

# canadian acoustics

# acoustique canadienne

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Canadienne d'Acoustique P.B. 74068 Ottawa,  
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L'Acoustique Canadienne publie des articles arbitrés et des informations sur tous les aspects de l'acoustique et des vibrations. Les informations portent sur la recherche, les ouvrages sous forme de revues, les nouvelles, l'emploi, les nouveaux produits, les activités, etc. Des articles concernant des résultats inédits ou des applications ainsi que les articles de synthèse ou d'initiation, en français ou en anglais, sont les bienvenus.

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## Édition spéciale : Acoustique canadienne des villes

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## Special Issue: Canadian Acoustics Cities

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C'est avec plaisir que je vous présente ce premier numéro spécial d'une série portant sur les activités en acoustique et vibration dans les différentes régions du Canada. Suivant les articles qui ont été soumis, on ne peut que constater la vitalité et le dynamisme qui règnent dans la grande métropole. Ainsi, du secteur de la recherche, vous pourrez lire entre autres, sur le développement d'outils diagnostiques et la création de matériaux d'atténuation sonore avec des matières renouvelables, de même que sur des études visant la santé et la sécurité au travail et le traitement des acouphènes. Parmi les articles qui proviennent du secteur de l'industrie, vous constaterez qu'on n'y chôme pas non plus. On y trouve des articles portant sur des activités dans le secteur de l'ingénierie des sols et de l'acoustique architecturale, ainsi que dans le domaine du contrôle du bruit associé à l'activité humaine et aux fermes éoliennes, et sur bien d'autres sujets.

Dans cette même foulée, j'invite nos collègues de la grande région de Toronto à se préparer pour notre prochain numéro de cette série, au printemps 2016.

Josée Lagacé  
Rédactrice en chef adjoint

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It is a pleasure to present this first issue about regional activities in acoustics and vibrations going on in Canada. According to the number of articles submitted by teams and individuals from the research and industrial sectors in Montreal, one can be convinced of the city vitality and dynamism. In fact, from the research area, there are articles about the development of diagnostic tools, bio-based renewable building sound insulation products as well as studies related to work health and safety and a study looking at ways to treat tinnitus. On the other hand, effervescent activity is also palpable in the industrial sector. There are papers about activities related to soil engineering, architectural acoustics, human activity noise control, wind farms as well as other interesting topics.

In the same vein, I am inviting our colleagues in the greater Toronto area, to think about submitting an article for the next "regional" journal issue, in the spring of 2016.

Josée Lagacé  
Deputy Editor

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# ÉDITION SPÉCIALE : ACOUSTIQUE CANADIENNE DES VILLES

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# INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNE EN ACOUSTIQUE POUR LA RECHERCHE ÉTS-IRSST

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## Résumé

L'Infrastructure commune en acoustique pour la recherche ÉTS-IRSST (ICAR) célèbre aujourd'hui ses 4 ans d'activité. Il s'agit d'un laboratoire commun entre l'École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) et l'Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) qui est en activité depuis 2011. À l'origine, il comprenait une salle semi-anéchoïque couplée à une salle réverbérante. En 2014, une cabine audiométrique a été ajoutée et un nouveau laboratoire de caractérisation des matériaux acoustiques, décrit dans un article complémentaire [1], s'est tout récemment ajouté à l'infrastructure ICAR.

**Mots clefs:** laboratoire, acoustique, vibrations, psychoacoustique, salle anéchoïque, salle réverbérante, cabine audiométrique

## Abstract

This year, the ÉTS-IRSST common infrastructure for research in acoustics (ICAR) celebrates its 4<sup>th</sup> year of activity. This is a joint laboratory between the École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) and the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST). When first created in 2011 at ÉTS, the lab included a semi-anechoic chamber coupled with a reverberation room. In 2014, an audiometric booth was added and a new laboratory for the characterization of acoustic materials, described in a companion paper [1], was added this year.

**Keywords:** laboratory, acoustics, vibrations, psychoacoustics, anechoic room, reverberant room, audiometric booth

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## 1 Introduction

L'exposition à des niveaux sonores élevés qui peuvent endommager à long terme le système auditif est une problématique toujours d'actualité et à fort impact sociétal. Afin (1) de diminuer le niveau de bruit à la source et lors de sa propagation et (2) d'améliorer les technologies pour prévenir les pertes auditives, un laboratoire de pointe avec les dernières technologies disponibles était nécessaire. L'École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) et l'Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST), avec le soutien financier de Développement économique Canada, se sont alliés pour créer cet espace qui est installé au cœur même de l'ÉTS, dans le nouveau Quartier de l'innovation de Montréal.

En collaboration avec l'industrie et les organismes concernés par la santé et la sécurité au travail, la mission de l'Infrastructure commune en acoustique pour la recherche ÉTS-IRSST (ICAR) est de favoriser la recherche en acoustique industrielle, c'est-à-dire sur le contrôle du bruit et des vibrations. Celle-ci est abordée sous les trois angles qui présentent des pistes de solution au problème du bruit excessif : la source du bruit, ses chemins de propagation et la protection individuelle. Plus concrètement, ICAR per-

met de tester, d'améliorer et de développer de nouveaux produits ou procédés plus performants sur le plan acoustique : machines industrielles, outils, véhicules de transport, équipements électroménagers, matériaux acoustiques et produits pour l'oreille (protecteurs auditifs, casques d'écoute, aides auditives, appareils de télécommunication/téléphonie). L'objectif ultime est d'accroître le confort, la santé et la sécurité des travailleurs (et du public en général) grâce à des installations d'essais acoustiques de pointe répondant aux besoins des industriels et des chercheurs, tout en permettant la formation de professionnels dans ce domaine.

## 2 Équipements

La salle semi-anéchoïque présentée sur la figure 1 possède un volume interne utile de 83 m<sup>3</sup>. Des dièdres amovibles permettent de la rendre complètement anéchoïque pour les mesures qui le nécessitent. La fréquence de coupure est alors inférieure à 100 Hz. Elle est équipée d'un bras rotatif programmable qui balaye une sphère de 2.0 m de diamètre placée au centre de la salle. Le bras peut être muni soit d'un haut-parleur, par exemple pour mesurer l'atténuation de protecteurs auditifs en champ direct, soit d'une antenne multi-microphones, par exemple pour quantifier le champ sonore créé par une source de bruit.

La salle réverbérante présentée sur la figure 2 possède un volume interne utile de 211 m<sup>3</sup>. Elle est sonorisée par 4 enceintes acoustique de puissance et possède un temps de réverbération à 1000 Hz de l'ordre de 3 s. Les deux salles

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Figure 1: Salle semi-anéchoïque



Figure 2: Salle réverbérante

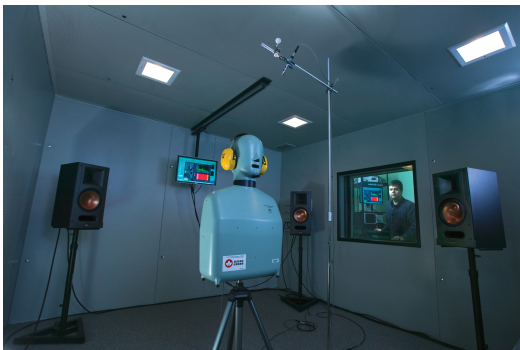


Figure 3: Cabine audiométrique à doubles parois

sont couplées avec une ouverture de 1.8 m de haut sur 2.0 m de large et une profondeur de niche de 0.3 m.

La cabine audiométrique représentée sur la figure 3 est à doubles parois et possède un volume interne utile de 20 m<sup>3</sup>.

La laboratoire possède également : un système de cartographie intensimétrique portable (I-Track, Soft dB); une sonde intensimétrique (B&K); une antenne circulaire de 42 microphones (Wheel Array de B&K); plusieurs systèmes d'acquisition et de traitement multivoies (Pulse de B&K : 44 entrées dont 2 haute fréquence; National Instruments LabVIEW-PXI : Châssis NI PXI-1033 de 5 baies incluant 1 carte NI PXI-4462, 1 carte NI PXI-4461 et 2 cartes NI PXI-6221); une tête artificielle ISL; une tête artificielle G.R.A.S. 45CB Acoustic Test Fixture conforme à la norme ANSI S12.42; une alimentation électrique multivoltage pour équipements industriels (120/240 et 347/600 Volts); une source de bruit omnidirectionnelle (BSWA); une source de bruit de type «chambre de compression»; une alimenta-

tion en air comprimé pour outils pneumatiques allant jusqu'à 150 PSI.

### 3 Les mesures types

ICAR offre d'importantes possibilités de mesures et de nombreuses fonctionnalités : les mesures d'absorption en salle réverbérante (ASTM C423-09a ou ISO 354); la mesure de puissance acoustique en salle anéchoïque ou réverbérante (ISO 3744); la cartographie d'intensité acoustique; la localisation de source par holographie acoustique et formation de voies (beamforming); les mesures d'isolation sonore de parois par intensimétrie (ISO 15186-1); les mesures de la directivité de l'atténuation de protecteurs auditifs; les mesures de directivité des sources (IEC 60268-5); les mesures associées à la protection auditive (du seuil auditif jusqu'à des niveaux typiques industriels); les mesures d'atténuation de protecteurs auditifs en utilisant la méthode des seuils audiométriques (ANSI/ASA S12.6-2, ISO 4869 et AS/NZ1270).

