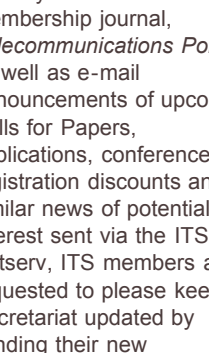


INTERCONNECT ITS

August 2013

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Early-Bird registration deadline for 24th European Regional ITS Conference is September 1, 2013. So don't delay. Please register now at <http://www.itseurope.org/content/Registration.html>

MOVING? STAY IN TOUCH!

To ensure uninterrupted delivery of the ITS membership journal, *Telecommunications Policy*, as well as e-mail announcements of upcoming Calls for Papers, publications, conference registration discounts and similar news of potential interest sent via the ITS-L Listserv, ITS members are requested to please keep the Secretariat updated by sending their new coordinates to:

Don Romaniuk, ITS Secretariat at secretariat@itsworld.org

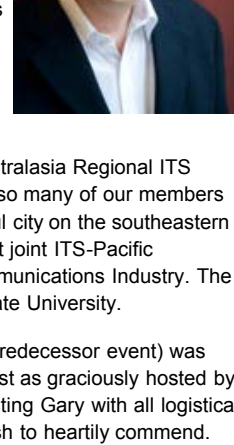
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Message From the Chair

Dear ITS Colleagues:

This marks the first issue of *Interconnect* in its new e-mail format. Starting this month (August 2013), *Interconnect* will be delivered to you (approximately) every two months via the ITS-L Listserv. Although the articles will be shorter, by publishing our newsletter more frequently, we'll be able to deliver more news and information of interest to our members on a timelier basis. All issues of *Interconnect* dating back to February 1999, when the very first issue was published, will still be available on the ITS web site at www.itsworld.org. After glancing through this month's issue, please send any comments you may have on the new look and feel of *Interconnect* to Professor Yu-li Liu, ITS Board member and Chair of the ITS Marketing and Promotions Committee, at yuliu2009@gmail.com or to ITS Secretariat and *Interconnect* editor, Don Romaniuk, at secretariat@itsworld.org. We'd be delighted to hear from you.



I'm writing this message from Perth, Australia where I have just attended the 6th Africa-Asia-Australasia Regional ITS Conference. It was a genuine pleasure to be able to participate in this Conference and to meet so many of our members from the southern hemisphere (and a few from the northern hemisphere as well) in this wonderful city on the southeastern edge of the Indian Ocean. Among the many highlights of this year's Conference was the first joint ITS-Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) policy session on PTC Perspectives on the Pacific Telecommunications Industry. The session was led by PTC Chair (and ITS member), Professor Richard Taylor of Pennsylvania State University.

As has been the case every two years since 2001, the 2013 Perth Conference (and an earlier predecessor event) was ever so ably organized and chaired by ITS Board member, Professor Gary Madden, and was just as graciously hosted by the Communications Economics & Electronic Markets Research Centre, Curtin University. Assisting Gary with all logistical matters this year was Thien Tran, whose energy, enthusiasm and organizational skills I also wish to heartily commend.

Looking forward to this fall, our next Regional Conference will take place in Florence, Italy, October 20-23. I very much encourage you to attend what promises to be an exceptional event in one of the world's most beautiful cities. Full details on the 24th ITS European Regional Conference can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and, as well, at <http://www.itseurope.org>. Please note that ITS will also convene its 5th Ph.D. Seminar for promising graduate students at the same venue immediately following the conclusion of this year's European Regional Conference.

I am also very pleased to announce that, as in past years, ITS will support the 2013 Columbia Institute for Tele-Information State of Telecom workshop in New York this coming September 26. In addition, the ITS Conference Committee has just announced that the 25th European Regional ITS Conference will convene in Brussels, Belgium, June 22-25, 2014. The principal organizer of the Conference will be iMinds (formerly, IBBT-SMIT). Further details on these events will be forthcoming shortly.

Finally, this is a reminder that 20th ITS Biennial Conference will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 30 - December 3, 2014. Further details on this Conference will be published in *Interconnect* and on the ITS web site as they become available.

As always, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the months ahead at one or more of our upcoming Conferences and to engaging you in discussions on the issues and subjects of greatest interest and concern to the telecommunications and broader ICT industry.

Sincerely,



Erik Bohlin • ITS Chair

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Programme Taking Shape for 24th European Regional ITS Conference

Preparations for the 24th European Regional ITS Conference to be held October 20-23 in Florence, Italy are nearing completion.

