

The Turning Point system was purchased by (IEEE) Microwave Theory and Techniques Society in December, 2008 for use the IMS Symposium. The following questions were asked of Christopher Liessner, who is the caretaker of the system.

What kind of meetings are you using it in?

We used the Turning Point system for two Panel Sessions and a Rump Session during the IMS 2009 conference. Since the panel and rump sessions are intended to present controversial material, we thought that it would be both instructive and entertaining to have some quantitative real-time feedback.

How many times has it been used?

Just for two panel sessions and one rump session.

Is used by more than one Society or Chapter?

It is the property of MTTTS, and is hoped to be used at the IMS 2010 conference.

Is there one administrator of the system, or are multiple people been trained to use it?

I was the primary facilitator, but it is extremely easy to use, and for one panel session several speakers worked the interaction into their presentations. The software is down-loadable (and free), so only the clickers and the USB port receiver are needed to complete the system. Potential presenters can download the software and set-up their power-point presentations without needing the hardware.

Has it performed relative to your expectations?

We used it primarily to garner feedback from the audiences, and it proved to be very effective and entertaining. Some people were resistant to using the system, but it overall went better than expected; easy to use and *there was mostly positive feedback about using the system*.

Is there a notable difference in the cognitive involvement of the users in the meetings (or training)?

In the rump session, the Turning Point system was used for the introduction. In one panel session the system was used at the conclusion, and for the other panel session, it was used throughout. As an introduction tool, it was okay but not very instructive except to determine the make-up of the audience and their expectations. Using it throughout the presentation was both instructive and entertaining; using it at the conclusion was somewhat informative as well.

My impression is that the Turning Point system helped to focus some attention and steer the discussion appropriately when used throughout the session.