### 4 Exemples de réalisations

Différents projets d'activités de recherche concertés entre l'ÉTS et l'IRSSST ont déjà eu lieu et produit des résultats scientifiques et technologiques : le développement d'outils et de méthodes pour mieux évaluer et améliorer la protection auditive individuelle des travailleurs, incluant des mesures acoustiques et psychoacoustiques sur des sujets humains [2] et des validations expérimentales de modèles par éléments finis de bouchons d'oreilles [3], de coquilles [4], et de l'effet d'occlusion [5]; le développement de méthodes de diagnostic vibratoire et acoustique pour les cloueuses portatives pneumatiques, incluant des bancs d'essai représentatifs de leur utilisation en entreprise et des méthodes expérimentales pour mesurer les émissions sonore et vibratoire de ce type d'outils, identifier les mécanismes de propagation et proposer des pistes de réduction; la localisation de sources acoustiques en milieu de travail par des méthodes d'antennerie temporelles [6].

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# WSP GLOBAL – ACOUSTIQUE, BRUIT ET VIBRATIONS

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## Résumé

Avec plus de 150 spécialistes en acoustique à travers le monde, WSP Global possède une des plus large expertise en acoustique à l'international. Nos spécialistes sont basés dans les villes les plus importantes à travers le monde afin de s'assurer que des équipes locales puissent se mobiliser rapidement tout en tirant profit de notre réseau d'expériences globales. Notre taille nous permet aussi de faire profiter nos clients d'expertises techniques pointues dans divers domaines spécifiques de l'acoustique. Nous pouvons donc étudier tous les aspects d'un projet. Nous avons l'expertise de fournir des solutions de bout en bout, de l'étude d'impact durant la phase de planification, à travers le design des détails acoustiques des projets, jusqu'au suivis acoustiques et au dimensionnement de solutions de réduction du bruit durant la construction, l'exploitation ou même le démantèlement. Nous fondons notre méthode sur l'excellence technique dans nos solutions mais nous avons la réputation de remettre en cause le statu quo et de fournir une expertise créative, pragmatique, durable et concurrentielle.

**Mots clefs :** Acoustique, Bruit, Vibration

## Abstract

With over 150 specialist acousticians, WSP Global owns one of the largest dedicated acoustics consultancies. Our acoustic specialists are based in the major cities around the world ensuring we can quickly mobilise local teams.

**Keywords:** Acoustic, Noise, Vibration

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## 1 Un service intégré

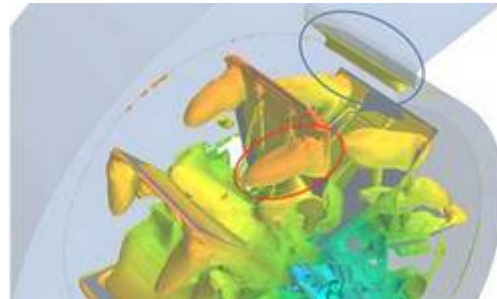
Ayant travaillé sur les projets les plus réputés à travers le monde, nous sommes fiers de nous présenter comme des membres clefs de toutes les équipes multi-entreprises et multidisciplinaires. Nous travaillons régulièrement avec des entreprises conséquentes et de renommée internationale comme Rio Tinto, Husky Energy, Alstom Power, Canadian Malartic General Partnership, Hydro-Québec, le Groupe Montoni, Reliance, MTQ, Canadian Pacific, etc. De plus, avec l'acquisition de Parsons Brinckerhoff, WSP Global devient une firme de consultants forte de 32,000 employés. Nous vous fournissons une expertise intégrée et homogène en travaillant avec des spécialistes de la même entreprise en mécanique, électricité, structure et civil, des ingénieurs feu, des experts en planification environnementale, des spécialistes des transports et bien plus. Cette approche intégrée a fait ses preuves dans un grand nombre de projets.

## 2 Expertise

### 2.1 Bruit industriel

Les grands sites industriels peuvent être très compliqués. Il y a souvent une multitude de sources de bruit contribuant au bruit global. Nous sommes capables d'effectuer des modélisations détaillées en 3D des sources industrielles pour déterminer les probables sources de nuisance et dimensionner des solutions efficaces et rentables. L'équipe

de WSP Royaume-Uni ont la capacité de réaliser des études aérodynamiques instationnaires permettant d'améliorer la performance (débit et acoustique) de ventilateurs sans l'utilisation de correctif sonore nuisant à la performance d'un système de ventilation (gain de 10 dBA – Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Simulation CFD du bruit d'un ventilateur.

Grâce à notre filiale Norvégienne Multi-Consult, nous avons une expérience reconnue dans les domaines plus particuliers de l'industrie du pétrole et du gaz incluant l'ingénierie, le contrôle de la qualité et la vérification des systèmes d'alarme sur les plateformes en mer ou les sites terrestres.

### 2.2 Mines et carrières

Les projets de mise en valeur de ressources minérales (mines ou carrières sablières) doivent être réalisés où la ressource naturelle est localisée. Ceci implique que certains gisements doivent être exploités à proximité de zones habitées et parfois même en milieu urbain. Sous ces conditions, d'importants efforts sont nécessaires dans chacune des phases d'un plan minier (construction,

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décapage, forage/dynamitage, transport et extraction de la ressource). WSP Canada inc. a développé dans le cadre de plusieurs projets de grande envergure une expertise internationale dans l'acoustique et l'aspect vibratoire des projets miniers (Royal Nickel Corporation – Projet Dumont (Québec), Orezone – Projet Bomboré (Burkina Faso, Nordgold – Projet Montagne d'Or (Guyane Française)). Dans le cadre de ces différents projets, WSP a été un partenaire clef pour réaliser les études environnementales nécessaires pour l'approbation gouvernementale et sociale de chacun de ces projets. Ces études touchent les opérations de construction des infrastructures minières, l'optimisation des plans de dynamitage et d'exploitation, la caractérisation acoustique des équipements mécaniques ainsi que l'élaboration et la mise en place de correctifs sonores pour atteindre les objectifs sonores fixés par les autorités fédérales et provinciales. Certains projets miniers nécessitent depuis plusieurs années un suivi acoustique en temps réel sur lequel l'ensemble des paramètres de production sont ajustés en fonction des conditions météorologiques (direction des vents et inversion de température). WSP a également la possibilité de réaliser des études en acoustique sous-marine (Projet Sharq – Qatar, Cimenterie Mcinnis – Canada) pour les opérations de dragages ou de construction d'installations portuaires en milieu marin parfois nécessaires pour des projets miniers.

### 2.3 Environnement et transport

Le bruit est souvent un des premiers facteurs pour déterminer l'acceptabilité d'un nouveau projet commercial ou résidentiel considérant le développement des transports dans des zones sensibles. WSP réalise des études d'impact environnemental afin de respecter les règlements et lignes directrices municipaux, provinciaux et fédéraux. En plus de fournir des données acoustiques permettant de mettre en valeur un projet, nous pouvons vous assister dans la défense de vos projets. Les zones 'calmes' sont de plus en plus difficiles à trouver en milieu urbain et constituent un facteur environnemental notable. Ces études incluent la fourniture de guides pour les clients décrivant quelles étapes doivent être suivies pour satisfaire les règlements sur le bruit. Les études de cartographie sonore sont souvent jointes à nos études d'impact environnemental afin d'aider à comprendre comment le bruit se propage autour d'un nouveau projet. Nous avons un panel de logiciels de prédiction du bruit utiles pour générer des présentations et des cartes de bruit en couleur faciles à analyser et à comprendre (figure 2).

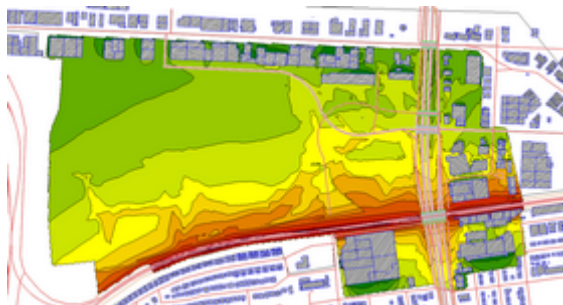


Figure 2: Cartographie du bruit.

### 2.4 Architecture et acoustique des salles

Nous assistons les financeurs, les promoteurs, les développeurs, les architectes, etc. dans:

- La revue des différents jeux de plans afin de minimiser des dépenses excessives après travaux;
- L'optimisation de l'enveloppe des bâtiments pour contrôler le bruit environnemental;
- L'isolation intérieure entre espaces privatifs;
- L'optimisation de l'acoustique des salles de grande taille pour une bonne intelligibilité ou audibilité.

Nous sommes fiers de notre précision technique et de notre persévérance dans l'objectif de limiter les coûts de vos projets. L'objectif est d'offrir des environnements acoustiques de qualité supérieure. Nous réalisons aussi des inspections et des mesures acoustiques dans des espaces existants: isolation au bruit aérien, au bruit d'impact, bruit des équipements, etc.

### 2.5 Bruit et vibrations des équipements

Notre équipe peut évaluer et diagnostiquer les bruits et les vibrations induites par les équipements mécaniques et électriques d'un bâtiment. Nous nous assurons que les spécifications acoustiques et vibratoires demandées par le client sont atteintes. Ainsi, le niveau de performance acoustique des équipements correspond exactement ce que le client veut et pas à ce qu'un fournisseur particulier aimerait vendre. Nous aidons aussi à spécifier les besoins et à sélectionner les équipements au regard de leurs qualités acoustiques et vibratoires. Nous dimensionnons aussi les mesures de mitigation si nécessaire (écrans acoustiques au toit, isolateurs de vibration, etc.).

