

## Open Research Institute Board Meeting

21 September 2018

Time not recorded

Henderson, NV, USA

### Participants

Michelle Thompson

Ben Hilburn

Bruce Perens (by phone)

### Guests

Paul Williamson

### Action Items

- 1) sell more Trans-Ionospherics or we won't be able to build boards (Paul Williamson, Steve Conklin\*, Michelle, Keith Wheeler\*)
- 2) follow up with the offer of code from B.U. to GNU Radio runtime (Ben, Michelle)
- 3) recruit 5GHz RF designers (Michelle, Ben, Bruce)
- 4) thank and publicize the donations from Libre Space engineering (Michelle)
- 5) offer to support the polyphase filter bank work presented at GNU Radio Conference 2018 - high priority (Michelle)
- 6) answer Foundation Group's letter (Bruce)
- 7) get the bank to approve everyone on the account or find a new bank (Bruce, Michelle)
- 8) produce GSE over the air video report (Michelle)
- 9) review Developer and Participant Policy for any shred of confusing language and eliminate it (Bruce)

Open Research Institute Block Party at GNU Radio Conference 2018 closed today. This five-day workshop was extremely successful. LNB-on-a-Stick, GSE working over the air, correlate code donation (Manolis Surligas), free copies of

DVB-S2/X specifications on USBs, swag, multiple paper copies of DVB-S2/X specifications for reference and discussion, remote operations demo, FPGA station with SDSoC demonstration, tables, seating, and bean bag chill out zone provided.

On Friday (today) Michelle was told that Tom Rondeau and Toby Flynn had been telling participants at GNU Radio Conference that anyone in defense-related industries couldn't attend our presentation (about DVB-S2/X open source for amateur radio) nor could they even step into the room dedicated to the DVB-S2/X Block Party.

Neither of these things are true. People that work in the defense industry can contribute to any Open Research Institute project. Open Research Institute cannot work on or sponsor defense-related work. These are two very different restrictions. Both of these men continued to insist they were right. Neither one of them had contacted anyone from ORI or Phase 4 Ground before telling other participants that it was "illegal" to work with us.

Michelle consulted Bruce Perens, who authored the Developer and Participant Policy for Open Research Institute. It did appear that Tom and Toby had gotten it exactly backwards. The amount of damage to the project was unknown. Since Open Research Institute depends entirely on volunteers, false information from well-known and well-respected figures at a premier event can be difficult to counter. We could not come up with a reasonable motive aside from a fundamental misunderstanding of the policy.

There was no lack of defense-related participants during the Block Party. Several significant donations of time and talent were made.

The board discussed several options on how to deal with this, but the only action taken was to resolve to review, again, the language of the policy, as that is the only thing under our control.

GSE over-the-air demonstration was recorded with explanatory walk-through and will be edited by Michelle for a video report. All GSE functions are in GNU Radio and Wireshark, but the user interface for getting it up and running could be improved. We discussed this but resolved to take no action because it is not an impediment to continuing work, at this time.

Financial reports, fundraising, need for a new bank account, DEFCON event report, and the general practice of ORI video technical reports were discussed.

\*Volunteers assigned duties but not present at board meeting.

Minutes unanimously approved 14 February 2020

Michelle Thony  
Secretary ORI



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