

Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting

27 and 29 October, 5 November, 2021

Teleconference: Zoom

SC members present:

Renato Vacondio, University of Parma, Italy (Chair)

Stefano Sibilla, University of Pavia, Italy (Secretary) (only on October 29th and November 5th)

Ben Rogers, University of Manchester, UK (Vice chair)

Alex Crespo, University of Vigo, Spain (Webmaster) (only on June 24th)

Xiangyu Hu, Technical University of Munich, Germany (Newsletter editor)

Angelo Tafuni, New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA (new Webmaster) (only on June 27th)

Nathan Quinlan, NUI Galway, Ireland (acted as Secretary on June 24th)

Matthieu De Lefte, Nextflow Software, France

David Le Touzé, Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France (only on November 5th)

Salvatore Marrone, CNR-INM, Italy (only on July 14th)

Antonio Souto-Iglesias, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain

Abbas Khayyer, Kyoto University, Japan

Pierre Sabrowski, Dive Solutions, Berlin, Germany

Also present:

Giuseppe Bilotta, INGV, Italy

Georgios Fourtakas, University of Manchester, UK

Fei Xu, Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an, China (only on October 29th and November 5th)

Specific Issues

1. Minutes and Actions from previous SC meeting

Action 1: Send an email to SPH research groups in the US to organize an online meeting

By: Vacondio

Deadline: September 2021

Status: Outstanding

Action 2: Final program of the 2022 Xi'an Workshop and decision on keynote lecturers

By: Fei Xu

Deadline: SC autumn meeting

Status: In progress: Xu Fei is expected to report at this meeting

Action 3: Final presentation of the Workshop with final budget and decisions on venues and keynote speakers

By: Bilotta

Deadline: SC autumn meeting

Status: Done: it will be decided at this meeting

Action 5: Open a call for a new position in the SC
By: Vacondio
Deadline: 1-2 weeks before SC autumn meeting
Status: Done: Eols received. They will be discussed at this meeting.

Action 6: Migrate the website on WIX
By: Tafuni
Deadline: end of summer 2021
Status: Done

Action 7: Meeting of the committee for new ideas for seminars
By: Rogers, Sabrovski, Quinlan
Deadline: before next SC meeting
Status: Done: they will report at this meeting

2. Change of abstract review process following a rubric

Alex Crespo presents a rubric for SPHERIC workshop abstracts review, circulated in advance of the meeting. The SC discusses the document and agrees some minor changes.

The SC decides that review scores shall no longer be visible to all reviewers.

There is a general agreement on the Rubric for research papers, while some issues still need to be fixed for the part on industrial applications.

Action 2: Finalize the rubric for the part on industrial applications
By: Crespo, DeLefte, Sabrowski
Deadline: Before the abstract selection phase of Catania 2022 Workshops

3. Paper selection for JJM Prize

Salvatore Marrone updates the SC on the status of the paper nomination for the Monaghan Prize: up to now, 6 nominations have been received and a decision whether to extend the deadline for nominations is needed. Moreover, he feels that the SC should discuss whether more than one person per institution could be nominated. Antonio Souto-Iglesias then proposes to let more than one person per institution to nominate papers, in order to receive a higher number of nominations, but the SC agrees to maintain unchanged the rules during the selection process.

The SC decides to extend the deadline for paper nomination to the end of November with the same rules, not disclosing the list of the 6 nominations received up to now, and then to finalize the list.

Action 3: Announce the extension of the deadline to the Newsletter mailing list & social media
By: Vacondio, Hu, Tafuni
Deadline: After SC meeting

4. New SC Members

Different expressions of interest were received from for one vacant position on the SC.

The SC examines the Eol and the CV of the candidates and agrees to invite Dr. Tom De Vuyst (University of Hertfordshire, UK) to join the SC as a new Member.

Action 4: invite Tom De Vuyst to join SC and inform other candidates on the outcome of the selection.

By: Vacondio

Deadline: After SC meeting

5. SPHERIC Xi'an 2022 International Workshop

Xu Fei relates about the organization of Spheric Xi'an Workshop, which will be held in Xi'an, China, from March 28 to March 31, 2022.

The LOC applied for financing in China and is waiting for an answer.

The conference will be held off-line for Chinese people, at present. For people coming from abroad the situation is still not clear, but her feeling is that it will be possible to participate only online.

Xu Fei thinks that it is better to announce that the event will be hybrid and that for non-Chinese people it will be possible to participate online.

Although the deadline for abstracts had been scheduled for November 15, only 3 abstracts were received up to now. The deadline may be extended to the end of November, together with a renewal of the announcement of the Workshop on the Spheric Website.

Regarding the keynote speakers, the LOC selected prof. Wang Dongdong (Xiamen University, China) on the topic of Galerkin and collocation meshfree methods, prof. Lin Fu (Hong Kong University, China) on SPH for fluid dynamics, and prof. Ha Bui on (Monash University, Australia) on SPH in geotechnics (possibly online)

6. SPHERIC 2022 International Workshop

Giuseppe Bilotta relates about the organization of the 16h SPHERIC International Workshop, which will be held in Catania from June 6 to June 9, 2022. The main venue has been confirmed at the Monastero dei Benedettini and is booked. The location for the venue for the training day is uncertain due to renovations at the previously planned location. A backup venue is available in case the renovations are not completed in time.

Keynote speakers Qiang Du and Paul Cleary have accepted, with Paul Cleary acceptance conditional to travel restrictions from Australia at a later time, and thus to be confirmed in the early months of 2022.