## 3 Projets pertinents de l'équipe Canadienne

- Osisko Mining Corp., Programme d'assainissement sonore et de modulation sonore en temps réel du projet aurifère Canadian Malartic 2008-2014
- Graymont, Mur acoustique de l'usine de Marbleton, Suivi du bruit communautaire et analyse de la contribution sonore pour les nouvelles sources, 2000-2014
- Rio Tinto Fer & Titane inc., Programme d'évaluation du bruit pour le complexe industriel de Sorel-Tracy, 2002-2015
- Canadian Pacific Railway, Évaluation de l'impact acoustique et vibratoire d'un nouveau centre intermodal à Les Cèdres, 2012
- KPH Turcot, Ministère des Transports du Québec, Étude prédictive du bruit routier du projet Turcot et programme de gestion du bruit, 2015
- Groupe SM International, Impact acoustique de l'autoroute Est-Ouest en Algérie, 2008-2009
- Husky Energy Inc., Étude sonore et recommandations pour le contrôle du bruit des ventilateurs, tuyaux et équipements mécaniques du pétrolier Sea Rose, 2012
- Pandev Inc. KF Architect, Étude globale acoustique et vibratoire du projet résidentiel Les Condos Tom, 2012-2014
- City of Montreal, Acoustique intérieure de l'ancienne bibliothèque de Montréal convertie en espace événementiel, Édifice Gaston Miron, 2010

## Résumé

Dans le domaine environnemental, Atelier 7hz est plus particulièrement spécialisé en études d'impact acoustique pour la planification urbaine, bruit solidien dans les bâtiments, transmission des vibrations dans le sol et le domaine ferroviaire. En architecture, nous avons une grande expérience des études des bâtiments dans leur globalité et de l'optimisation de l'acoustique des salles. Nous dimensionnons aussi des solutions pour contrôler le bruit industriel et des équipements mécaniques. Déjà forts de nos multiples expériences, nous sommes en recherche permanente d'approfondissement à travers de nouvelles méthodes de mesure et de calcul mais aussi en recherche de nouveaux matériaux et de solutions innovantes. Atelier 7hz se fixe deux objectifs : l'excellence de son expertise et la fourniture de recommandations utiles et claires.

**Mots clefs :** Architecture, Environnement, Vibrations, Acoustique des salles, Bruit solidien, Ferroviaire, Bruit des machines

## Abstract

Specialized in the architectural, environmental and vibration domains. Atelier 7hz set two goals: excellence in expertise and providing useful and clear recommendations. We are constantly looking to deepen our knowledge through new methods of measurement and calculation but also looking for new quality materials and innovative solutions.

**Keywords:** Architecture, Environment, Vibrations, Room Acoustics, Structure-borne Noise, Railway, Equipment Noise

## 1 L'entreprise

### 1.1 L'excellence de l'expertise

Nos experts ont développé leur expertise grâce à de multiples expériences dans un grand nombre de secteurs d'activité. L'écoute des autres spécialités, associée à la volonté de dispenser un service irréprochable à nos clients, nous permettent de nous adapter à tous types de projets. Nos recommandations sont dimensionnées au plus près des objectifs définis initialement avec le client sans engendrer des coûts excessifs inappropriés. Nous associons toujours nos solutions à une performance prévisible et une évaluation des coûts. Nous sommes reconnus pour la clarté de nos recommandations grâce à des rapports compréhensibles et ergonomiques et des schémas explicatifs détaillés.

### 1.2 Méthode de travail

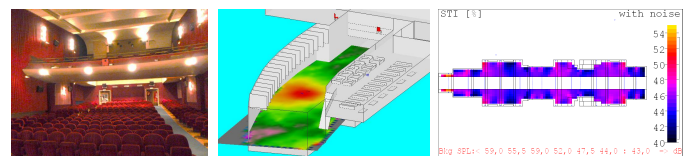
Afin de nous assurer que nos clients et nous-même soyons au même niveau d'information, nous proposons la création d'une interface Web dédiée à chaque projet. Le suivi du projet est ainsi facilité et il est possible à tout moment de s'informer de son avancement. Nous travaillons en équipe de conception intégrée ou intervenons à la demande dans les projets. Un suivi de la satisfaction de nos clients est systématiquement réalisé. Notre grande expérience du matériel de mesure disponible nous permet de choisir des outils de mesure adaptés à chaque projet. Nous utilisons aussi les derniers codes de calcul, logiciels de simulation et développons nos propres outils informatiques (Scilab). Si nécessaire, nous nous associons avec d'autres firmes en acoustique afin de mutualiser nos outils et ressources.

## 2 Expertise

### 2.1 Architecture

Notre expérience des projets architecturaux nous permet aujourd'hui de prendre en considération toutes les composantes acoustiques et vibratoires en fonction du type de confort désiré par le client. Nous recommandons l'étude du projet dans sa globalité afin d'éviter des correctifs lourds et coûteux après la finalisation du projet. Nous proposons aussi systématiquement un programme d'inspection du chantier architectural pour vérifier le respect de nos recommandations ainsi que des mesures de réception des performances acoustiques et vibratoires du projet après les travaux (AIIC, ASTC, NC).

**Projets Culturels et Institutionnels :** Ces projets incluent souvent de grands espaces intérieurs dans lesquels l'acoustique des salles est un enjeu majeur. La forme, la taille, l'organisation de l'espace et les matériaux doivent être définis en accord avec les autres disciplines. Ensuite, différents critères acoustiques (TR60, H%, EDT, D50, C80, STI, G, LEV, etc.) sont choisis pour optimisation.



**Figure 1:** Étude d'acoustique des salles et sonorisation

Nos méthodes de design et d'analyse de l'acoustique des auditoriums et des salles de spectacles reposent sur l'expérience de nos experts aidés de calculs numériques et de modélisations acoustiques 3D des espaces. La maîtrise du

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bruit des équipements mécaniques et scéniques et de l'isolation acoustique entre les différents espaces nécessite aussi une étude précise.

**Projets résidentiels et commerciaux :** Nous proposons quatre phases d'étude : isolation acoustique intérieure, isolation acoustique de l'enveloppe des bâtiments, bruit et vibration des équipements mécaniques, plomberie et électricité. Ainsi chaque détail du projet est pris en compte. Nous travaillons lors de rencontres de cadrage en concertation avec les intervenants des projets et à partir des plans des différentes disciplines.



Figure 2: Projets résidentiels et commerciaux

**Bureaux :** La maîtrise de l'acoustique des bureaux à aire ouverte nécessite sans cesse un compromis entre le niveau de bruit de fond et la durée de réverbération de l'espace, le confort sonore et l'intimité acoustique. Des dispositifs de masquage sonore peuvent être implantés le cas échéant.

## 2.2 Transport et Environnement

**Transports :** Notre expertise dans le domaine du bruit environnemental ne se limite pas au dimensionnement de barrières antibruit, de zones tampons et à des recommandations d'isolement de façade afin de protéger les zones sensibles. Bien que ces solutions soient efficaces, nous privilégions toujours, si possible, une approche globale de planification urbaine des infrastructures et des bâtiments.

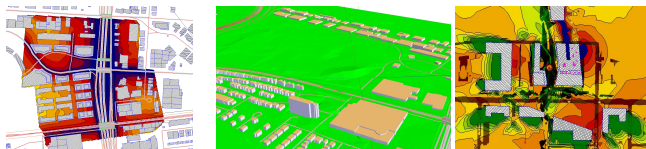


Figure 3: Étude d'acoustique environnementale

**Chantiers :** Nous réalisons aussi les programmes de gestion du bruit comme demandé par les différents Ministères. Certaines activités étant très bruyantes et émettrices de vibrations (battage des pieux des fondations, rouleau compresseur, camions, etc.), un suivi des niveaux durant les travaux peut aussi être réalisé pour le bruit et les vibrations.

## 2.3 Industrie et Exposition au bruit

La maîtrise du bruit des machines est cruciale afin de limiter les nuisances sonores environnementales et limiter le bruit au travail. Nos experts dimensionnent des solutions adaptées afin de réduire le bruit de moteurs (enceinte, murs, traitement acoustique, etc.) et des ventilateurs (persiennes acoustiques, silencieux, etc.). Dans les ateliers, le respect des limites d'exposition au bruit est primordial pour assurer la bonne santé auditive des travailleurs.

## 3 Champs d'approfondissement

**Bruit solidien et vibrations ferroviaire :** Notre grande expérience du domaine ferroviaire nous permet de réaliser

des études d'impact acoustique et vibratoire et de participer au dimensionnement du type de pose de voie ferrée afin de limiter la transmission vibratoire et la réémission de bruit solidien. Nous travaillons aussi sur la réduction du bruit de roulement (rugosité du rail, absorbeurs dynamiques, etc.).

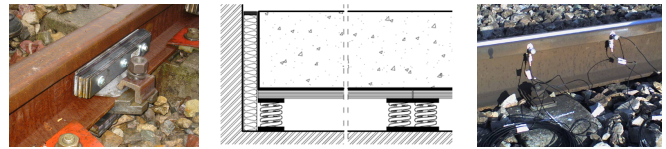


Figure 3: Réduction du bruit et des vibrations des trains

**Transmission vibratoire dans le sol :** Pour prévoir les niveaux vibratoires transmis dans le sol, il est important de caractériser la source vibrante (train, équipement de construction, etc.). Nous utilisons la méthode inverse pour mesurer la force injectée dans le sol. Ainsi les mesures de vibrations sont réalisées à plusieurs distances avec les sources réelles et avec une source de vibrations calibrée. Ceci permet aussi d'évaluer l'atténuation des vibrations dans le sol sur un site précis en prenant en compte la composition du sol. L'évaluation de la fonction de transfert entre les vibrations et le bruit solidien permet de prévoir le niveau de bruit solidien audible dans un bâtiment.

