

# Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting

17 and 19 June 2024

Dive Solutions offices, Berlin

## SC members present:

*Renato Vacondio, University of Parma, Italy (Chair)*  
*Ben Rogers, University of Manchester, UK (Vice chair)*  
*Xiangyu Hu, Technical University of Munich, Germany*  
*Matthieu de Lefte, Siemens Digital Industry Software, France*  
*Salvatore Marrone, CNR-INM, Italy*  
*Pierre Sabrowski, Dive Solutions, Berlin, Germany*  
*Peng-Nan Sun, Sun Yat-sen University, Zhuhai, China*  
*Nathan Quinlan, University of Galway, Ireland (taking minutes)*

## 19 June only:

*Abbas Khayyer, Kyoto University, Japan*  
*Giuseppe Bilotta, INGV, Italy*

## Not present

*Angelo Tafuni (New Jersey Inst. Technology, USA, webmaster)*  
*Alex Crespo (Univ. of Vigo, Spain)*  
*Tom De Vuyst (University of Hertfordshire, UK, secretary)*

## S.C. co-opted members

*George Fourtakas (Univ. Manchester, UK)*  
*Corrado Altomare (UPC, Spain)*

## S.C. member stepping down

*Antonio Souto-Iglesias (Univ. Politecnica de Madrid, Spain)*

## 1. Discussion of Actions from last meeting

**Action 1:** Complete Gresho vortex benchmark  
**By:** Georgios Fourtakas  
**Status:** Salvatore contacted Matthieu Schaller who is willing to propose this benchmark

**Action 2:** Complete solid mechanics' benchmark  
**By:** Tom De Vuyst  
**Status:** carry over to next SC meeting

**Action 12:** Organise 2025 SPHERIC workshop at UPC, Barcelona, Spain  
**By:** Corrado Altomare

**Deadline:** 2025

**Status:** In progress; full update on agenda

**Action 13:** Share the conference webpage developed for the Rhodos workshop with Corrado Altomare

**By:** Georgios Fourtakas

**Status:** completed

**Action 14:** Write document outlining SPHERIC workshop proposal and selection process

**By:** Ben Rogers, Corrado Altomare

**Status:** in progress, not completed

**Action 15:** Organise a 1-day event "New SPH developments for Solid Mechanics" in early 2025

**By:** Tom De Vuyst

**Status:** cancelled

**Action:** Publish Berlin Workshop and call for abstracts

**By:** Pierre Sabrowski and Giuseppe Bilotta (official SPHERIC channels), All (individual contacts and social media channels)

**Status:** completed

**Action:** Publish Zhuhai Workshop web page as soon as possible.

**By:** PengNan Sun

**Status:** Done; full update on agenda

**Action:** Advertise Zhuhai Workshop on social media.

**By:** All

**Status:** Done; full update on agenda

**Action:** Create leaflet on Zhuhai workshop to include in Berlin Workshop welcome pack.

**By:** PengNan Sun

**Status:** Done; full update on agenda

**Action:** Prepare Newsletter contribution on Zhuhai workshop.

**By:** PengNan Sun

**Status:** complete

**Action:** Organise 2025 Barcelona workshop

**By:** Corrado Altomare

**Status:** In progress; full update on agenda

**Action:** Organise 2025 Joe Monaghan Prize at Barcelona workshop

**By:** Ben Rogers

**Status:** In progress; full update on agenda

**Action:** Announce 2025 Joe Monaghan Prize at 2024 Berlin workshop  
**By:** Ben Rogers  
**Status:** In progress; full update on agenda

**Action:** Announce 2025 Joe Monaghan Prize in Newsletter and via mailing list  
**By:** Giuseppe Bilotta  
**Status:** In progress; full update on agenda

**Action:** Invite Joe Monaghan Prize nominees to provide a 5min presentation on their paper  
**By:** Ben Rogers?  
**Status:** In progress; full update on agenda

**Action:** Contact Chun Hean Lee to present proposal for a 2026 SPHERIC workshop in Glasgow at the next SC meeting in Berlin  
**By:** RV  
**Status:** in progress; full update on agenda

**Action:** Review of GCs and update of GC webpage  
**By:** GC subcommittee: Xiangyu Hu (GC1), Angelo Tafuni, Ben Rogers, Salvatore Marrone (GC4), Matthieu de Leffe (GC5)  
**Status:** in progress; full update on agenda

