

Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting

10 February, 2021

Teleconference: Cisco Webex

SC members present:

Benedict Rogers, University of Manchester, UK (Chair)
Stefano Sibilla, Università di Pavia, Italy (Secretary)
Renato Vacondio, Università di Parma, Italy (Newsletter Editor)
Angelo Tafuni, New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA (Webmaster)
Salvatore Marrone, CNR-INM, Italy (Benchmark Supervisor)
Xiangyu Hu, Technische Universität München, Germany
Antonio Souto-Iglesias, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain
Nathan Quinlan, NUI Galway, Ireland
Abbas Khayyer, Kyoto University, Japan
Pierre Sabrowski, Dive Solutions GmbH, Germany
David Le Touzé, École Centrale de Nantes, France
Alex Crespo, Universidade de Vigo, Spain

Also present:

Giuseppe Bilotta, INGV, Italy
Tom De Vuyst, University of Hertfordshire, UK

Apologies:

Matthieu de Lefte, Nextflow Software, France
Rade Vignjevic, Brunel University, UK

Update on New York 2021 SPHERIC workshop

1. Platform

After an analysis of the possible options, Angelo Tafuni selected two possible platforms for virtual events where the workshop may be organized:

- i. The Bravura VIRTUAL environment: Proposal at 17.900,00 \$, with 60% on signing of contract, which might be a problem because registration fees have not been paid yet. No optionals or customization needed
- ii. The VFairs platform. Single event license at 8.925,00 \$ + 2.925 \$ per day: the total for a 4-day event makes 17.700,00 \$

Both platforms use Zoom as embedded system for the sessions.

Angelo Tafuni set up two demos to be run during the SC meeting. At the end of the demos, a general favour of the SC is for the Bravura platform. In any case, a new quote will be asked to both platforms before a final decision is taken.

2. Scientific Committee composition

Abbas Khayyer proposes to include prof. Bui in the Scientific Committee of the Spheric workshop. The SC agrees unanimously. Angelo Tafuni will send an email to prof. Bui to invite him to the Scientific Committee.

Alex Crespo suggests including also Giuseppe Bilotta who, as organizer of the Catania 2022 Workshop, may benefit of the knowledge of the internal mechanisms of the abstract selection process.

3. Abstract selection

Owing to the large number of expected abstracts and to the careful selection which will be required, Alex Crespo suggests having four reviewers for each abstract: the number of Scientific Committee members may be extended consequently.

David Le Touzé thinks that even with the present composition of the Scientific Committee, a slightly larger number of abstracts can be manageable by the current members. Ben Rogers notes that if having 4 reviewers per abstract proves to be unfeasible, it would be always possible to revert to the usual evaluation format with 3 reviewers per abstract.

The deadline for abstract notification, already scheduled on March, 1, will be postponed to March, 8.

Another SC meeting to update on the Workshop organization will be scheduled after the deadline for abstract submission, when the exact number of the abstract will be known. A possible date for the SC meeting may be March, 1.