



An Eye on ANGA COM

By Sara Waddington, Managing Editor, SCTE

ANGA COM 2018 boosted visitor numbers by 12 per cent to 21,700 and featured more than 500 exhibitors from 37 countries. Some of SCTE's bursary winners give their views on this year's conference and exhibition.

ANGA COM

WHERE BROADBAND MEETS CONTENT

ANGA COM 2018 ended this June with a record 21,700 participants and more than 500 exhibitors. This corresponds to a 12 per cent growth in the number of participants and a 10 per cent increase in exhibitor participation. The event is organised by a subsidiary of the Association of German Cable Operators (ANGA) and has been supported by ZVEI (Satellite & Cable) for many years.

This year's event featured a new concept for the extended conference agenda. On the third day, the 'Broadband Day', jointly organised by ANGA COM, the Broadband Office of the German Federation and the Association of Telecommunications and Value-Added Service Providers (VATM), saw participants increase by 24 per cent compared to the previous year.

Dr. Peter Charissé, managing director of ANGA COM, commented: "After the relocation to new exhibition halls in 2017, we upgraded the ANGA experience once more. The

conference agenda was overhauled and thrilled the audience with a mix of broadband and media representatives and a huge projection screen. Initial feedback from our customers makes us very happy - this was the most successful ANGA COM in history. We would like to thank all exhibitors, sponsors, speakers and partners."

SCTE shows a strong presence

The Society and ANGA have a long history of cooperation. They have worked together for many years on conference sessions at ANGA COM. This year, the panel session entitled



The SCTE stand at ANGA COM



"Future-Proofed Fibre – From the Headend to the Terminal" on the first conference day, **12 June 2018**, was moderated by Mike Thornton, head of the SCTE Training Committee.

The Society, as a longstanding ANGA COM partner, also had a strong presence at the event with a stand in the Boulevard. The Society sent several lucky winners of the SCTE/ANGA bursaries to this year's ANGA COM conference and exhibition. It then held a party on its booth for all its members and bursary winners during ANGA COM on **13 June 2018**. Bursary



winners are mainly chosen from various international cable operators (such as Virgin Media, IPKO and others). They each receive 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.

Here are some of the comments on their experiences at this year's ANGA COM from a selection of this year's bursary winners:-



Stewart Beagen
Network Engineer, Virgin Media (UK)

Firstly, I would like to thank the SCTE and ANGA for the fantastic opportunity to attend ANGA COM and for the bursary. I wasn't sure what to expect as this was my first experience with the SCTE and the first industry exhibition that I had attended with it. I have to say that the entire experience was outstanding!

I quickly made my way to the SCTE stand to say hello and ended up staying for around an hour to have a chat and a coffee before making my way into the first hall. As a network engineer, I was interested to see the new technology that would be heading my way in the next five years and get 'hands-on' with the equipment. All the exhibitors were very welcoming and willing to show and explain their new products.

As the next step for Virgin Media is to move to DOCSIS 3.1 and R-PHY, these were the technologies that I wanted to go and see first-hand. The Technetix stand was my first port of call – it had a great wall display showing R-PHY within its amps and was a great insight into what will need to be done to convert our existing amps to R-PHY. The next stand was ARRIS, which had a great wall display but this time showing R-PHY from the CMTS to the amplifier, which gave me a great

SCTE Bursary WINNER

understanding of what will change and the physical differences within the head-end.

Whilst walking around, I bumped into a couple of Virgin Media colleagues who were watching a demonstration from VIAVI on a new software network tool that could use data from the CMTS and CPE and identify faults within the network and the



Stewart Beagen, an SCTE/ANGA COM bursary winner

customer. This was fantastic to see, as well as canvas views from the people who make decisions on the types of tools that I will be using in the future. Now, I have first-hand knowledge of seeing this work.

DOCSIS 3.1 was a big topic in the conference, along with how to achieve its full potential, and also getting networks to N+0. I was lucky to see DOCSIS 3.1 up and running with live speed tests and Spectrum analysis - it was great to see how it would fit into our current spectrum. I was able to see, with the help of VIAVI and its meters, the OFDM subcarriers and



The SCTE held a party for its bursary winners and members at ANGA COM

carry out live downstream tests. The speed test carried out was just amazing - to a server in the U.S., we were able to achieve 1Gb downstream and 275Mb upstream speeds. This will be a massive step-up in available speed and bandwidth for consumers and the possibilities are endless.