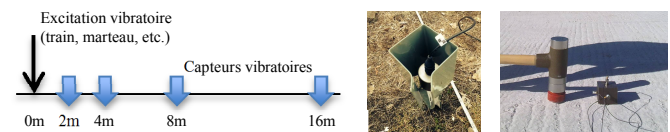


Figure 4: Atténuation des vibrations dans le sol

**Scènes sonores et auralisation :** Nous avons développé notre propre outil de création de scènes sonores afin de proposer à nos clients une écoute comparative de l'impact prévisible des différentes solutions proposées. Cet outil d'aide à décision est très utile et permet souvent de gagner un temps précieux.

**Développement d'outils de mesure simplifiés :** Notre recherche permanente de l'efficacité implique régulièrement la remise en cause nos méthodes. Certaines campagnes de mesure nécessitent des équipements lourds et volumineux. Ainsi, l'utilisation des nouvelles technologies et des outils technologiques disponibles au grand public permet une réinvention de nos méthodes de mesure.

## 4 Projets de l'entreprise et de l'équipe

**Projets de l'entreprise :** Complexe des Sciences de l'Université de Montréal, Condominiums Le Peterson, Coopérative Griffin, Salle de presse de « La Presse », Club de Biathlon de Wentworth Nord, Projet mixte Provigo Clarendon-Groupe Maurice, Condominium Le Beaumont, Hall de l'Hôtel de Ville de Montréal, Auditorium du siège social d'Air Canada, Salle de spectacle « Bain St-Michel » à Montréal, Hôtel St-Amable.

**Projets de l'équipe :** Planification urbaine du site de l'ancien Hippodrome de Montréal, Siège Social Jean Coutu, Campus Agropur, Ligne Est du Tramway d'Alger (Impact acoustique et vibratoire), Ligne 8 du Métro Parisien (Impact acoustique et vibratoire), Site de maintenance bus RATP.



# L'ÉQUIPE D'ACOUSTIQUE DE LVM, UNE DIVISION D'ENGLOBE CORP.

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## 1. Introduction

Fondée au Québec en 1961, LVM, une division d'Englobe Corp., emploie plus de 1600 personnes réparties dans 50 villes au pays. Leader en ingénierie des sols, des matériaux et l'environnement, l'équipe de LVM a développé une expertise enviable dans le domaine de l'acoustique et des vibrations.

Qu'il s'agisse de contrôle du bruit ou de l'amélioration de la qualité acoustique, l'équipe d'acoustique de LVM, répartie entre Montréal et Québec, possède toute l'expérience et l'expertise requises afin d'orienter sa clientèle et l'assister en lui proposant des solutions innovatrices et économiquement viables.

## 2. Expertise

Nos experts visent constamment à réduire les coûts d'implantation de mesures d'atténuation ou de modification des infrastructures lorsque requis. Ils peuvent contribuer à la préparation de réglementation en matière de bruit ou participer à des expertises légales.

Fort de cette expérience, l'équipe dédiée de LVM offre également une vaste gamme de services intégrés :

- Contrôle du bruit des transports (routier, ferroviaire et aéroportuaire)
- Relevés acoustiques et vibratoires
- Modélisation de la propagation du son extérieure et intérieure
- Analyse acoustique architecturale
- Qualité acoustique dans le milieu résidentiel et institutionnel
- Gestion du bruit environnemental
- Contrôle du bruit industriel
- Santé des travailleurs
- Contrôle et suivi du bruit de chantier et de travaux de construction
- Contrôle du bruit mécanique
- Optimisation des systèmes de sonorisation, d'appel d'urgence, etc.
- Expertise légale
- Évaluation des nuisances sonores en fonction des règlements ou critères applicables
- acoustique urbaine (intégration de l'acoustique à l'urbanisme)

## 3. Acoustique architecturale et du bâtiment

### 3.1 Acoustique architecturale

L'acoustique architecturale traite du confort et de la qualité acoustique des espaces. On retrouve cette préoccupation notamment dans les espaces de production ou d'enregistrement musical. À l'aide logiciels commerciaux dédiés spécifiquement à cette fin, il est possible de modéliser des espaces en 3D afin d'optimiser les traitements acoustiques visant à procurer des conditions d'écoute optimum. D'ailleurs, quelques projets réalisés récemment par l'équipe en témoignent, tels : le nouveau Planétarium de Montréal, le Théâtre Banque Nationale de Chicoutimi et plusieurs studios de radio ou d'enregistrement.

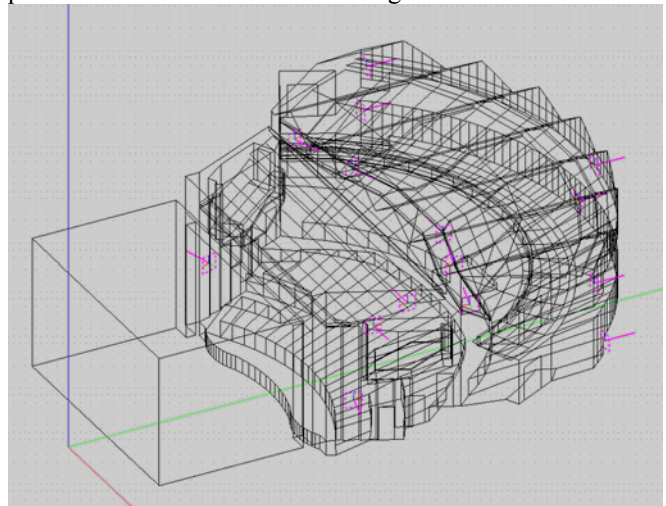


Figure 1: Modélisation 3D (Ease™) du Théâtre Banque National.

### 3.2 Acoustique du bâtiment

Par acoustique du bâtiment on « entend » généralement les bâtiments de types résidentiels, institutionnels ou commerciaux. Cette branche de l'acoustique touche plusieurs éléments comme le contrôle du bruit mécanique et de l'activité humaine, l'insonorisation entre les espaces, le contrôle du bruit environnemental (bâtiment dans un environnement extérieur bruyant), l'intelligibilité ou la confidentialité et inclut certains aspects de l'acoustique architecturale (salle de classe, auditorium, etc.) et également la sonorisation (système d'appel d'urgence, de communication). Notre clientèle est généralement constituée d'architectes, de promoteurs, de gestionnaires immobiliers, les gouvernements provincial et fédéral, etc.

## **4. Bruit des transports**

### **4.1 Bruit routier**

De nos jours la population est davantage préoccupée par les répercussions de la circulation routière sur l'environnement. Dans ce contexte, le ministère des Transports a adopté en 1998 la Politique sur le bruit routier, qui énonce la position du Ministère à l'égard du bruit routier. La Politique sur le bruit routier privilégie essentiellement deux approches en matière d'atténuation des impacts sonores : une approche corrective qui vise à corriger les principaux problèmes de pollution sonore et une approche de planification intégrée, qui consiste à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour prévenir les problèmes de pollution sonore causés par la circulation routière. L'approche corrective vise à atténuer une situation problématique du bruit routier en concertation avec les municipalités en mettant en œuvre des mesures correctives dans les zones où le niveau de bruit extérieur est égal ou supérieur à 65 dBA (Leq<sub>24h</sub>). Les coûts des mesures d'atténuation seront partagés, à parts égales, avec les municipalités concernées. Dans le cas de l'approche de planification intégrée, le ministère des Transports préconise un niveau de bruit de 55 dBA (Leq<sub>24h</sub>), qui est généralement reconnu comme un niveau acceptable pour les zones sensibles. Lorsque l'impact sonore de la construction de nouvelles routes ou de la reconstruction de routes ayant pour effet d'en augmenter la capacité ou d'en changer la vocation est jugé significatif, le ministère des Transports verra à mettre en œuvre des mesures d'atténuation du bruit afin de ramener les niveaux sonores projetés le plus près possible de 55 dBA. L'équipe d'acoustique de LVM possède une des plus grandes expertises dans l'évaluation des impacts et le contrôle du bruit routier. Elle a travaillé et travaille sur de nombreux projets pour le ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) partout dans la province. On notera notamment son implication dans les projets d'envergure comme le nouvel échangeur Turcot, le prolongement de l'A19, la rue Notre-Dame à Montréal, etc. Notre expertise se prolonge également en consultant nos clients dans l'aménagement des terrains, l'implantation des bâtiments et l'isolation acoustique de l'enveloppe de bâtiment situé aux abords des principaux axes routiers.

### **4.2 Bruit ferroviaire**

En milieu urbain principalement la cohabitation entre les activités ferroviaires (voie de chemin de fer, gare de triage, etc.) et les milieux résidentiels sont souvent un enjeu majeur pour les municipalités, les promoteurs et les acteurs des opérations ferroviaires. On pense notamment aux nouveaux développements immobiliers à proximité des gares de trains de banlieue (TOD) ou le long de voie de chemin de fer. Depuis plusieurs années l'équipe d'acoustique de LVM a développé une bonne expertise afin d'évaluer les impacts sonores de telles activités et d'aviser ses clients des risques potentiels et des mesures d'atténuation possibles.