The theme of the 2013 European Regional Conference is **Technology, Investment and Uncertainty**. Following this theme, the Call for Papers (CFP) solicited papers and panel sessions addressing the following topics:

- Operator strategies - internationalization, broadband investment, coping with economic uncertainty
- The impact of regulation on operator strategy and investment
- Innovative business models for broadband delivery and mobile applications
- The relationship between telecommunications and economic development
- Investment, innovation and returns on investment
- The relationship between content, equipment producers and infrastructure industries
- The role of government in telecommunications markets
- NGN and NGA policies - their impact on efficiency
- Role of regulation in promoting superfast broadband and Europe's 2020 Agenda
- Experiences on the implementation of the new regulatory framework
- Teletcom - 4G licensing and launching, shared use
- User roles and social networking
- Technological, economic, regulatory and institutional convergence

Over 130 abstracts were accepted from authors from more than 25 different countries.

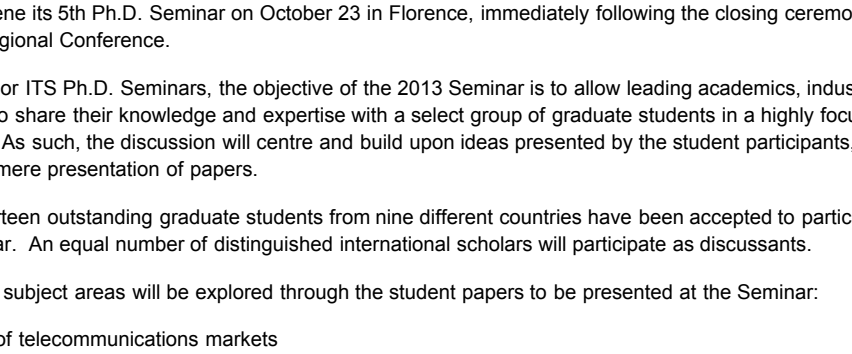
Besides multiple concurrent sessions featuring the successful respondents to the CFP, the Conference will feature a plenary session with several prominent representatives of industry and government being invited to speak. As of early August 2013, confirmed speakers include Goran Marby (Director General, Swedish Post & Telecom Authority) and the incoming chair of BEREC - the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communication). A speaker representing DG Connect is also confirmed for the plenary session. Two panel sessions are also being organized, one on machine-to-machine (M2M) communications and the other on mobile and fixed market structures.

The Conference is being hosted by the Florence School of Regulation and will convene at the European University Institute.

The principal organizers for the Conference are ITS Board members, Jason Whalley (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow) and Brigitte Preissl (German National Library of Economics, Hamburg). The local organizing team includes Pier Luigi Parcu, Carlo Cambini, Paula Gori and Alessandra Caidini, all with the Florence School of Regulation, Robert Schuman Centre, Florence.

Please note that there is a very significant early bird registration discount available to all individuals registering before September 1, 2013. A further very attractive discount is available to all ITS members in good standing.

Please visit <http://www.itseurope.org/> to register for this Conference and to obtain further details on accommodations.



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ITS Board Member Jason Whalley on Why You Won't Want to Miss this Year's Regional Conference in Florence

Dr. Jason Whalley is one of the principal organizers of the 24th ITS European Regional Conference being held in Florence, Italy this coming October 20-23 (the other organizers are Dr. Brigitte Preissl and Professor Pier Luigi Parcu).



We contacted Dr. Whalley just as he was in transit from Glasgow to Vienna for a few days vacation. We caught up with him at London's Heathrow airport.

Interconnect: Thank you for freeing up a bit of time on your travels. Could you tell our readers what makes this year's European Regional Conference so special?

Jason: My pleasure. It's a number of things really. First, the subjects being addressed at the Conference could not be more relevant or timely given (1) the still tenuous state of the European economy and the potentially very significant impact on *future* economic growth of *current* investment and innovation in the ICT sector and (2) the manner in which the latter activities are, or can be, affected by various regulatory regimes. These are precisely the kinds of issues we'll be exploring in Florence this fall. Second, the quality of the abstracts submitted by authors in response to the Conference CFP was on the whole very high. After careful review, our Conference Program Committee accepted over 130 papers for presentation in Florence. In a word, we were not only very impressed with the overall calibre of the successful submissions but also with the fact that we'll have presenters from over two dozen different countries.

Interconnect: Are there other aspects of the Florence Conference that would be of even further interest and value to ITS members?

Jason: Absolutely. To further augment our programming, we've invited a number of distinguished representatives from industry and commerce, academia and the regulatory sector to participate in a plenary session as well as in two special panel sessions - one on M2M communications and the other on market structure for fixed and mobile communications. Responses are just starting to come in. As a result, we should be in a position to announce our complete programme and roster of speakers by the end of August or early September. I should add that just the opportunity for hallway, post-session and mealtime conversations with leading experts in the ICT field from several different countries makes attending this Conference all the more worthwhile. In addition, we've structured registration fees for the Florence Conference to ensure that everyone registering prior to September 1 receives a very significant early-bird discount. All ITS members receive a second discount on top of that.

