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The CID number appears on each page of the manuscript. The complete citation is used on the first page, and an abbreviated version on subsequent pages. Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the six-digit CID number.
Contents

vii  Conference Committee
ix  Introduction
xi  Photonic devices for next-generation broadband fiber access networks (Plenary Paper) [7958-01]
  L. G. Kazovsky, S.-H. Yen, S.-W. Wong, Stanford Univ. (United States)

xvii  Advances in coherent detection algorithms (Plenary Paper) [7960-01]
  J. C. Rasmussen, T. Hoshida, T. Tanimura, H. Nakashima, S. Oda, Fujitsu Labs. Ltd. (Japan);
  Z. Tao, L. Li, Fujitsu R&D Ctr. (China)

OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS PLENARY SESSION

7959 02  Higher-order modulation formats for spectral-efficient high-speed metro systems (Plenary Paper) [7959-01]
  K.-O. Velthaus, M. Schell, Fraunhofer Institute for Telecommunications, Heinrich-Hertz-Institut
  (Germany)

OFDM FOR ACCESS, METRO AND COHERENT COMMUNICATIONS: JOINT SESSION WITH
CONFERENCE 7960

7959 03  Four-dimensional coded optical OFDM for ultra-high-speed metro networks (Invited Paper) [7959-02]
  I. B. Djordjevic, The Univ. of Arizona (United States)

7959 04  Optimum signal constellations for high-speed optical metro networks and beyond [7959-03]
  J. Zhang, Beijing Jiaotong Univ. (China); I. B. Djordjevic, The Univ. of Arizona (United States)

7959 05  Potential of OFDM for next generation optical access (Invited Paper) [7959-04]
  D. Fritzsche, European Ctr. for Information and Communication Technologies (Germany);
  E. Weis, D. Breuer, Deutsche Telekom AG (Germany)

COMPONENT TECHNOLOGIES FOR ACCESS, METRO AND COHERENT COMMUNICATIONS:
JOINT SESSION WITH CONFERENCES 7958 AND 7960

7959 06  Novel multicolor photodetectors for short- and long-distance optical communication
         (Invited Paper) [7959-05]
  A. K. Dutta, R. Olah, G. Mizuno, Banpil Photonics, Inc. (United States); N. K. Dhar, Defense
  Advanced Research Projects Agency (United States)
Tuneable VCSEL aiming for the application in interconnects and short haul systems (Invited Paper) [7959-07]
C. Gierl, K. Zogal, S. Jatta, H. A. Davani, F. Küppers, P. Meissner, Technische Univ. Darmstadt (Germany); T. Gründl, C. Grasse, M.-C. Amann, Walter Schottky Institut (Germany); A. Daly, B. Corbett, Tyndall National Institute (Ireland); B. Kögel, Å. Haglund, J. Gustavsson, P. Westbergh, A. Larsson, Chalmers Univ. of Technology (Sweden); P. Debernardi, Istituto di Elettronica e di Ingegneria dell’Informazione e delle Telecomunicazioni (Italy); M. Ortsiefer, VERTILAS GmbH (Germany)

Inexpensive 3dB coupler for POF communication by injection-molding production [7959-08]
M. Haupt, U. H. P. Fischer, Harz Univ. of Applied Sciences (Germany)

New concept for a regenerative amplifier for passive optical networks (Invited Paper) [7959-09]
A. Tervonen, M. Mattila, Luxdyne, Ltd. (Finland) and Aalto Univ. (Finland); W. Weiershausen, Luxdyne, Ltd. (Finland); T. von Lerber, Luxdyne, Ltd. (Finland) and Darmstadt Univ. of Technology (Germany); E. Parsons, H. Chaouch, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); F. Kueppers, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States) and Darmstadt Univ. of Technology (Germany); S. Honkanen, Aalto Univ. (Finland)

Field trials of 100G and beyond: an operator’s point of view (Invited Paper) [7959-10]
S. Vorbeck, M. Schneiders, W. Weiershausen, H. Mayer, A. Schippel, P. Wagner, A. Ehrhardt, Deutsche Telekom AG (Germany); R. Braun, D. Breuer, Deutsche Telekom Labs. (Germany); U. Drafz, Deutsche Telekom AG (Germany); D. Fritzschke, EICT GmbH (Germany)

Scaling 100G QPSK links for reliable network development [7959-11]
A. Stark, Y.-T. Hsueh, S. Searcy, T. Detwiler, Georgia Institute of Technology (United States); S. Tibuleac, M. Filer, ADVA Optical Networking (United States); G. Chang, S. E. Ralph, Georgia Institute of Technology (United States)

Chromatic dispersion analysis and partially compensation for tunable liquid crystal optical interleaver [7959-12]
S. A. Alboon, Yarmouk Univ. (Jordan); A. S. Abu-Abed, Univ. of Central Oklahoma (United States); A. N. Al-Omari, Yarmouk Univ. (Jordan)

Electrical PMD equalization methods for intensity modulated optical polarization multiplex transmission systems [7959-13]
D. Goelz, F. Pohl, P. Meissner, Technische Univ. Darmstadt (Germany)

DPSK receiver-sensitivity enhancement using an SOA in front of the receiver [7959-14]
E. Awad, Nile Univ. (Egypt)
WSS technology for the next generation ROADM networks (Invited Paper) [7959-15]
G. Cohen, K. Bala, Oclaro, Inc. (United States)