Once again, I would like to thank the SCTE for the experience and opportunity to meet colleagues whom I would not normally meet in my usual role within the company. The discussions we had were very informative and I believe the entire experience will stand me in good stead for what is to come.



Stephen Ingram Senior Headend & Network Support Engineer – HFC Engineering, Access Network Engineering, Liberty Global (UK)

I would like to start by thanking the SCTE and ANGA for the bursary to attend ANGA COM 2018. Without this support from the SCTE, many engineers would not be able to attend this brilliant show and see the latest developments from major vendors and all the small companies that are out there.

The show was much bigger than I remember from five years ago and it moved to new halls last year. I organised some meetings before arriving at the show but also found time to speak with vendors just by walking around the stands (it is amazing how many stands are there). I still don't think I visited all of them in the three days that I was at the show. It was good to catch up with the SCTE team whilst I was there, and to sit down and rest my legs when time allowed. Bev's hospitality service was very welcome and first class!

Attending the show gave me the opportunity to meet a couple of vendors with whom I have been working that are not based in the UK – it is always good to put a face to a name. This has

helped the working relationship that I have with them and I was able to get some project questions answered.

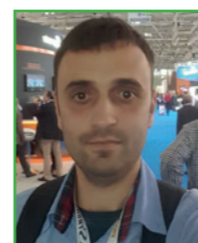
It was particularly good to see the different R-PHY solutions that the main vendors are now offering, as I am working on an R-PHY project in my role at present. I am amazed at the small size of the R-PHY nodes, as they are now able to fit in a small amplifier housing. I was also able to see the Technetix T box in operation that I had heard about, as this will solve many IT software issues I have had with engineers' laptops (in getting amplifier software added).

I did manage to attend a couple of the conference presentations as my bursary gave me access to these. In particular, the DOCSIS 3.1 and DAA presentations were very useful and both were very well attended.

If you are not a member of the SCTE, I would recommend that you join and, if you are a member, apply for the bursaries that are on offer. These bursaries are an excellent way of discovering the latest technologies and catching up with vendors to whom you might not normally speak.



The ANGA team at the SCTE booth party at ANGA COM



Betim Shalqini Field Maintenance Engineer, IPKO Telecommunications (Kosovo)

I was fascinated with what I saw at ANGA COM in Cologne this year. It was the first time that I had attended ANGA COM and I was amazed! Being part of this event and seeing the latest developments in cable technology was a great opportunity to advance my knowledge and professional career. It also gave me the opportunity to see the Technetix equipment that won an SCTE Technological Innovation award.

Meeting exhibitor personnel and staff during ANGA COM was an honour for me. I believe that every broadband engineer should definitely visit ANGA COM.



I would like to thank the SCTE and ANGA for giving me the opportunity to attend this event and helping me to develop my career. My particular thanks go to Bev Walker and Sara Waddington.



Betim Shalqini at ANGA COM



Fisnik Osmani NS Engineer, IPKO Telecommunications (Kosovo)

I was delighted to be given the opportunity to attend ANGA COM with the support of the SCTE. This conference enhanced my knowledge of new technologies, especially DOCSIS 3.1; CCAP; Remote PHY (R-PHY) and FTTH. Additionally, I gained valuable information about new equipment and ways of implementing these solutions. I am glad that I had a chance to attend some of the lectures given by companies such as Cisco and Huawei. There was a great selection of topics.

I would like to thank the SCTE and ANGA for providing me with this great opportunity to enhance my social network and



meet people with technological expertise and experience in several successful global companies.



L-R, Fisnik Osmani, Betim Shalqini and Beverley Walker on the SCTE booth at ANGA COM



Looking ahead

ANGA COM 2019 will take place from **4-6 June 2019** in Cologne, Germany. If any SCTE members wish to apply for a bursary to attend the event next year, email 300 words to **office@thescte.eu** on why you would benefit from the bursary and what you would get from the event.

ANGA COM partners include the Broadband Office of the German Federation; Broadband TV News; BUGLAS e.V.; Cable Europe; Deutsche TV-Plattform e.V.; eco e.V.; ISBE

– International Society of Broadband Experts; SCTE – The Society for Broadband Professionals; VATM e.V.; VPRT e.V. and ZVEI e.V.

Sponsoring partners are ASTRA Deutschland, AVM, Nokia, QVC, Telekom Deutschland and Unitymedia.



CONTACT

For further information, please see **www.angacom.de**