### **4.3 Bruit aéroportuaire**

Le bruit aéroportuaire est généralement source de plaintes de la part des résidents situés aux alentours des aéroports. L'équipe d'acoustique de LVM a travaillé sur des projets et développé des méthodes d'évaluation innovatrices des impacts reliés au bruit aéroportuaire.

## **5. Gestion du bruit environnemental**

Au sens de la loi sur la qualité de l'environnement (L.R.Q., chapitre Q-2), le son est considéré comme un contaminant. Le bruit, généralement considéré comme une nuisance, constitue une préoccupation importante et a un impact direct sur la qualité de vie des citoyens et parfois sur la santé. L'équipe d'acoustique de LVM est en mesure d'effectuer des études prévisionnelles et des mesures de conformité afin de minimiser l'impact sonore dans l'environnement. Des programmes de gestion de bruit ainsi que des suivis sonores durant les travaux de construction peuvent également être réalisés. Ces études concernent principalement les industries, les promoteurs de parcs éoliens, les commerces, les institutions, les entrepreneurs œuvrant pour le MTQ, etc.

## **6. Contrôle du bruit industriel**

La santé des travailleurs est un enjeu majeur dans l'industrie. LVM a réalisé plusieurs campagnes de mesure de dosimétrie afin d'évaluer l'exposition des travailleurs au bruit et produit des cartographies sonores des secteurs bruyants. L'équipe d'acoustique possède tous les équipements nécessaires à la prise de relevés sonores et de modélisation des espaces bruyants permettant de proposer des correctifs efficaces visant à réduire le niveau de bruit ambiant à l'intérieur d'une industrie et réduire ainsi l'exposition au bruit des travailleurs.

## **7. Acoustique urbaine**

L'équipe d'acoustique de LVM a travaillé sur plusieurs projets de concert avec des urbanistes et municipalités afin d'impliquer l'acoustique lors de redéveloppement de secteur urbain, de développement de norme de construction particulière à proximité de secteur bruyant, de création de place publique, etc.

## **8. Analyse vibratoire**

LVM dispose de sismographes et d'accéléromètres permettant d'effectuer des mesures vibratoires diverses (i.e. évaluation du niveau vibratoire à proximité de voie de chemin de fer, à proximité de chantier de construction, sur un navire, etc.).

## **9. Conclusion**

L'équipe hautement qualifiée de LVM se démarque par sa capacité à offrir une grande diversité d'études acoustiques et vibratoires ainsi qu'un accompagnement éclairé dans toute démarche de consultation de la part des clients.

# PROBLÉMATIQUE ENTRE LES INDICES D'INSONORISATION DU BÂTIMENT, LES INTERPRÉTATIONS ET LES RÈGLEMENTATIONS AUX NIVEAUX LOCAL ET CANADIEN.

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## Résumé

Au cours de la dernière décennie, les normes ASTM E336 et E1007 qui encadrent le mesurage et le calcul de l'indice d'insonorisation du bruit aérien et d'impact des cloisons au Canada ont substantiellement évolué et offrent de nouveaux indices plus fiables et plus adaptés à la réalité de l'évaluation des bâtiments. Bien que ces changements représentent une amélioration indéniable aux problèmes existants, ils introduisent aussi de nouveaux problèmes de correspondance avec les anciens indices et instaurent plusieurs problèmes d'interprétation professionnelle et juridique avec les diverses réglementations nationales et locales existantes. Cet article relate brièvement cette problématique et, à l'aube d'une refonte du Code national du bâtiment du Canada (CNB), amorce une réflexion ouverte sur une actualisation de documents de référence qui encadrera mieux une utilisation plus simple, plus claire et plus fonctionnelle pour le constructeur, le professionnel et le législateur.

**Mots clés :** STC, FSTC, ASTC, ITS, IIC, FIIC, AIIC, NISR, ISR, ASTM, E90, E336, E413, E690, E1007, ISO, Bâtiment, CNB, CNRC, SCHL, Insonorisation, isolation, bruit aérien, bruit d'impact, législations Canada bâtiment.

## Abstract

During the last decade, ASTM E336 and E1007 standards that frame the measurements for estimating the insulation index of airborne and impact partitions in Canada have changed substantially and provide new clues that are more reliable and suitable for the reality of the assessment of building acoustics. Although these changes represent a clear improvement to the existing problems, they introduce new correspondence problems with the old index and create several problems concerning professional and legal interpretation with the various existing national and local regulations. At the dawn of an overhaul of the National Building Code of Canada (NBC), this article briefly describes the issue and, introduces (proposes) an open reflection on the updating of reference documents that will more efficiently frame the subject and will be easier to use, clearer and more functional for the builder, the professional and the legislator.

**Keywords:** STC, FSTC, ASTC, ITS, IIC, CNF, CNA NISR, ISR, ASTM E336, E1007, ISO, Building, CNB, NRC, CMHC, soundproofing, insulation, airborne sound, impact noise, legislation Canada building.

## Problématique

Historiquement, au Canada et dans la province du Québec, le degré d'insonorisation au bruit aérien et d'impact dans les bâtiments existants est qualifié et réglementé sur la base des indices d'insonorisation FSTC (Field Sound Transmission Class) et FIIC (Field Impact Insulation Class) [1]. Le FSTC et le FIIC se veulent les équivalents « en chantier » ou *in situ* de leurs correspondants effectués en laboratoire (STC, IIC) [2]. Tous ces indices sont présents dans le Code National du Bâtiment (CNB) [3] du Canada depuis des décennies et servent de points de référence pour les constructeurs, les utilisateurs, les législateurs et les acousticiens.

Par ailleurs, ces indices qualifient uniquement la performance d'une cloison mitoyenne, sans tenir compte des voies d'émission sonore indirectes produites par les autres cloisons du local de réception. Ils ne se veulent donc pas des indices d'insonorisation globale entre les locaux. Cependant, d'une part, les réserves, les prudenances et les détails de construction exprimés dans le CNB [4] pour éviter tout apport indirect via les autres cloisons et, d'autre part, l'absence de critères globaux d'évaluation entre locaux, ont fondé une interprétation implicite entre ces 4 indices de la valeur d'insonorisation d'une cloison avec celle attendue *in situ* entre locaux [5].

À ce problème d'interprétation, s'ajoutent plusieurs problèmes de fidélité des indices FSTC/FIIC. Un de ces

problèmes est que ces indices sont ajustés selon la surface «émettrice» de la cloison mitoyenne par rapport à l'absorption (en sabine) du volume du local de réception. Ce calcul correctif suppose: (a) une géométrie du local de réception ayant un volume fermé d'une pièce résidentielle ou de laboratoire type, (b) un local relativement peu absorbant, voire vide, et (c) des dimensions proportionnelles entre la surface mitoyenne et le volume de la pièce. Des réserves historiques dans les normes ASTM E336 et E1007 sur l'absorption acoustique et divers articles scientifiques ont démontrés plusieurs dérives qui nécessitaient des éclaircissements et des nuances.

Un second problème de fidélité de ces indices FSTC et FIIC tient au fait qu'ils sont depuis toujours organisés autour de la plage de la voix humaine, soit de 125Hz à 4000Hz pour le bruit aérien, et de 100Hz à 3150Hz pour le bruit d'impact. Ces indices ne tiennent donc pas compte d'une émission sonore qui serait plus étendue, telle la musique, les émissions en basses fréquences sur structure de bois, le bruit aigu sur béton, etc. La problématique de cette petite plage a été largement documentée et prise en compte en Europe [6] depuis les années 90 (ex. : ISO) et ont permis de produire plusieurs critères complémentaires ayant une plage plus large et complète, augmentant ainsi la fidélité face à la situation vécue *in situ* tout en maintenant un lien de correspondance avec les anciens critères d'évaluation.

## Nouveaux critères d'insonorisation ASTM:

### 1.1 Clarification FSTC et FIIC.

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Depuis 1997 dans le cas du bruit aérien, et seulement depuis 2011 dans le cas du bruit d'impact, l'organisme ASTM a ajouté dans ses normes des appellations et des protocoles qui tiennent compte de l'insonorisation apparente des locaux. Ces nouveaux critères s'appellent respectivement le ASTC (Apparent Sound Transmission Class) et le AIIC (Apparent Impact Insulation Class) et se mesurent et calculent essentiellement\* de la même manière que les anciens indices FSTC et FIIC. Ils pallient à l'absence et au glissement de sens entre l'insonorisation d'une cloison et celle d'un local. Cependant, ces nouveaux termes ne règlent en rien les autres problèmes de géométrie hétérodoxe retrouvés *in situ* (voir points a, b et c ci-haut), ni la qualification de la situation, lorsque meublée, ou telle que vécue. Enfin, le terme «apparent» introduit d'autres confusions implicites entre «Apparent» et «tel que vécu»...

\*1) Une interdiction d'utilisation de ces nouveaux termes fut ajoutée dans les normes E336 et E1007 pour tous locaux de réception ayant moins de 40 m<sup>3</sup>. Ainsi, chambre secondaire, salle de bain, corridor et mock-up, peuvent souvent être exclus. 2) Les normes antérieures demandaient pour chaque 1/3 d'octave de rapporter les mesures avec des indicateurs lorsque l'absorption du local de réception était plus grande que V<sup>2/3</sup> (sans interdire son calcul), alors que maintenant, toute absorption plus grande que 2 X V<sup>2/3</sup> proscrit l'utilisation de ces termes. Ce critère fut augmenté pour faire face à la situation où le local de réception serait plus grand que 150 M<sup>3</sup>, mais sans garder son ancienne valeur pour des locaux de moins de 150 M<sup>3</sup>. En cela, ces deux critères rompent avec la tradition du FSTC et du FIIC, tout comme avec celle du STC et du IIC.