Spectrum variable colorless, directionless and contentionless multi-degree ROADM node [7959-16]
P. N. Ji, NEC Labs. America, Inc. (United States); Y. Aono, NEC Corp. (Japan); T. Wang, NEC Labs. America, Inc. (United States)

PCE-based scalable dynamic path control for large-scale photonic networks [7959-17]
S. Araki, NEC Corp. (Japan) and Nagoya Univ. (Japan); K. Shimada, H. Hasegawa, K. Sato, Nagoya Univ. (Japan); Y. Iizawa, S. Ishida, I. Nishioka, NEC Corp. (Japan)

Linear formulation to avoid adjacent channel interference in LTD of optical networks [7959-18]
K. D. R. Assis, Federal Univ. of Bahia (Brazil); M. S. Savasini, State Univ. of Campinas (Brazil); A. F. Santos, Univ. of São Paulo (Brazil) and State Univ. of Southwest Bahia (Brazil)

Efficient elastic optical path network for transmission beyond 100G (Invited Paper) [7959-19]
B. Kozicki, H. Takara, K. Yonenaga, M. Jinno, NTT Corp. (Japan)

Multi-layer photonics modeling framework for the design, analysis, and optimization of devices, links, and networks (Invited Paper) [7959-20]
A. Richter, H. Louchet, C. Arellano, VPIsystems (Germany); J. Farina, VPIsystems (United States); I. Koltchanov, VPIsystems (Germany)

Dynamic routing, wavelength assignment, and spectrum allocation in transparent flexible optical WDM networks [7959-21]
A. N. Patel, NEC Labs. America, Inc. (United States) and The Univ. of Texas at Dallas (United States); P. N. Ji, NEC Labs. America, Inc. (United States); J. P. Jue, The Univ. of Texas at Dallas (United States); T. Wang, NEC Labs. America, Inc. (United States)

A novel approach to smart grid technology for electrical power transmission lines by a self-organized optical network node based on optical bistability [7959-22]
S. Nakanishi, W. Sasaki, Doshisha Univ. (Japan)

Author Index
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Optical Communications Plenary Session
Benjamin Dingel, Nasfine Photonics, Inc. (United States)
Werner Weiershausen, Deutsche Telekom AG (Germany)

1 OFDM for Access, Metro and Coherent Communications: Joint Session with Conference 7960
Atul K. Srivastava, OneTerabit (United States)
Guifang Li, CREOL, The College of Optics and Photonics, University of Central Florida (United States)
2 Component Technologies for Access, Metro and Coherent Communications: Joint Session with Conferences 7958 and 7960
Dieter Stefan Jäger, Univ. Duisburg-Essen (Germany)
Werner Weiershausen, Deutsche Telekom AG (Germany)

3 Advanced Components and Sub-Systems
Achyut K. Dutta, Banpil Photonics, Inc. (United States)

4 Advanced PON for Access and Metro: Joint Session with Conference 7958
Raj Jain, Washington University in St. Louis (United States)
Benjamin Dingel, Nasfine Photonics, Inc. (United States)

5 High Capacity Transmission
Atul K. Srivastava, OneTerabit (United States)

6 Optical Networks I: Joint Session with Conferences 7958 and 7960
Werner Weiershausen, Deutsche Telekom AG (Germany)

7 Optical Networks II
Werner Weiershausen, Deutsche Telekom AG (Germany)
Introduction

The Optical Metro Networks and Short-Haul Systems III conference provides a forum for more than 20 papers in eight oral sessions including one plenary session, three special joint sessions, and a poster session. The joint sessions with Broadband Access Communication Technologies V (conference 7958) and Coherent Optical Communication: Components, Subsystems, and Systems (conference 7960) are designed to bring together the researchers working on topics from the adjoining fields in order to stimulate more comprehensive discussion.

The conference provides a good opportunity to learn about the current trends in the optical component, transmission and networking technologies for the metro and short haul systems. It covers components such as novel couplers, VCSELs, multi-color photo-detectors, liquid crystal dispersion compensators and SOAs for regeneration and receiver sensitivity enhancement of a DPSK system. It is evident from the submissions this year that the long haul transmission technologies such as OFDM and novel modulation formats are being explored for applications in the short reach systems. Likewise, several results of high data rate transmission and field trials at 100G and beyond from carrier’s perspective are included in the conference. These cover the issues pertaining to PMD and the proposed introduction of channels at 400Gb/s and 1Tb/s which would require bandwidth allocation larger than 50 GHz with a granularity of 25 GHz or 12.5 GHz for minimizing wasted or stranded bandwidth.

In recent years, we have witnessed the ROADM technology evolution towards larger number of ports. Colorless, directionless and contentionless routing of channels at ROADM nodes is becoming an industry standard. More recently, a new feature of bandwidth flexibility has been added to the ROADM requirements in order to support the future need of flexibility in bandwidth allocation in an efficient manner. The conference includes many papers on the design of flexible bandwidth ROADM and related component technologies.

Several papers provide modeling results on optical network architecture and control including the multilayer photonic control. One paper highlights a novel smart grid approach to transmit electrical power via an optical network node.

We would like to thank all the contributors to this year’s Optical Metro Networks and Short-Haul Systems III conference. The papers are of high quality and will provide an opportunity to review the latest results and have discussion on the
current issues. If you were not able to attend the conference you can review the papers in this publication and hopefully contribute to the conference in the future.

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