



Network for Success

By Sara Waddington, Managing Editor, SCTE

Still not applied for your SCTE bursary? Read about some of our bursary winners' experiences at this year's ANGA COM in Cologne to help you make up your mind...

ANGA COM

WHERE BROADBAND MEETS CONTENT

The SCTE™ (Society for Broadband Professionals) and ANGA (The Association of German Cable Operators) sent twenty lucky winners of the SCTE/ANGA bursaries to this year's ANGA COM conference and exhibition in Germany. The bursary winners are mainly chosen from various international cable operators (such as Virgin Media, IPKO and others). They each received a package that includes pre-paid flights and hotel accommodation for three nights (courtesy of the SCTE) and entrance to the full conference offering (courtesy of ANGA). Bursary winners must be members of the SCTE.

This year's ANGA COM took place in Cologne, Germany from **30 May - 1 June 2017** and was relocated to new exhibition halls and a modern conference centre. It attracted 460 exhibitors from 37 countries (up from 450 last year) and approximately 19,000 attendees from 80 countries (up 5% on 2016's figures). ANGA COM is organised by the Association of German Cable Operators (ANGA).

The SCTE was a very visible participant at the ANGA COM event, as it has been in previous years, holding a party on its booth for all members and bursary winners mid-way through the event. SCTE President, Mike Thornton, also took part in a panel session on **30 May 2017** during the ANGA COM conference on **"FTTx – Gigabit Services: Challenges for Deploying the Networks"**. SCTE's *Broadband Journal* was also distributed throughout the exhibition.

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Natalia Awodeji

Senior Design Engineer, Virgin Media

My time was mainly spent meeting vendors to see what is new in the world of CMTS – and I can confirm this year that it was all about R-PHY. It was a topic with which I became quite familiar over these two days at ANGA COM and it was extremely informative to understand the proposed architecture around this technology, as well as the different equipment that is needed to deploy and to discuss the pros and cons.

Thanks to the SCTE bursary, I also had a chance to attend some of the lectures given by experts from companies like Cisco, Nokia, Casa etc. There was a great array of topics! One that I particularly enjoyed and found most relevant discussed the realities around Distributed Access Architectures. I would like to say thank you to the SCTE and ANGA for providing this opportunity, as it was greatly beneficial for my day-to-day job.



Sophie Bannerman

Engineering Graduate, T&I CN&O Technical Site Strategy, Engineering & Build, Virgin Media

Day one of ANGA COM was an eye opener, the sheer size of the venue and the various offerings from all the vendors was incredible and the sign of an interesting couple of days to come! Our ticket allowed us access to the ANGA COM congress, giving ticket-holders the opportunity to attend a range of panels, lectures and presentations.

Having access to the congress turned out to be a valuable part of our experience and gave us a rare insight into panels with executives from different companies who we may not have encountered in any other setting. ANGA COM was a fantastic experience and something I'll look back on for the rest of my career.

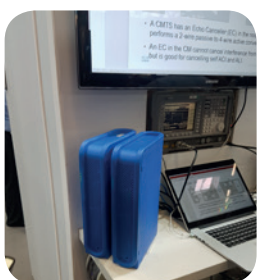


Matt Bull

Principal Design Engineer, T&I CN&O Core Strategy & Engineering, Core Systems Engineering, Virgin Media

For those who aren't aware of ANGA COM, it is a three-day event where manufacturers, integrators, service providers and customers descend on an exhibition centre in Cologne to sell their wares, share best practices, catch up on the latest industry trends and network with colleagues in the industry. The event is hosted in two huge exhibition halls at Koelnmesse and the variety of companies and stands was surprising. Exhibitors seem to range in size from tiny businesses just selling one specific component right up to massive players, such as Cisco, demonstrating some of their latest hardware.

For me, the main buzz seemed to be around Remote PHY and it was the subject of many of the discussions during the vendor sessions we had set up. The other technology that was everywhere was DOCSIS 3.1. Overall, I was very impressed - the location was fantastic (a short walk from the city centre) and the quality of the stands and the knowledge of those manning them was, as you would expect, excellent. The evenings also provided some fantastic opportunities to catch up with some of my colleagues, with whom I would not normally interact, over a few beers and some great food. I'm confident that the discussions around R-PHY provisioning architectures are already adding value within LGI. I wouldn't hesitate in recommending that anyone involved in the cable industry attends next year and, if you're an SCTE member, you should apply for a bursary too!