## 0.2 Indices complémentaires d'insonorisation.

Puisque des locaux meublés sont typiquement réputés avoir un temps de réverbération de 0,5 seconde, il est possible de produire une nouvelle série de critères d'insonorisation basée sur ce temps de réverbération (normalisé) pour estimer l'indice d'insonorisation *in situ* d'un local lorsqu'il est meublé. Ces nouveaux critères seront appelés NNIC (Normalized Noise Insulation Criteria) pour le bruit aérien et NISR (Normalized Impact Sound Rating) pour le bruit d'impact. Ici encore, plusieurs situations d'aire ouverte, de mezzanine, de loft (par ex.) *in situ* peuvent représenter des dérives de pondération par rapport à une normalisation du temps de réverbération de 0,5 seconde. D'ailleurs, des restrictions sont émises pour des locaux ayant plus de 150 M<sup>3</sup>.

Pour ces raisons, deux autres critères furent développés pour exprimer la situation telle que vécue, sans correctif basé sur l'absorption standardisée ou sur la réverbération normalisée. Ainsi, on retrouve le NIC (Noise Insulation Class) pour le bruit aérien et le ISR (Impact Sound Rating) pour le bruit d'impact. Ces critères représentent la situation tel que vécue dans les conditions de test du local évalué, mais comment les mettre en relation avec la législation basée sur le FSTC et le FIIC ?

L'ensemble des indices actuels s'organise comme suit :

### **Bruit aérien :**

STC = Sound Transmission Class (Cloison / Sabine)

FSTC = Field Sound Transmission Class (Cloison / Sabine)

ASTC = Apparent Sound Transmission Class (Local / sabine)

NNIC = Normalized Sound Transmission Class (Local / T0.5)

NIC = Sound Transmission Class (Local)

### **Bruit d'impact :**

IIC = Impact Insulation Class (Cloison / Sabine)

FIIC = Field Impact Insulation Class (Cloison / Sabine)

AIIC = Apparent Impact Insulation Class (Local / Sabine)

NISR = Normalized Impact Sound Rating (Local / T0.5)

ISR = Impact Sound Rating (Local / T0.5)

Note : tous ces indices n'ont pas subi de mise à jour de la plage sonore (Hz) prise en compte dans leur calcul respectif.

## Discussion

Avec l'apparition de tous ces nouveaux indices, il serait fort souhaitable que les législateurs canadiens clarifient l'utilisation historique des termes FSTC et FIIC avec le ASTC et le AIIC et encadrent l'utilisation des indices NNIC, NIC, NISR, ISR. Cette mise à jour pourrait être une excellente opportunité d'ajouter des bases réglementaires sur les problématiques de nuisance sonore produites par l'intrusion du bruit extérieur, de la plomberie, des bruits en basses fréquences, des systèmes mécaniques, via des mandats aux autorités scientifiques réputées du Canada (CNRC, SCHL)...

Pour ce faire, une publication de ces autorités scientifiques pourrait formaliser le sens et la portée de chaque indice actuel en fonction de la législation existante et des intentions et objectifs visés. Cette publication (ou une subséquente) pourrait faire le point de l'évaluation de l'insonorisation dans le monde, offrir une réflexion approfondie sur la problématique de fiabilité de mesures *in situ* du bruit aérien et d'impact lorsque les locaux s'éloignent substantiellement des conditions de laboratoire. De plus, cette réflexion pourrait inclure un questionnement sur la restriction de la plage de fréquence actuelle des indices du bruit aérien et d'impact, et proposer des pondérations modifiées ou complémentaires, voire innovatrices qui feraient écho tant à la réalité vécue des habitants qu'à l'harmonisation avec des normes existantes depuis 20 ans en Europe [7]. Cette réflexion pourrait faire preuve du même leadership exceptionnel exprimé dans le projet de l'étude complexe de l'insonorisation globale des locaux dans les structures de bois pour documenter les problèmes : de vibration en très basses fréquences (aérienne, d'impact et structurale), de plomberie, de bruits spécifiques provenant de salles d'électricité, de systèmes de ventilation [8], de clarifier la problématique de portes et fenêtres dans leur valeur en soi dans l'évaluation d'une cloison. Bref, le tout pour permettre autant une lecture plus simple, claire et concise des points de repère législatifs que pour offrir une nouvelle approche globale\* de qualification de l'insonorisation d'un local en définissant par exemple les minima de plusieurs critères obligatoires. (\* ex. : appellations Leed argent, or, platine, etc. ou classification inspiré de la norme Belge NBN S 01-400)

## Références

- [1] ASTM E336 (E413 / E2235), E1007 (E989 / E2235)
- [2] ASTM E90 (E413 / E2235), E492 (E989 / E2235)
- [3] CNB, v. 2005, Volume 1, , division , B, p. 9-86
- [4] CNB, v. 2005, Volume 2, division B, p. A-159
- [5] SCHL, sound control in multi-family wood-frame buildings, feb 2005, p.26
- [6,7] CSTC Magazine, «La normalisation Européenne en acoustique du Bâtiment», printemps 1999, Daniel Soubrier, ir.,
- [8] SCHL, Le point en recherche, série technique 03-116, Qualification du degré de confort acoustique dans les édifice multi-logements – Phase II

## EXPERTISES EN INGÉNIERIE ET DESIGN ACOUSTIQUE

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### Résumé

Stantec est une firme de conception qui compte plus de 15 000 employés oeuvrant dans plus de 250 bureaux répartis principalement en Amérique du Nord. L'entreprise regroupe plus de 35 professionnels travaillant en acoustique au Canada et aux États-Unis, qui partagent régulièrement entre eux leurs expertises et innovations, ce qui lui permet de proposer à sa clientèle des solutions innovatrices et économiquement viables. Depuis plus de 20 ans, Stantec (anciennement Dessau) offre des services en acoustique au Québec.

**Mots clefs :** acoustique, bruit, expertise, atténuation, sonorisation, intelligibilité.

Stantec offre des services en acoustique dans différents secteurs d'activités.

- ✓ Évaluation et contrôle du bruit routier, ferroviaire, aérien et industriel;
- ✓ Évaluation et réduction du bruit des systèmes HVAC;
- ✓ Acoustique architecturale et insonorisation;
- ✓ Renforcement de l'isolation acoustique des parois d'un bâtiment au bruit aérien et au bruit d'impact;
- ✓ Optimisation de la qualité acoustique des salles, contrôle de la réverbération, amélioration de l'intelligibilité;
- ✓ Relevés sonores;
- ✓ Prédiction des niveaux sonores par modélisation informatique (logiciels TNM, CadnaA, Ease, etc.);
- ✓ Orientations et recommandations;
- ✓ Conception de mesures d'atténuation;
- ✓ Préparation de plans et devis;
- ✓ Expertise juridique;
- ✓ Rédaction de réglementation sur le bruit.

La grande majorité de nos projets ont été réalisés dans la grande région de Montréal. Notre clientèle se compose principalement du ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ), de l'Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT), de la Société des transports de Montréal (STM), de municipalités, d'industries, de firmes d'architecture, de promoteurs immobiliers ainsi que d'entrepreneurs dans le domaine des infrastructures routières.

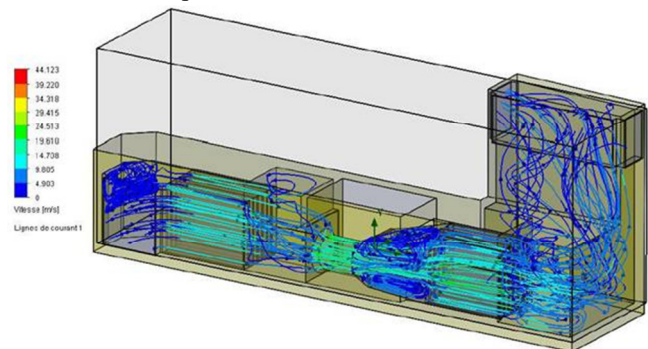
Les sections suivantes présentent un bref survol de quelques projets réalisés par Stantec dans différents domaines de l'acoustique.

### Projet *Réno-Systèmes* – Postes de ventilation

L'équipe acoustique de Stantec (anciennement Dessau) travaille depuis plus de 10 ans en consortium avec la STM

dans le bureau de projet *Réno-Systèmes* dédié à la modernisation des équipements fixes du métro de Montréal. Dans le cadre des projets *Réno-Systèmes*, plusieurs postes de ventilation âgés de plus de 25 ans devaient être renouvelés. Ces postes de ventilation, localisés dans les tunnels entre les stations, sont munis de deux ventilateurs de plus de 100 000 cfm permettant d'alimenter ou d'extraire de l'air dans le tunnel du métro. Comme les puits de ventilation se trouvent généralement derrière des bâtiments résidentiels, l'enjeu majeur est de s'assurer que les limites de bruit de la ville de Montréal soient entièrement respectées.

Pour ce faire, nous intervenons dans la conception de silencieux performants de grandes dimensions (env. 3m x 3m x 5m) ainsi que dans la réalisation et le suivi de chantier.