Interconnect: It surely can't hurt either that the Conference is being held in Florence.

Jason: I was perhaps unconsciously saving the best for last. Florence really is a magnificent city. It has everything from extraordinary art and architecture to a culture and history as rich and intriguing as that of any city or region on the Continent, not to mention the very finest of Tuscan cuisine. And did I mention the wine? With everything that the city has to offer, anyone planning to attend the Conference would be well advised to book a few extra days to take in at least a some of the sights, tastes and activities that await the inquisitive or adventurous traveller in Florence.

Interconnect: Sounds like terrific advice. Thanks so much for your time.

Jason: You're most welcome. Cheers!

Editor: To register for the Florence Conference, please visit <http://www.itseurope.org>

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ITS Announces Participants and Programme for 5th ITS Ph.D. Seminar

ITS will convene its 5th Ph.D. Seminar on October 23 in Florence, immediately following the closing ceremony for the 2013 European Regional Conference.

As with all prior ITS Ph.D. Seminars, the objective of the 2013 Seminar is to allow leading academics, industry experts and researchers to share their knowledge and expertise with a select group of graduate students in a highly focused learning environment. As such, the discussion will centre and build upon ideas presented by the student participants, rather than focus on the mere presentation of papers.

This year, thirteen outstanding graduate students from nine different countries have been accepted to participate in the Ph.D. Seminar. An equal number of distinguished international scholars will participate as discussants.

Five principal subject areas will be explored through the student papers to be presented at the Seminar:

- Regulation of telecommunications markets
- Challenges of convergence of telecommunications systems and content supply
- Development of telecommunications markets
- Telecommunications and society
- Social media

A copy of the complete two-day programme for 2013 ITS Ph.D. Seminar is available at <http://www.itseurope.org/content/5thPhDSeminarProgramme.html>

Student participants in the Ph.D. Seminar will also be able to attend the main Florence Conference on a complimentary basis.

The Seminar is being organized by ITS and Chalmers University of Technology and will be hosted by the Florence School of Regulation at the European University Institute.

Students successfully completing the Seminar will receive a certificate from Chalmers University.

A selection of papers presented at the Seminar will be encouraged for refereed submission in *Telecommunications Policy*.



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Interview with new ITS Vice-Chair Stephen Schmidt (Canada)

As reported in the last issue of *Interconnect* (see, <http://www.itsworld.org/newsletter/pdfs/Interconnect-May-2013.pdf>), ITS Board member, Stephen Schmidt, was elected to the position of ITS Vice-Chair at the November 2012 meeting of the ITS Board of Directors. The meeting took place in Bangkok just prior to start of the 2012 Biennial Conference. *Interconnect* recently caught up with Stephen by telephone at his Ottawa office. Below are some highlights of the interview with him.



Interconnect: Congratulations on your election as ITS Vice Chair! Could you please provide us with a bit of background about yourself for the benefit of our members.

Stephen: Thank you very much. I'd be happy to. I was born in Vancouver, Canada, and have lived in major cities across the country, including Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton and Winnipeg. I attended the University of Toronto where I received my B.A. (Honours, with distinction) in 1994 and the University of Manitoba, where I received my LL.B degree in 1997. I have worked in the field of telecommunications law and regulation for my entire professional career and currently serve as Chief Regulatory Legal Counsel with TELUS Communications Inc., one of Canada's largest communications companies.

Interconnect: How long have you been with ITS and the way led you to become a member?

Stephen: I first joined the ITS in 2004. TELUS, the company I work for, has been a Global Corporate member for many years. My introduction to ITS came by way of the TELUS' ongoing and very active involvement with our organization. It was not very long afterwards, however, that the many benefits of individual membership in ITS became very apparent to me.

Interconnect: What benefits, in particular, stood out and remain prominent for you?

Stephen: First and foremost are the conferences that the ITS organizes each year in various countries around the world. I have been enormously impressed with the scientific and professional calibre of ITS conferences, including the overall quality of the papers presented; the many exceptional presentations given by leading academics, professionals, business people and representatives of government invited to speak at these events; the social and economic significance and immediate relevance of the issues addressed; and the quality of the venues selected, not to mention the wonderful opportunities to visit some of the most beautiful and interesting cities in the world.

Interconnect: What other benefits of ITS membership do you see as being particularly valuable?