Ben Cleave

Senior Engineer, Access Tools, Virgin Media/Liberty Global

I work in the Access Tools team for LGI, so ANGA COM was an ideal opportunity to catch up with a number of test equipment manufacturers. Before going to ANGA COM, I scheduled meetings with several vendors so that I could specifically discuss with them the products in which I was interested. A technology that we were particularly interested in reviewing was PNM. PNM is a relatively new concept, whose principal aim is to pinpoint faults within the HFC plant. Experience from using the system has determined, although PNM may highlight many issues on the network, that we can't be sure that the fault is actually impacting the customer experience. Speaking to several vendors at ANGA COM, these systems have evolved to include additional metrics along with PNM. By combining these metrics, we can get a much better idea and certainty as to whether the fault is affecting the customers' QoE. ANGA COM is a fantastic event and one that I definitely recommend attending.



Kreshnik Hasimja

NFM Team Leader, IPKO Telecommunications

It was a fantastic experience for me to take part in ANGA COM as an SCTE bursary winner. I was fascinated with the huge exhibition halls, the high standard of set-up and the number of exhibitors, with key members of industry, where I attended presentations and met exhibitors, which I found very useful.

I had the opportunity to meet different people to discuss and explore future challenges that need to be faced in the coming years. After attending various meetings and presentations at the ANGA COM conference, I gained a good overview of the trends and future implementation steps of DOCSIS 3.1, FTTx – Gigabit Services and multiscreen solutions. I have since presented some of the solutions to the company where I work.



Kreshnik Hasimja on the SCTE booth at ANGA COM



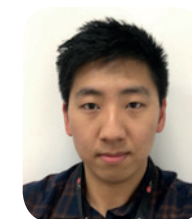
Richard (Tex), Richard Kissell

Principal Engineer – Access Evaluation & Readiness, Access Network Engineering, Technology & Innovation, Liberty Global

This year at ANGA COM, there was still a fair amount of DOCSIS 3.1 chatter around the halls, increasing amounts of information for Gigabit Ethernet services over FTTP (Fibre to the Premise) and lots of information about Remote PHY. Remote PHY will increase HFC network performance, allowing for even greater data throughput whilst reducing M&E power and cooling requirements in our head-ends and hub-sites. It's important for me to understand how it's all bolted together, learn about the configuration requirements and, most importantly, the testing procedures and equipment required. At ANGA COM, I was also able to meet some of my colleagues from other European affiliates and learn a bit about their networks and some of the things that keep them awake at night.



Beverley Walker, Mike Thornton, Philip Humphries and Dr. Roger Blakeway on the SCTE booth at ANGA COM



Bowen Lai

CPE and Wireless Development, Liberty Global

Over the three days, I tried to visit as many stands as possible and just take it all in. I was able to learn a lot by just walking around and asking about what was being showcased at each stand. I also attended some of the technology panels - most of these focused on DOCSIS and the technologies surrounding it; valuable information that I'll be sure to need as my career in the cable industry progresses. One panel in particular, "Wireless Convergence and Optimising Wi-Fi Coverage", was particularly relevant to the role I'm currently in and helped me gain a better understanding of all the different ways that smart Wi-Fi solutions could improve customer experience.



Adam Lowes

Business Manager, Virgin Media

Having spent around 18 months in the telecoms industry, I was really excited when presented with the opportunity to attend ANGA COM with the support of the SCTE. Broadband really did meet content at ANGA COM 2017! The scale of the show was impressive and definitely the biggest conference that I have ever attended. My favourite part was talking to vendors who work with Virgin Media, because we could talk about the technologies we use today and the vendors would tell me what we can expect to see in the future. I hadn't heard of many of the companies who had booths before ANGA COM, but everyone was so approachable and willing to share what their company did, it really opened my eyes to the scale of the telecoms business across the world.

I attended a number of talks over the three days, including Strategy Panels with industry leaders about 'Smart City: With Fibre Networks to the Digital City of the Future' and the 'International Television & Broadband Summit' and congress talks about Distributed Access Architecture (DAA), Remote PHY (RPHY) and DOCSIS 3.1! What a great way to get an insight into the challenges faced by the big players in the industry and what they are doing to tackle them!