For the training day, the general lecture will be held by Tony Dalrymple. The second lecture will be given by Chun Hean Lee, as a new candidate to the SC, talking about SPH approaches to solid dynamics.

The overall budget for the conference has been calculated at 33,080€, with fixed costs of 6000€ for the keynote speakers, 2500€ for the gala dinner venue (Palazzo Biscari). The main conference venue, training day venue and website incur no costs because they are covered internally by the INGV and University of Catania. The registration fees have been set at 510€ (early) and 560€ (late) for non-students, and 280€ (early) and 330€ (late) for students. The Training Day fee has been set at 50€.

Antonio Souto-Iglesias proposes to extend the composition of the Scientific Committee, to include also Tom De Vuyst, as a newly appointed SC member, and dr. Chun Hean Lee, from the University of Glasgow, UK.

The SC agrees with the proposal.

7. Contributions for ERCOFTAC bulletin

Regarding the possible contribution from Spheric to the ERCOFTAC Bulletin, Ben Rogers says that ERCOFTAC agrees for a Bulletin contribution in 2022, where about 8 papers shall be provided. These papers do not need to reach a scientific journal standard, because the goal is to reach a professional audience and update them on how far SPH has advanced since the last Spheric contribution in 2008. One contribution is about 4 pages, i.e. slightly longer than a newsletter contribution and shorter than a workshop paper.

The SC decides to gather the contributions in summer 2022, selecting some relevant papers before the Catania workshop and contacting the Authors to know if they may be willing to contribute. The selection will be finalized in the summer SC meeting.

Action 7: Contact Authors of Catania 2022 relevant papers to find volunteer for the Bulletin contributions

By: Rogers

Deadline: Before Catania 2022 Workshop

8. SPHERIC 2023 International Workshop

Georgios Fourtakas updates the SC on the progress of 2023 Workshop organization. He Received an official authorization from the University of Manchester, which will be the host institution. There are still problems on VAT payment which need to be solved. Budget, legal support and insurance will be managed by UM.

The Workshop dates can be either 5 to 8 June or 26 to 29 June 2023. The SC agrees to run the workshop on the last week of June.

The conference venue will be the lecture theatre of the Rhodes Palace Hotel (which will be also the location for the Training Day).

For the reception cocktail and the banquet, two 2 options are presently available: either Rhodes Palace hotel or an external location (the Grand Master Palace and/or the Kallithea springs).

Regarding the budget, the venue costs will be 1000 € for the lecture theatre, 200 € for the SC meeting room and 300-500 € for the Training day rooms. The cost of the coffee breaks & lunch will be 35 € per day per person, while the Cocktail will cost 35 €/person and the banquet will range between 55 and 70 €/person.

The Registration fees will be: 350/450 € (student/regular) for early registration, 400/500 € for regular registration and 470/620 € for late registration. The Training Day fee will be 50 €. If the workshop will adopt an online/hybrid option, the same fees will be adopted for in person and online participants.

Giuseppe Bilotta finds that the suggested student fees are too high. George Fourtakas says that there is an expected 8000 € surplus in the budget at present, which can be distributed on student fees to lower them.

Action 8: Start booking hotels and venue for Workshop

By: Fourtakas

Deadline: end 2021

9. Future SPHERIC workshops

Renato Vacondio notes that, at present, there are no proposals for 2024 workshop organization.

The SC examines various possible candidates, which include the Universities of Hertfordshire (Tom De Vuyst), Madrid (Javier Dominguez) and Vienna. The latter is suggested by Xiangyu Hu and may be organized by Chong Peng, from Vienna University of Agricultural Sciences (BOKU), who is active in applications of SPH to geology.

Action 9: Survey possible availability to organize Spheric Workshop in 2024

By: Hu, Vacondio, Souto-Iglesias

Deadline: next SC meeting

10. SPHERIC Global Seminars

Ben Rogers relates on the SPHERIC Global Seminars. At present, their schedule includes:

- Markus Ihmsem (December, topic: Water wading)
- Giuseppe Bilotta (January, topic: GPU-SPH)
- the Da Vinci Team (February, topic: TBD)
- Matthieu Schaller, Leiden (March, topic: HPC: task-based parallelism on SPH)
- Xu Fei (May, topic: TBD)

11. December issue of the newsletter

Xiangyu Hu recalls that a Newsletter issue has been just released in September, so the December issue can be delayed to January/February. He proposes to invite Authors of recent relevant papers.

Ben Rogers also suggests including a report on the DualSPHysics workshop, which was not included in the September issue. He also raises the issue of which default language should be used in the Newsletter, if British English or American English.

The Newsletter will also need updated information on the organization of the future workshops from Giuseppe Bilotta and George Fourtakas, and the nomination statements for the JMM Prize from Salvatore Marrone. Finally, it will include a contribution by Pierre Sabrowski on the platform for sharing industrial applications.

Action 11: prepare the winter issue of the Newsletter

By: Hu

Deadline: January/February 2022

12. Benchmarks

Salvatore Marrone notes that the benchmark case proposed by Mathieu De Leffe in 2019 still needs approval. He asks the SC to discuss how the benchmark approval process works and how it can be made more efficient.

Renato Vacondio proposes that Salvatore Marrone will decide the reviewers of the benchmark cases proposals, if and when these proposals will be going to be published and/or removed and that he will communicate his decisions to the SC.

The SC will act as an editorial board and will eventually take final decisions whether to remove or maintain the published benchmarks.

The SC agrees on Renato Vacondio's proposal.

Action 12: process all pending requests of benchmark cases, update the website with new approved benchmark cases.

By: Marrone

Deadline: next SC meeting