Minutes IEEE ComSoc Optical Networking Technical Committee (ONTC) Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2003
OFC 2003
Georgia World Congress Center, Room C303

Attendees:
Jacek Chrostowski, Nim Cheung, Ioannis Tomkos, Chunming Qiao, Jian Wang, Jing Zhang, Biswanath Mukherjee, Keyao Zhu, Yang Chen, Jason Jue, Vinod Vokkarane, Canhui (Sam) Ou, Shun Yao, Hussein Mouftah.

Hussein Mouftah started the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Self introduction by meeting attendees.

The minutes from OFC '02 and Globecom '02 were approved.

Nim discussed the status of the JSAC Optical Communications and Networking Series. Over 100 submissions were received before Feb. 1, 2003. Two issues are scheduled to be published in 2003, with the first issue scheduled for July. The expectation is to have at least two issues per year, with additional issues if there is sufficient demand.

OFC 2003:

OFC '03 was discussed by Ioannis. 60-70 papers were accepted out of 130 submissions in optical networking. The selection was decided by the networking (Category H) committee of OFC '03, which consists of 8 or 9 members.

There was discussion for possible ComSoc representation in ECOC. Ioanis suggested Piet Demeester. Hussein mentioned that he will contact Piet.

ICC 2003:

ICC '03 has an optical networking symposium sponsored by ONTC. It will be held in Anchorage, AK from May 14-17, 2003. Chunming Qiao is the co-symposium chair. Chunming reported that the acceptance rate was around 35%. The accepted papers have been organized into 12 sessions, with 4 sessions each day. There are no workshops associated with the symposium. Chunming was asked about the quality of papers compared to OFC '03. Chunming noted that ICC papers were 5 pages as opposed to 3 in OFC, and that the quality was comparable.

OFC 2004:

OFC '04 will be held in Los Angeles in March '04. Ioannis is the ONTC

representative and reported on the status. Ioannis asked for opinions and recommendations regarding invited speakers and workshops. Anyone wishing to submit names or nominations should submit names to Ioannis by April 7. It is expected that there will be a maximum of around 8 invited speakers, 8 short courses, and 2 workshops. Suggestions for tutorials are also being solicited. Chunming nominated Biswanath, perhaps for a tutorial. Possible topics for short courses include network architecture, enabling technology, IP over WDM, and protection/restoration. Chunming noted that the attendance of the short courses this year was not very high. Ioannis confirmed that the average attendance was 15. The highest attendance was for Dan Blumenthal's short course at around 25-30 attendees. It was suggested that a part of the problem may be that some of the same courses are being offered over and over each year. It was also noted that there is some overlap in material among courses. Also, the current economic situation may also be having an effect on attendance. Ioannis noted that the number of short courses would probably be reduced next year, and that there would be a couple of new courses.

Ioannis suggested that someone from Europe could be invited to present the roadmap of the framework program. Professor O'Mahoney from Essex was suggested.

Globecom 2003:

Globecom 2003 will be held in San Francisco. The Optical Networking Symposium chair is Ibrahim Habib. Ibrahim was not present, but sent an email report to Hussein. Over 200 papers were submitted and had the 3rd highest number of submissions behind wireless and high-speed networks. There are 40 members on the TPC, many of whom are also members of ONTC. The papers are under review, and the process should be completed by May 1. The target acceptance rate is expected to be around 30-35%. There will be about 12 sessions with 6 papers each.

For Globecom 2003, it was mentioned that some ONTC members were being asked to review several papers. It was suggested that maybe the review process be changed to create a bigger pool of reviewers from outside the ONTC committee to prevent overload on the committee members. Hussein also suggested that these additional people be invited to join ONTC.

ICC 2004:

ICC '04 will be held in Paris in June '04. Hussein is the chair of the optical symposium. The technical program is not finalized, and Hussein is open for suggestions. Please contact Hussein with suggestions. There is one workshop planned on optical standards activities. This is being organized by Doug Zuckerman and will be a 1-day workshop. Suggestions for

additional workshops are welcome. For each symposium, there could be one or two workshops. The workshops can either be full day or half day, and are focused on a single topic. The workshops do not necessarily have to have an industry focus as in OFC.

Chunming brought up the topic of OptiComm. OptiComm was originally sponsored by SPIE, but this year it is an independent conference. Chunming pointed out that this is one of the only established conferences that focuses on optical networks and suggested that the ONTC and ComSoc provide sponsorship or technical co-sponsorship for the conference. Hussein supported the idea of sponsorship, but noted that there had been previous difficulty in obtaining sponsorship from ComSoc due to the SPIE sponsorship. Hussein will contact Jack Howell to discuss possible sponsorship now that OptiComm is independent and no longer sponsored by SPIE.

The deadline for OptiComm submissions is April 20, with the camera ready version due in early July. The conference will be from Oct. 18 in Dallas.

Biswanath mentioned that he would be moderating a panel on optical networks at Infocom '03. Panelists include Rajiv Ramaswami, Chris Rust who is CEO of Mahi Networks, Hui Zang from spring, and someone from Korea.

Standards:

ONTC representatives on standards committees include Doug Zuckerman on OIF, and Alan Weissberger on ITU group 15.

Biswanath suggested that the ONTC highlight members' research activites and their influence and contributions to standards.

Publications:

Hussein mentioned Nim's efforts in creating the JSAC optical networking series.

There is also a supplement to Communications Magazine on optical communications and networking. There is reluctance by ComSoc to create a separate magazine due to issues related to advertising revenue. The area editors for the supplement are Chunming Qiao and Stamatios Kartalopoulos. There had previously been an effort to have IEEE and SPIE join together on Optical Networks Magazine, but it didn't work out. It was pointed out that ONM and the Communications Magazine supplement are different in that ONM is more like a journal, while the magazine may have more tutorial/survey content and fewer equations.

Hussein encouraged more submissions to both the JSAC series and the

Communications Magazine supplement.

Other business:

Hussein suggested the establishment of an electronic ONTC newsletter to highlight new activities and accomplishments of ONTC members. It would be sent to the ONTC list regularly (perhaps monthly) and may also be available on the web. Jason and Vinod agreed to organize the newsletter. Hussein will seek ComSoc permission for space on the website.

It was suggested that a sub-committee of ONTC be formed and dedicated to optical standards. Biswanath informally offered that Glen Kramer may be able to provide regular (every 6 months) updates on the 802.3ah EFM/EPON standards activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Minutes recorded by Jason Jue.