### Projet *Réno-Systèmes* – Sonorisation des stations

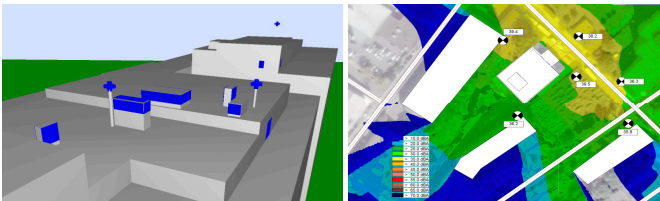
Un autre projet *Réno-Systèmes* visait la sonorisation des stations de métro. L'architecture des stations du métro de Montréal crée un environnement hostile à l'atteinte de performance acoustique acceptable (surface réfléchissante, volumétrie complexe, etc.). Le nouveau système de sonorisation proposé par Stantec devait permettre une bonne intelligibilité des messages destinés aux voyageurs dans l'ensemble des zones publiques et des lieux occupés par les employés du métro.

## Projet Réno-Systemes – Centre de contrôle

Stantec a assisté les ingénieurs mécaniques et les architectes dans l'aménagement du nouveau centre de contrôle afin d'intégrer les aspects acoustiques dans la conception du bâtiment ainsi que dans le choix de certains équipements. Les critères de bruit sévères ainsi que l'installation d'une génératrice de 1 500 kW et d'une salle de mécanique générale à l'étage inférieur à celui de la salle de contrôle demandait une attention particulière au point de vue acoustique. Stantec a défini les critères NC dans la salle de contrôle et les autres espaces de travail, a recommandé les traitements architecturaux dans la salle de contrôle pour obtenir un temps de réverbération optimal, a recommandé les éléments d'isolation des différentes parois ainsi que les traitements des systèmes HVAC.

## Projets – Conformité du bruit environnemental

Ces projets visent à évaluer le bruit généré principalement par des usines et à vérifier leur conformité par rapport aux niveaux de bruit recommandés par la réglementation municipale ou le ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC). À partir des relevés sonores, une évaluation par modélisation informatique permet de déterminer la contribution sonore de chaque source de bruit de l'usine (séchoir, cheminées, etc.) à des points récepteurs. Par la suite, des recommandations peuvent être émises pour réduire le bruit.



À titre d'exemple, la construction d'une cellule d'essai pour des turbines à gaz industrielles par Rolls Royce Canada en milieu urbain a nécessité une gestion minutieuse des émissions de bruit afin de respecter les normes en vigueur dans les villes de Montréal et Verdun. Les installations comprenaient une cellule d'essai pour des turbines à gaz industrielles, un compresseur à gaz naturel, un poste de transformation 120 kV, une salle pour les équipements auxiliaires, une salle de contrôle et des bureaux administratifs. Le contrôle du bruit était un des enjeux important du projet.



## Projets de bruit routier

L'expertise de Stantec est reconnue au Québec dans le domaine du bruit inhérent au trafic routier. Plus d'une trentaine d'études de pollution ou d'impact sonore ont été réalisées pour le MTQ. Stantec réalise les études, fait des recommandations de mesures d'atténuation et collabore avec le Ministère à des audiences du Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) ou des consultations citoyennes, dont notamment pour le projet de reconstruction du complexe Turcot (présenté ci-dessous) et de la modernisation du boulevard Notre-Dame à Montréal.



## Projets de bruit ferroviaire

Stantec a eu le privilège de participer à plusieurs projets reliés au bruit du trafic ferroviaire et de gares de triage.

- ✓ Étude d'impact sonore de la nouvelle ligne de train de banlieue sur une distance de 12 km entre Mascouche et Charlemagne. Projet soumis au processus du BAPE.
- ✓ Évaluation des niveaux sonores produits par les activités de la cour de triage de Charny et recommandations de mesures d'atténuation afin d'orienter le développement résidentiel, commercial et industriel dans les secteurs adjacents.
- ✓ Évaluation de la nuisance sonore générée par le passage des trains de banlieue en fonction des nouvelles lignes directrices relatives au bruit et aux vibrations ferroviaires de l'Office des transports du Canada, dans le cas d'une plainte d'un citoyen.
- ✓ Évaluation de l'impact sonore de l'étagement de la Jonction de l'Est - croisement de presque 90 degrés entre les lignes Saint-Laurent et Deux-Montagnes.



- ✓ Projet d'étude d'électrification des voies de chemin de fer – AMT. Ce projet avait pour but d'évaluer l'impact sonore que pourrait avoir l'électrification des voies de chemin de fer en comparaison avec la situation actuelle où les trains de l'AMT sont tractés par des locomotives au diesel.

# MJM CONSEILLERS EN ACOUSTIQUE INC.

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## Résumé

MJM CONSEILLERS EN ACOUSTIQUE INC. est un bureau de consultation fondé au printemps 1984 par son actuel président, l'architecte Michel Morin, qui possède 36 ans d'expérience en acoustique et en contrôle du bruit. MJM, dont l'équipe est constituée de 3 à 5 conseillers, s'est fait connaître par le nombre et la variété des **projets** auxquels il a participé, par les projets de **recherche** en acoustique et en contrôle du bruit qu'il a menés à terme et dont les comptes-rendus ont été distribués à travers le monde, ainsi que par le **support technique** qu'il procure aux industries désireuses d'améliorer la performance acoustique des biens qu'elles produisent. MJM fournit des **recommandations claires** qui peuvent être mises en place facilement à l'aide de **matériaux courants** le plus souvent **disponibles chez plusieurs fournisseurs de matériaux**.

**Mots clefs :** conseil, acoustique, Montréal, contrôle, bruit

## Abstract

MJM ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANTS INC. is a consulting firm practicing in Montreal since 1984. Its founder, architect Michel Morin brings over 36 years of experience in acoustical consulting in the private sector. MJM, whose team is composed of 3 to 5 consultants, is known for the number and variety of **projects** in which it has participated, for the **research** projects in acoustics and noise control which it has undertaken and whose reports have been distributed worldwide, as well as for the **technical support** it delivers to industries wishing to improve the acoustical performance of their products. MJM provides **clear recommendations** which in most instances can be easily put into place using **commonly available materials** distributed by **a large number of suppliers**.

**Keywords:** consulting, acoustics, Montreal, noise, control

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## 1 Introduction

En février 1979, quelques mois après l'obtention de son diplôme de l'école d'architecture de l'Université de Montréal, Michel Morin amorce sa carrière d'acousticien à l'emploi de Barron and Associates qui était à l'époque le plus important bureau de consultation en acoustique canadien. Durant les cinq années que dureront son emploi chez Barron and Associates à Vancouver B.C., Monsieur Morin s'est vu confier la responsabilité d'études acoustiques visant plusieurs projets d'importance dont les centres de congrès d'Edmonton et de Calgary, Expo 86, l'étude de faisabilité d'implantation d'un amphithéâtre juste à côté du B.C. Place Stadium, et plusieurs autres. A son retour à Montréal en avril 1984, M. Morin devient membre de l'ordre des Architectes du Québec et fonde MJM CONSEILLERS EN ACOUSTIQUE.

## 2 Services offerts et projets réalisés

MJM CONSEILLERS EN ACOUSTIQUE INC fournit des services de mesures et de consultation qui couvrent tous les aspects reliés à l'acoustique et au contrôle du bruit reliés au bâtiment et à l'environnement, et la plupart des aspects reliés au contrôle du bruit industriel.

Au cours de ses 30 années d'existence MJM a participé à des projets nombreux et variés situés principalement au Canada et dont la valeur varie entre 20,000\$ et 487 M\$. Parmi les **études et projets d'importance** auxquels MJM a participé, on retrouve :

- Le **Centre Bell** (anciennement Centre Molson): acoustique et contrôle du bruit pour ce complexe comprenant un amphithéâtre de 21,500 places, des studios de télévision, et une tour à bureaux de 7 étages; la Place Bell à Laval (amphithéâtre de 10,000 places, patinoire olympique de 2,500 places et patinoire communautaire).
- Plusieurs **auditoriums et théâtres** parmi lesquels on compte la salle de spectacle de Baie-Comeau (900 places), le Théâtre des Deux Rives (800 places), le complexe Dell'Arte, l'auditorium du Collège Gérald Godin, Centre Saydie Bronfman et l'auditorium de l'École de musique FACE.
- Le Centre Phi, un **centre de production et de diffusion** certifié LEED dédié aux arts audio-visuels, l'agrandissement du **Musée** des Beaux-Arts de Montréal (Pavillon Jean-Noel Desmarais), la bibliothèque de l'Université Concordia, et les **bibliothèques** de la ville d'Outremont et de Dollard-

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des-Ormeaux où il était important de procurer un haut niveau de confort acoustique.