**Action:** Check with the current GC leaders listed on the webpage if they wish to continue to be involved  
**By:** Ben Rogers  
**Status:** in progress; full update on agenda

**Action:** Share list of Scientific Committee members with the SC  
**By:** Renato Vacondio  
**Status:** complete

**Action:** Publish list of Scientific Committee members  
**By:** Angelo Tafuni, Giuseppe Bilotta  
**Deadline:** complete

**Action:** Create LinkedIn account, look into Mastodon account  
**By:** Pierre Sabrowski  
**Deadline:** complete

**Action:** Transfer X account to Pierre Sabrowski  
**By:** Antonio Souto-Iglesias, Pierre Sabrowski, Nathan Quinlan  
**Status:** complete

**Action:** Contact Ha Bui for geotechnics benchmark

**By:** Ben Rogers  
**Status:** Complete; Prof. Bui's group will provide benchmark

**Action:** Propose geotechnics benchmark  
**By:** Giuseppe Bilotta  
**Status:** in progress; candidate cases identified

**Action:** Contact Daniel Price and developers of SWIFT for Astrophysics benchmark  
**By:** Salvatore Marrone?  
**Status:** complete; Matthieu Schaller will provide benchmark

**Action:** Create list of review papers  
**By:** Abbas Khayyer and Angelo Tafuni  
**Deadline:** carry over to next SC meeting

**Action:** Request Newsletter contributions for winter 2023/24  
**By:** Giuseppe Bilotta  
**Status:** complete

**Action:** Contact stepped down SC members for interview  
**By:** RV  
**Status:** passed to Giuseppe Bilotta

**Action:** Invite T Tricco / D Price to prepare contribution to Newsletter  
**By:** Giuseppe Bilotta  
**Status:** complete

## 2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of Nov 2023 meeting were drafted, circulated and updated but not yet posted. **Action Angelo:** post minutes online

## 3. Advertising vacant position in the SC (Antonio Stepping down), (Renato and All).

Antonio Souto stepping down. The SC thank Antonio for his outstanding contributions. **Action RV** will announce vacancy at workshop and by email to members, with deadline in September. Decision will be made at Autumn SC meeting.

## 4. Discussion on the new format for the SPHERIC events (see the dedicated document)

Renato, Georgios, Corrado, Abbas, and Angelo prepared document following May special meeting, and circulated ahead of meeting. The SC discussed the proposals in the document.

The primary event will be known as the **n<sup>th</sup> SPHERIC World Conference** from 2025. It will be held in 2025 (as the 19<sup>th</sup>, continuing the numbering of the Workshops), 2026, 2028 and even-numbered years thereafter, alternating with the ECCOMAS Particles conference. Other in-person SPHERIC events cannot take place in the calendar year of a conference. Will allow parallel sessions. Organiser and SC must ensure parallel sessions are well balanced.

Poster sessions will be included, and participants will be allowed to opt for the poster session when submitting their abstract. Special sessions, organized by subject experts, will be included.

Fundamental and application strands will continue, broadening *applications* to include scientific (e.g. geophysics) as well as industrial applications.

Extended abstract *only*. No papers or 1-page preliminary abstracts. Double-blind review. 3-page maximum extended abstract, including references, in SPHERIC template. Authors of best 15-20 abstracts will be invited to submit full papers for a journal special issue. Authors opt in or out of SI selection process. SC and Journal EiC to discuss appointment of guest Editor. RV contacted EiCs of Computational Particle Mechanics and received favorable response. **Decision: publish special issues of CPM.**

The naming convention for SPHERIC regional/satellite events will be discussed at the Autumn meeting.

Joe Monaghan Prize will continue on three-year cycle with awards in 2025 (announced at this workshop), 2028 – will then decide on new structure for 2-year conference cycle.

## **5. Update on the Monaghan Prize (Ben)**

Change agreed: JM Prize will be open to nominations from individuals affiliated to SPHERIC member institutions – not just one nomination per member institution. Retain on-site voting for workshop attendees.

Ben proposed to send emails to SPHERIC members asking for nominations. Salvatore volunteered to help Ben with this task.

