

March 4, 2019

Dear IEEE History Committee,

I am presently Chair of the IEEE/AESS Radar Systems Panel (RSP), a group of 42 radar experts from government, industry, and universities with members representing the United States, Canada, Europe, China, and Australia. Our tasking within IEEE is solely focused upon the radar community by overseeing pertinent conferences, publications, continued education, and managing global radar standards. This panel has operated in some form for over 50 years and during that time has counted as its members many of the well-known leaders in radar.

With that introduction, please accept this letter of wholehearted support on behalf of the RSP with regard to the proposed historical milestone of Christian Hülsmeyer's invention and first demonstration of radar in 1904. Aside from three members who could not be reached, the remaining 39 members of the RSP were unanimous in expressing strong support for this case. I will not belabor the evidence that you already have in the nomination, but instead seek to shed light onto the universal view of the radar community, which is simply that this was indeed the first demonstration of radar. While there may have been others around that time who likewise put forward the idea, it is the common view of the radar community that it was Hülsmeyer who first “reduced the technology to practice” to use the parlance of intellectual property. Moreover, there is clear evidence in the nomination that this event took place in Cologne, Germany on 17 May 1904. This demonstration of the technology involved a device to indicate the presence of an object by means of reflected electromagnetic waves. The RSP, as elected representatives of the radar community at large, holds that this was the first such device that was specifically designed, built, demonstrated, and patented for the purpose of what we now know as radar. Simply put, Hülsmeyer's Telemobiloskop was the predecessor to all of our subsequent work in radar and should be recognized as such.

Sincerely,



Shannon D. Blunt, IEEE Fellow, Chair – IEEE/AESS Radar Systems Panel  
Director, Kansas Applied Research Laboratory (KARL)  
Director, Radar Systems & Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL)  
Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Dept.  
University of Kansas