

Roundtable discussion

Moderator:

Siegfried Karg, pro audito Switzerland



Title:

Future Loops – Quo vadis?

Audio Frequency Induction Loops AFILS (“hearing loops”) have been a world-wide success story for people with hearing aids / cochlear implants for many years. It is the preferred technology in large area venues because it is universal, low cost, can be coupled wirelessly to the telecoil of a hearing aid / cochlear implant, enables lip synchronization with the speaker (no latency), and does not drain the battery of the hearing system. When installed according to the international IEC Standard 60118-4 it delivers excellent speech intelligibility for hard-of-hearing and deafened persons. It is a proven analog technology, but is limited to one channel only.

Is there a new digital technology on the market, such as Bluetooth or WiFi, which could further expand its use in large area venues? What are the advantages of these systems? What are their limitations? When can we expect a new digital technology which would replace induction loop technology?

A panel of international experts from the field of audiology, hearing loop manufacturers, the hearing systems Industry, and consumer organizations for people with hearing loss will try to find answers to these questions. The focus will be on accessibility for people with hearing loss in large area venues.

Participants:

Avi Blau, IFHOH Vice President

Claus-Dieter Fricke, GN ReSound Germany (invited)

Julian Pieters, Ampetronic Ltd. (invited)

Dr. Hannes Seidler, Chair of the DSB Workgroup Accessibility

Dr. Juliëtte Sterkens, Hearing Loss Association of America

Andrew Thomas, Chair of IHLMA (invited)