



AES

SWISS SECTION NEWSLETTER

97th Issue

INFORMATION ON NEXT MEETING

Surround Sound Downmixing

Thursday, 20th of January 2005, 17h30 at Studer Professional Audio GmbH
Althardstrasse 30, 8105 Regensdorf

SPEAKER: Helmut Wittek (Institut für Rundfunktechnik München)
ORGANIZER: Attila Karamustafaoglu
LANGUAGE: English or German

One of the current hot topics in the world of surround sound is downmixing. Now as more and more sound material is generated, producers are concerned about the methods of downmixing the surround sound content, mainly mixed in 5.1 format to conventional stereo or even mono. As known from mono compatibility of stereo, if done wrong the downmixing result can be very annoying if the underlying physical and mathematical models are not considered right. Ideally the downmix procedure does not affect the positioning and the position-dependent amplitudes of the acoustical image.

Helmut Wittek, research engineer at the Institut für Rundfunktechnik in Munich (IRT) has conducted research work in this area and has especially focussed on main microphone techniques for surround sound which are downmix-compatible. In his presentation he will explain and discuss them and point to the difficulties and solutions when being confronted with downmixing. In addition to his presentation there will be sessions with listening demonstrations.

As usual, an optional dinner will be held at a restaurant nearby.

ELECTION OF FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE SWISS AES SECTION COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the Swiss AES Section

It is our pleasure to announce the new functions, as elected on the 14.10.2004:

Attila Karamustafaoglu – Chairman
Joël Godel – Secretary
Gisèle Clark – Treasurer
Gabriel Leuzinger

Terry Nelson – Vice Chairman
Véronique Adam – Newsletter Editor
Patrick Boehm – Education
David Norman

FURTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Further to feedback received from many members, we will be sending the newsletter from now on only in electronic form to those members having a valid email address in our database. If you presently receive the newsletter by mail and wish to continue receiving the paper version, please let us know!

We are looking forward to a new administrative period with many interesting meetings and wish you all the best for Christmas and a happy New Year in 2005!!

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING

Annual General Meeting of Swiss Section

Thursday, 14th of October 2004 at RELEC S.A., Yverdon-les-Bains

AGENDA :

Chairman's report
Treasurers report
Secretary's report
Presentation of ZEPRA and CFMS audio Engineering schools
Keynote Speech by Tony Waldron, Head of Engineering, Cadac Electronics, UK

REPORTERS: Terry Nelson & Gisèle Clark

The AGM for the Swiss Section of the AES took place on October 14th, in the premises of RELEC S.A., Yverdon-les-Bains and was attended by 46 members and guests.

Chairman Attila Karamustafaoglu presented a round up on the state of the Swiss section over the last year, and underlined the necessity of bringing in new members as well as the bureaucratic problems faced in maintaining existing ones. The computer age is not without its difficulties ! The changing economic climate is placing a limit on resources and the various AES sections around the world are now encouraged to seek local means of support by fund raising and pursuing sponsorship opportunities. Suggestions from the membership are welcome concerning this situation.

Outgoing Treasurer Alain Roux presented the financial report for the close of the 2004 activity and this confirmed the need for additional funds to be obtained locally. The 2004 AGM was also the moment for Alain Roux to announce his resignation from the Swiss Section Committee and he was warmly thanked for his many years of loyal service.

Newsletter editor Veronique Adam presented an overview of the section's meetings for 2004, and this showed a wide variety of subjects offered to enthusiastic audiences.

The AES Swiss Section is a pioneer in the field of education for audio engineering and this AGM was an opportunity for the two audio engineering schools that teach the curriculum for the Federal Diploma for Sound Technician, created by the Swiss AES more than a decade ago, to present their different programmes.

Markus Erne of ZEPRA presented the school's activities in German for the benefit of our German-speaking members and also gave first details of a Tonmeister degree that will be offered from 2005 in Zürich.

Patrick Roe presented the CFMS in Lausanne for the French-speaking community, though it is interesting to note that one of the students makes the journey from the Tessin !

The official proceedings ended with the presentation of candidates for the new committee and their approval by the assembly (see page 1)

The keynote speech for the 2004 AGM was given by Tony Waldron, of Cadac Electronics. Mr Waldron is a well-known figure in the world of recording and sound reinforcement (particularly in that of theatre), both in the U.K. and internationally. Given in an informative and humorous style, Mr Waldron's speech provided an interesting insight on the question of phase response in audio equipment – particularly with regard to frequency response – and the questions of proper shielding and earth isolation in order to have clean and quiet audio signals. For more information, you are invited to visit www.cadac-sound.com.

The AES Committee wished to underline the social character of the section and the event included an aperitif, which was followed by a buffet dinner and bar. Certain members also displayed some of their musical talents !

The Committee wishes to warmly thank the following people and organisations who donated both time and services to ensure the success of the event : Alain Roux (Relec S.A.) for the premises and the drinks, Christian Martin (Megaphone) for the sound reinforcement equipment, Michael Rigolet (Flash Sound) for stage, lighting and projections, together with the staff of RELEC. Special thanks are also given to Gisèle Clark for consecrating considerable time and effort to the overall organisation of the 2004 AGM.