Stephen: Four others come immediately to mind. A subscription to the journal *Telecommunications Policy*, comes with every paid ITS membership. As our members know, the quality and, hence, value of this journal, which is published 11 times a year, is difficult to overstate. It truly is a first rate scientific publication - and a wonderful window into the evolution of telecommunications policy. Also of importance to me, and I suspect to most of our members, is the ability to communicate important announcements (such as Calls for Papers, conference registration information, professional and academic job postings, book publications and the like) effortlessly and instantaneously to all of our members via the ITS-L Listserv. Another valuable benefit is the registration fee discount available to members-in-good-standing at all ITS Regional Conferences. And, finally, thanks to the hosting facilities provided to ITS by ZBW - Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, ITS has started electronically archive copies of papers presented at all ITS Conferences. They can be accessed free of charge from the ITS web site.

Interconnect: What do you see as the principal challenges and opportunities facing ITS in the years ahead?

Stephen: I think there are several. We need to expand our membership - and conference presence - in those parts of the world where we still lack a significant footprint including Central and South America, Africa and the Indian subcontinent. The quality of our event programming and membership journal have provided us with a relatively stable and loyal membership base, particularly in Europe, North America and parts of East Asia. Retaining and growing that base, however, means that we must continue to strategically invest resources, including especially volunteer time, to produce leading edge conferences addressing those economic, social, commercial, technological and regulatory issues that most concern our target audience of industry professionals, scholars and members of government agencies active in the ICT realm.

Closely related, we need to maintain and, if possible, increase our efforts to bring in new members - including younger scholars and academics and policy makers focused on emergent areas of communications policy. Our Ph.D. Seminars are an important element of this strategy, but there is likely much more that can be accomplished in this regard. We also need to continue improving how we communicate information to our members and how we receive information from them. This includes enhancing the functionality and utility of our web site from the perspective of our members and exploring the integration of social media in the context of our conferences. Finally, as there is no such thing as a free lunch, we need to retain our existing base of corporate sponsors, and to identify and secure new sources of funding from amongst those commercial enterprises and public institutions that share our vision and public interest objectives. It's a tall order but, like the rest of our Executive and Board, I'm fully committed to tackling these challenges and seizing these opportunities as we move forward into our next quarter century.

Interconnect: What would you say to someone who is interested in becoming more involved with ITS, but has not yet become a member?

Stephen: I'd tell them this: Become a member today! And attend one on our conferences the first chance you get. You'll find they deliver a wonderful combination of scholarship, international dialogue and opportunities for new friendship.

Interconnect: Thank you so much for your time.

Stephen: It was my pleasure. I hope to see you in Florence this October.

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Calendar of Events

ITS Conferences

2013

October

24th European Regional Conference • *Technology, Investment and Uncertainty*
Florence, Italy • October 20-23, 2013
<http://www.itseurope.org/>

5th ITS Ph.D. Seminar

Florence, Italy • October 23-24, 2013
<http://www.itseurope.org/content/5thPhDSeminar.html>

2014

June

25th European Regional ITS Conference (Further details will be provided when available)

Brussels, Belgium • June 22-25, 2014
November-December

20th ITS Biennial Conference
The Net and the Internet: Emerging Markets and Policies

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil • November 30 - December 3, 2014
www.itsworld.org

Other Conferences of Potential Interest to ITS Members

2013

September

Communication Policy Research (CPR): south • CPRsouth8/ CPRAfrica 2013

Innovation & Entrepreneurship in ICT: Changing Asia / Africa

Mysore, India • September 5-7, 2013
<http://www.cprsouth.org/cprsouth8/>

24th Annual IEEE International Symposium on Personal, Indoor and Mobile Radio Communications (PIMRC)

A Workshop organized in conjunction with IEEE-PIMRC'13
Spectrum Sharing Strategies for Wireless Broadband Services

London, UK • September 8-11, 2013
<http://www.ieee-pimrc.org/workshops.html>

8th IEEE Conference on Standardisation & Innovation in Information Technology (SIIT)

IEEE - SIIT 2013

Sophia Antipolis, France • September 24-26, 2013
<http://ieeese-siit.org/>

Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI) • *State of Telecom 2013*

New York, USA • September 26, 2013
<http://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/citi/>

41st Research Conference on Communication and Internet Policy • TPRC41

Arlington, Virginia, USA • September 27-29, 2013
www.tprcweb.com

October

8th International Workshop on Internet Charging and QoS Technologies • ICQT'13

Associated Workshop of CNSM 2013 (<http://www.cnsm-conf.org/2013/>)

Zurich, Switzerland • October 14, 2013
<http://cosy.cs.univie.ac.at/icqt>

November

DigiWorld Summit 2013 • *The Digital Gold Mines*

Montpellier, France • November 19-21, 2013
<http://www.digiworldsummit.com/?lang=en>

2014

January

Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) Conference
PTC14—New World, New Strategies

Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. • January 19-22, 2014
www.ptc.org

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