



INFORMATION ON NEXT MEETING

VARIABLE ACOUSTICS USING ELECTROACOUSTIC SYSTEMS

Joint Meeting with the AES French Section

Friday 19th of April 2002, 13h30-19h00 at La Rampe, 15 avenue du 8 mai 1945, F-38130 Echirolles (Grenoble-France)

SPEAKERS: Jean-Paul Vian, CSTB

ORGANIZER: Joel Godel, Acustica

LANGUAGE: French

The next meeting to be held on the Friday 19th of April 2002 on the topic "Variable acoustics using electroacoustic systems" will be a joint meeting with the AES French Section. The meeting is scheduled between 13h30 and 19h00 and includes time for drinks and light snacks at the end of the meeting to give a chance for members of both sections to mix and chat.

Mr Jean-Paul Vian of CSTB will present the active control system CARMEN developed at CSTB; the system is based on the principle of the virtual active wall; it enables the hall acoustics to be modified in a very simple way according the specific needs without requiring any building work. The programme will include:

- Technical visit of the CARMEN installation at the RAMPE in Echirolles.
 - In-situ presentation of the working principle of the CARMEN system and equipped rooms. Different usage and performance obtained.
 - Listening demo of the system with various set-ups and questions.

- Visit of the acoustic laboratory of CSTB.
 - Research and test installations, in particular of the phonoscopy laboratory.
 - Presentation of current research on active acoustic materials.

Biographical Notes

Jean-Paul Vian is working as a research engineer in acoustics at the "Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)" – France. He is currently head of the Room Acoustics Department of the Centre. He has worked for more than 25 years in different fields dealing with building acoustics, before becoming an expert in room acoustics. His background ranges from active noise cancellation, subjective assessment of environmental or neighbouring noise, room acoustics computer modelling, room acoustics quality assessment by objective criteria, to electroacoustic reverberation enhancement and more recently active materials. He is also an acoustic consultant in major Opera House projects such as the Paris Opera Bastille, Moscow Theatre Bolchoï, the new National Opera of Beijing and the Oriental Art Center in Shanghai Pu Dong.

Meeting point for Swiss Section Transport

For members who wish to travel from Geneva to Grenoble (and back) with the transport laid on by the Swiss Section, the meeting point will be at 11h45 at Geneva Airport in front of the Departures Terminal as you come out of the train station. The expected time of return to Geneva-Airport is 20h30.

On-line Registration

In our continuing effort to make life as easy as possible to our members, it is now possible to register on-line at the Swiss section website: www.swissaes.org. For this particular meeting please indicate whether you are coming by your own means or wish to come by the transport organized by the Swiss Section from Geneva Airport.

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING

DIGITAL AUDIO STUDIO at TSR

Thursday 7th of March 2002, 17h15 at the Télévision Suisse Romande,
20 quai E. Ansermet, Geneva

SPEAKERS: Thomas Bulliard, TSR
Thierry Bonvin, TSR

REPORTER: Patrick Boehm, TSR

Around 40 people gathered on the 7th of March 2002 for the meeting on the topic “Digital Audio Studio” at the Swiss National Television (TSR) in Geneva.

As an introduction Patrick Boehm explained the different characteristics of the Studio 4, the latest to be up-dated with digital technology both in the video and audio fields. This is the largest studio at the TSR, the film set is 900 square meters and can hold 400 people and the grid height is 12m. Studio 4 also has several adjacent rooms including an equipment room, image and sound control rooms, etc. Some figures to give an idea of the size and scale of the project: 20 kilometres of audio, video and remote control cables, 782 diagrams and drawings were required for the up-dating of the studio.

The sound control room is equipped with a digital SSL Aysis Air console with 32 mono channels and 8 stereo channels, along with the usual pieces of outboard equipment (CD and DAT players, limiters, reverbs, etc.).

Thomas Bulliard, who is responsible for the audio side of Studio 4 first of all explained the signal philosophy in relation to the switching centre as well as the interconnections with other studios. He then presented the various diagrams such as the block diagram of the centre and the detailed audio diagram where the audience could follow the signal path. Other basic knowledge was also introduced including the notion of SDI (embedded audio).

For the rest of the meeting the attendees were divided into two groups for the guided tour around the sound control room and film set with adjacent equipment rooms.

The Guided tour of the sound control room was given by Thierry Bonvin. He has been responsible for this part of the project and he is currently responsible for the daily running of the control room.

At the end of the meeting a dozen of the participants finished off the evening at the Trattoria Dei Trulli Restaurant.