it fulfils any of the three conditions:

1. A member of the institution is co-author of a paper submitted to one of the last 3 SPHERIC workshops.
2. A member of the institution published in the newsletter in the last 3 years.
3. A member of the institution attended one of the last 3 SPHERIC workshops.

It was decided that member institutions not fulfilling this requirement will be contacted by the Chairman, and that their membership would be terminated if this situation was confirmed. Further, it was decided that this definition of 'active membership' will be introduced in the membership application form as a requirement.

2. December issue of the newsletter

Damien Violeau indicated that there were still empty slots in the December newsletter, even after having asked to the SPHERIC members who had never contributed to do it. After some discussion, the Committee came out with a few proposals of contributors to complete the newsletter. Nathan Quinlan will also prepare a list of interesting SPH papers and PhD manuscripts published in the last two years.

3. SPHERIC website

The SPHERIC website was upgraded by Benedict Rogers, including more interactivity and a new design. The member map database will be updated by David Le Touzé.

4. SPHERIC YouTube channel

Benedict Rogers investigated the possible creation of a dedicated YouTube channel. This raises IT security issues needing appropriate measures from the University of Manchester hosting the website. What is possible shall be known soon.

5. SPHERIC benchmarks

Antonio Souto-Iglesias, from Technical University of Madrid (UPM), proposed 3 new benchmarks which were regarded very positively by the Committee. Only the benchmark involving Fluid-Structure Interaction needs some clarification which will be discussed between Rade Vignjevic and Antonio Souto-Iglesias.

6. ERCOFTAC membership

The Committee will decide who will attend the next SPC meeting in spring 2012 depending on the date and place. Stefano Sibilla will contact Thomas Rung for information on the procedure to follow to apply for an event funding from ERCOFTAC, and SPHERIC will also apply for SIG funding. David Le Touzé will follow the procedure to this purpose.

7. Bibliography database

Nathan Quinlan indicated that the number of references is continuously increasing, now reaching more than 600.

8. 7th SPHERIC workshop (Prato, Italy, 29/5-1/6/2012)

David Le Touzé summarized email exchanges which occurred during the last months, leading to the decision of electronic proceedings only as requested by the LOC. Stefano Sibilla then presented in detail the present stage of the next workshop organization. The workshop format was discussed extensively after some requests by the LOC, and the Committee ended with a modified format made of 15 sessions of 4 13'-long presentations+13' of panel discussion each, and open discussions on selected topics at the end of the first two days (posters disappear). This new format presents an increase of 9 full presentations, though a bit shorter, and leaves room to more discussion. The Steering Committee meeting will take place on the first day evening. Publication of proceedings is unchanged: the first page of every article will be made available on SPHERIC's website. One of the keynote lecture will be given by John Biddiscombe, and it will be asked to P.W. Randles if he would accept to give the second one. The training day lectures will be given by Paul Groenenboom (introduction and applications) and Benedict Rogers (multiphase flow modelling), with room left for open questions from the trainees. Afternoon practice will be proposed by Alejandro Crespo, from University of Vigo, and John Biddiscombe. The budget proposed by the LOC was reviewed by the Committee and workshop attendance fees shall keep stable or decrease a little.

9. Workshop fees

Moncho Gomez-Gesteira raised the issue of the quite large increase of the workshop attendance fees during the last years. The Committee agreed that fees shall be frozen from the next workshop on. Detailed budget will be provided to any future organization candidate so that it can ensure that its application is compatible with this requirement. It was also agreed that the local organizers helped by the Committee will do some efforts to get more sponsoring.

10. Validation workshop

The Committee drew the conclusion that the most appropriate format for organizing a validation workshop is probably a one-day event lying right before or after the workshop. It will be attempted to organize such a dedicated event in 2013. The number of available benchmarks on the website now reaching 10 is seen as a sufficient number to this purpose.

11. SPH improvement and promotion proposals

Damien Violeau proposed the creation of a working group on the SPH method theory, which will be open to all SPHERIC members willing to participate. This was seen very positively by the Committee. Damien Violeau and Rade Vignjevic will gather first ideas in this respect so that a proposed content and organization of this group is ready to be presented to the next workshop attendees during the open discussion sessions. David Le Touzé proposed two other ideas linked to the promotion of the method: the creation of a challenge and the one of a best SPH-promoting paper award at the workshop. Both ideas will be considered by the Committee during the next months. The challenge could consist in the yearly proposal of an “impossible-to-simulate” blind industrial test case.

12. Requests to enter the Committees

Raj Das, from University of Auckland, and Thomas Rung, from Technical University of Hamburg (TUHH), both applied to become members of the Steering Committee. Due to the rules of the Committee, especially requesting attendance at the autumn meeting where the largest part of the decisions are taken, it seems difficult for Raj Das to be able to enter it. Besides, there is for now no free position in the Steering Committee. Raj Das and Thomas Rung were proposed to become members of the Scientific Committee instead for now.