“ It was really interesting to learn more about TV engineering and to get insight from experts on how they see the battle developing between cable operators and OTT providers. ”



Samuel Ryding BEng MIET

Engineering Graduate, Capacity Management, Technical Site Engineering, Virgin Media

I had a fantastic time at ANGA COM - it was very insightful for us, as graduates, to get to see future products that are on offer in the telecommunications market, which hopefully one day we will get to use in practice. I attended many talks whilst at the conference - the most interesting were the DOCSIS 3.1 panels which made me more aware of the current climate in the industry and potential areas of future growth.

Over the three days of ANGA COM, I enjoyed the first by far because I was seeing everything for the first time, all the booths, Speaker's Corner and the venue itself. I knew I had specific questions for specific vendors and that was my objective on the first day. On the second day, I wanted to listen to as many talks as possible which I achieved by sitting in on three panels. The third day was specific to broadband and, although I was only there for half a day, I still managed to see a lot.



Sam Sharp

Capacity Planning Engineer, T&I CN&O Core & Metro Network Capacity Planning, Liberty Global

I was very thankful to receive one of the bursaries from the SCTE to attend ANGA COM this year. I've only been in the cable industry for nine months or so, and still have a long way to develop within the industry, but ANGA COM was of huge benefit to me. Not only did I hear from and meet the people helping to drive the industry forwards, but I came away with excitement and enthusiasm for what to expect in my future career.

The ticket provided by the SCTE/ANGA also contained access to all Strategy and Technology Panels throughout the three days, which were hosted by industry experts. The stands showcased technologies and products for every aspect of the cable network and the content available for distribution. I had conversations with lots of the suppliers who provide equipment for Virgin Media, and it was very interesting to hear the possible directions for our network to take moving forwards.



Joshua Turner

Graduate Engineer, T&I CN&O Network Business Planning, Virgin Media

You cannot ignore the scale of the ANGA COM event. There was an enormous selection of equipment suppliers and service providers with whom to network as well as stands showcasing their latest products and services. I am still quite new to the industry, so the lecture-styled panel discussions proved very educational.

I have mainly been exposed to Core transmission/data technologies to date and, as a graduate trainee, this gave me a great opportunity to learn more about access equipment and the latest developments in DOCSIS 3.1, Remote-PHY and Distributed Access Architectures (DAA), to name just a few topics.

It was really interesting to learn more about TV engineering and to get insight from experts on how they see the battle developing between cable operators and OTT providers. This is a topic I've been interested in since joining Virgin Media and it was good to hear fresh perspectives. I'd like to thank the SCTE for its hospitality and the opportunity to experience something normally reserved for more senior members of the industry. I have benefited professionally from the experience and had a great time doing so!



Sakthi Srinamasivayam

Engineering Graduate, Virgin Media

As one of the lucky winners of the 2017 ANGA COM bursaries from the SCTE, I went to ANGA COM in Cologne with seven other Virgin Media engineering graduates. As a second-year graduate, currently working in the Access network, re-visiting ANGA COM was a completely different experience to my first time there, when I had only been exposed to the Core network. We started our trip by flying to Cologne the day before, and visiting the local beer gardens and restaurants. The next day, we spent the morning going to talks on current hot topics such as DOCSIS 3.1 deployment, Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) deployment and the Internet of Things (IoT). The rest of the day was spent networking with various vendors and colleagues from the other Liberty Global subsidiaries, some of whom I remembered from my last trip. The vendors were very keen to showcase their latest technologies and how they compared to their competitors.

Submit your bursary application

The next ANGA COM will take place from **12-14 June 2018** in the new exhibition halls in Cologne. The event will further expand on topics such as Gigabit Networks and the Smart Home. Registration for exhibitors will open at **www.angacom.de** from October 2017.

Don't miss your chance, as an SCTE member, to apply for a bursary to the FTTH conference and exhibition 2018 (Valencia, Spain), DVB World 2018 (Warsaw, Poland) ANGA COM 2018 (Cologne, Germany) and IBC 2018 (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Please email 300 words to **office@thescte.eu** on why you wish to be considered for the bursary.

See you in Cologne next year!