## **6. Discussion on the 2026 SPHERIC workshop location (Renato and all)**

RV has opened discussion with potential host of 2026 Conference. SC supports principle of holding more World Conferences outside Europe. **Action: RV continue discussion of 2026 proposal.**

## **7. Update on the 2024 SPHERIC workshop (Pierre)**

92 registrations. No significant late updates. The SC congratulated Pierre Sabrowski and the Dive team on a very successful workshop.

## **8. Update on the 2024 Asian SPHERIC workshop in Zhuhai, China (PengNan Sun)**

PengNan: website is online. Being promoted in China. Abstracts deadline July 25. PengNan has applied for funding and is seeking industry sponsorship. After some discussion, SC agreed on 2–3-page extended abstract after 1-page preliminary abstract for review. No full-length papers – transition to new World Conference format.

Next workshop in China should be in 2027 (outside of world conference year). **Action PengNan:** inform Chinese community and invite proposals.

## **9. Update on the 2025 SPHERIC workshop (Corrado)**

Additional room, 60 seats, pre-booked for days 2/3 for parallel and/or poster sessions per new format. Dinner on Thursday (day 3, end of conference). Approx half-hour guided tours of Barcelona Supercomputing Centre (Mare Nostrum 5) on Weds (day 2). Keynotes: Dr. Mario Acosta, Dr. Mike Owen invited and accepted. **Action Renato:** invite Prof. Javier Bonet as 3<sup>rd</sup> keynote.

Discussed budget. Fees will be similar to 2024. SC agreed on RV proposal that fees should be lower for SPHERIC members than non-members.

Submission process will shift to earlier timeline to facilitate visa applications. Call for abstracts September, abstract deadline 10 Jan, abstract selection announced 3 Feb, early registration 31 March, no paper submission, presenter registration 10 May.

## **10. Guide to propose a SPHERIC event (Ben, Corrado)**

Work in progress. **Action Ben, Corrado:** circulate draft

## **11. Grand Challenges Review/Update (GC small committee, All)**

GC subcommittee made the following recommendations:

- remove “SPH numerical development working group”. – **agreed by SC – action Angelo**
- Remove GC leaders’ names – **agreed by SC – action Angelo**
- Update GC text
- Intro GC keywords to suggest for use in papers for indexing
- Review/change GCs
- Add historical GC classification for retired GCs

**Action Angelo** to seek input of scientific committee on GCs.

**Decision: discuss further in Autumn, update website, announce GC updates in subsequent newsletter.**

## **12.social media, marketing**

Discussion of website. SC agreed in principle that events should be front and centre. SC agreed in principle to standardise conference website and incorporate into SPHERIC website. SC agreed on the need for systematic, consistent, high-quality global marketing. **Action Renato, Pierre, PengNan:** work as subcommittee on this.

## **13.Benchmarks and Benchmarks web page (Salvatore and Angelo)**

postponed

## **14.Bibliography database (who's taking care of this)?**

postponed

## **15.Newsletter issue #37 (winter 2023/2024)**

postponed

## **Summary of actions from this meeting**

**Action 1:** Complete solid mechanics' benchmark  
**By:** Tom De Vuyst  
**Status:** next SC meeting

**Action 2:** Write document outlining SPHERIC workshop proposal and selection process  
**By:** Ben Rogers, Corrado Altomare  
**Status:** next SC meeting

**Action 3:** Create list of review papers  
**By:** Abbas Khayyer and Angelo Tafuni  
**Deadline:** next SC meeting

**Action 4:** Post minutes of Autumn 2023 meeting  
**By:** Angelo Tafuni  
**Deadline:** ASAP

**Action 5:** Announce SC vacancy at workshop and by email to members, with September deadline  
**By:** Renato  
**Deadline:** in advance of Sept deadline for applications

**Action 6:** Confirm 2026 conference organiser  
**By:** Renato  
**Deadline:** ASAP

**Action 7:** invite proposals for 2027 workshop in China  
**By:** PengNan  
**Deadline:** next SC meeting

**Action 8:** invite Javier Bonet as keynote for 2025  
**By:** Renato  
**Deadline:** ASAP

**Action 9:** remove “SPH numerical development working group” and Grand Challenges leaders from GC webpage  
**By:** Angelo  
**Deadline:** ASAP

**Action 10:** seek input of scientific committee on GCs.  
**By:** Angelo  
**Deadline:** next SC meeting

**Action 11:** form marketing subcommittee  
**By:** Renato, PengNan, Pierre  
**Deadline:** next SC meeting