- Le Pavillon Lassonde de l'École Polytechnique de Montréal, l'Aile "Z" de l'Université de Montréal, le Collège Gérald-Godin (à Montréal), le Centre de Formation du Gouvernement du Canada (anciennement Collège Asticou) à Gatineau, Québec, l'École Nationale d'Aérotechnique, et plusieurs autres écoles.
- **Etudes de climat sonore** pour plusieurs sites de bâtiments résidentiels, institutionnels et commerciaux dont l'îlot Balmoral alors qu'on voulait y construire la Maison Symphonique, le Centre de Recherche du CHUM (Tours St-Antoine et Viger); Tour des Canadiens; Place L'Acadie; 1800 René-Levesque Ouest.
- Intimité et **confort acoustique dans les bureaux** des sièges sociaux d'Hydro-Quebec (quatre édifices totalisant 1M pi<sup>2</sup>), du Canadien National (500,000 pi<sup>2</sup>) et de Provigo, ainsi que les bureaux exécutifs de la Banque Fédérale de Développement, Bombardier, IBM ;
- **Édifices institutionnels et commerciaux** tels que Centre de Recherche du CHUM, le Nouveau Campus Bell à l'Île des Sœurs, la Cité du Commerce électronique, Place Montréal-Trust, 1250 René-Lévesque ouest, le siège social d'Air Canada à Dorval, Bell Canada à Hull, et plusieurs autres édifices à bureaux.
- Contrôle du bruit produit par l'activité humaine, la plomberie et les systèmes mécaniques pour de très nombreux **projets de condominiums** dont le 21e arrondissement, le Séville, toutes les phases du Lowney, les Sommets sur le Fleuve, le Vistal et les tours Évolo, La Tour des Canadiens (50 étages), le projet Icône, District Griffin, le Solano, les Bassins du Havre, le 1800 René Lévesque, et plusieurs autres totalisant plus de 30,000 logements.

### 3 Logiciels et applications

MJM a développé plusieurs **logiciels et applications informatisées** pour la mesure, l'analyse, et le traitement de données acoustiques dont le logiciel RÉFLEX pour le design acoustique des salles. RÉFLEX est un outil puissant qui permet d'analyser et de modifier la géométrie des salles préalablement modélisées en trois dimensions à l'aide des versions 10 et suivantes d'AutoCAD. MJM possède aussi les logiciels d'analyse acoustique Cadna/A, Odéon et INSUL.

### 4 Recherche

Les nombreux rapports de recherche produits par MJM [1-15] sont disponibles en version abrégée ou intégrale, et peuvent être téléchargés sur le site internet de l'entreprise [www.mjm.qc.ca](http://www.mjm.qc.ca).

La méthode de mesure développée lors du projet de recherche sur l'affaiblissement procuré par les portes d'accès des édifices multi-logements [6] a donné naissance à la norme ASTM E 2964-14 intitulée *Standard Test*

*Method for Measurement of the Normalized Insertion Loss of Doors* [16].

## 5 Intégrité

MJM dédie 100% de ses ressources à la consultation en acoustique et est indépendante de tout manufacturier ou fournisseur de matériaux.

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# LA RECHERCHE SUR LE BRUIT ET LES VIBRATIONS EN SANTÉ ET SÉCURITÉ À L'IRSST

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## Résumé

Ce document présente brièvement l'Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) ainsi qu'une courte description des travaux de recherche qui s'y font sur le bruit et les vibrations au travail.

**Mots clefs :** Bruit, vibrations, recherche, Santé et Sécurité du Travail (SST), mesures, modélisation numérique

## Abstract

This document is a brief presentation of the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) as well as a short description of the research activities taking place on noise and vibration at work.

**Keywords:** Noise, vibrations, research, health and safety at work, measurements, computer modeling

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 L'IRSST en bref

Solidement implanté au Québec depuis 1980, l'Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) est un organisme de recherche scientifique reconnu pour l'expertise de son personnel et la qualité de ses travaux en santé et sécurité du travail (SST). Organisme privé sans but lucratif, l'institut finance, à l'aide de différents programmes, des projets de recherche en lien avec la SST au Québec dans différents domaines. L'IRSST met aussi l'emphase sur le transfert des connaissances et la valorisation des résultats de recherche en milieu de travail et dans le public. Pour ce faire, l'institut publie en ligne divers publications et outils (logiciels, audio, etc.) rendant notamment compte des résultats de ses recherches.

Le lecteur est invité à consulter le site de l'institut ([www.irsst.qc.ca](http://www.irsst.qc.ca)) pour prendre connaissance de la mission de l'institut, de ses orientations de recherche, de ses programmes de subventions et de ses publications. Le reste du document présente plus en détails les travaux effectués à l'IRSST dans le domaine du bruit et des vibrations au travail.

## 2 La recherche sur le bruit et les vibrations à L'IRSST

L'IRSST finance et effectue des recherches portant sur le bruit et les vibrations en milieu de travail. Le bruit et les vibrations (main-bras et corps entier) sont considérés comme un risque physique et, à ce titre, s'intègre dans la recherche menée par le champ Prévention des Risques Mécaniques et Physiques de l'IRSST. Cette recherche est orientée principalement sur les aspects techniques de l'exposition au bruit et aux vibrations en milieu de travail en vue de prévenir la surdité professionnelle et les lésions causées par les vibrations (ex syndrome de Raynaud, troubles musculosquelettiques, ...) ainsi que les accidents du travail dans lesquels le bruit et les vibrations sont des agents causaux. En ce qui concerne les risques auditifs, il

s'agit de mener des actions en parallèle sur tous les maillons de la chaîne du bruit (source, milieu de propagation et travailleur). Ceci consiste à proposer des outils métrologiques ou de simulations pour aider les intervenants en milieu de travail à mieux diagnostiquer les problèmes et évaluer l'exposition sonore, à mettre en place les bonnes solutions de réduction du bruit et enfin à améliorer la communication dans le bruit pour prévenir les risques d'accident (ex détection d'alarmes). En ce qui concerne les risques liés aux vibrations, il s'agit de mieux caractériser les risques induits par les outils portatifs, l'opération de machines industrielles ainsi que la conduite de différentes catégories de véhicules. Les recherches visent aussi à mieux évaluer, sélectionner et concevoir les solutions antivibratiles tout en incluant certains éléments liés à la biodynamique pour mieux comprendre le comportement du corps humain lorsque soumis à un environnement vibratoire.

La programmation de recherche du champ Prévention des Risques Mécaniques et Physiques (PRMP) est organisée autour de 3 axes : (i) Appréciation des risques mécaniques et physiques induits par les machines ou l'environnement de travail (ii) Réduction des risques mécaniques et physiques (iii) Prise en compte du facteur humain dans l'évaluation et le contrôle des risques mécaniques et physiques. L'IRSST finance plus particulièrement des recherches qui s'inscrivent dans ces axes.

Dans le cadre du plan quinquennal 2013-2017, l'IRSST a établi des priorités de recherche qui se déclinent en programmations thématiques. En ce qui concerne le risque lié au bruit et aux vibrations, l'emphase est actuellement mise sur le développement d'outils d'aide à l'évaluation de la performance de solutions de contrôle de bruit/vibrations et à la conception de moyens techniques pour limiter la propagation sonore (matériaux, encoffrements et écrans) et l'interaction du travailleur avec le champ sonore environnant (comportement acoustique des protecteurs auditifs couplés à l'oreille). Plus spécifiquement, 4 programmations thématiques (écrans et matériaux

acoustiques pour le contrôle du bruit, évaluation et modélisation de la protection auditive individuelle, outils portatifs et signaux sonores d'alarmes en milieu de travail) sont en cours.

### **2.1 Écrans et matériaux acoustiques pour le contrôle du bruit**

Les travaux de cette programmation visent à développer des méthodes et outils fiables, conviviaux, transférables et appropriables par le milieu pour aider à réduire l'exposition des travailleurs au bruit. Ceci peut être réalisé en développant des outils d'aide à la conception de solutions destinées à réduire le bruit (par exemple les encoffrements de machines) et des outils d'aide à l'évaluation de la performance acoustique des matériaux, mais aussi en évaluant, voire même en concevant de nouvelles technologies pour réduire le bruit en se basant sur l'utilisation de barrières et de matériaux innovants.

### **2.2 Évaluation et modélisation de la protection auditive individuelle**

Cette programmation vise à explorer les méthodes pour évaluer la protection réelle offerte par les protecteurs auditifs dans les milieux de travail et développer des outils d'aide à la conception de protecteurs auditifs efficaces et plus confortables (protection individualisée).

### **2.3 Outils portatifs**

Les travaux réalisés dans cette programmation transversale qui touche aussi bien au bruit qu'aux vibrations, visent à développer des connaissances sur les performances acoustiques et vibratoires des outils portatifs pour être en mesure d'identifier ceux qui sont les moins bruyants et les moins vibrants et, à proposer des moyens de réduction de ces nuisances vibratoires et sonores. Ceci consiste à identifier les mécanismes de génération acoustique et vibratoire des outils en situation de travail, évaluer leur performance sur des bancs d'essai en laboratoire simulant des conditions de travail, et identifier les outils et opérations les plus bruyantes dans un secteur donné et clarifier les relations dose-effet pour les vibrations main-bras.

### **2.4 Signaux sonores d'alarmes en milieu de travail**

Les travaux réalisés dans le cadre de cette programmation vise, à terme, à générer un ensemble de connaissances qui permettront de fournir aux milieux de travail des guides et recommandations clairs qui permettront à tous le moins une utilisation optimale des signaux d'alarmes, qu'ils soient générés par des alarmes fixes ou encore par des alarmes de recul sur des véhicules ou structures en mouvement. Elle s'articule, d'une part, autour de projets de recherche centrés sur les alarmes de reculs de véhicules lourds et, d'autre part, sur la mise sur pied d'activités de valorisation, en partenariat avec les acteurs « terrain », afin de mettre à profit le plus possible les connaissances produites par l'IRSST sur les signaux d'alarmes.

## **3 L'équipe de recherche et ses partenaires**

L'équipe de recherche qui travaille sur le bruit et les vibrations comporte 3 chercheurs (Hugues Nélisse, Pierre Marcotte, Franck Sgard), et un professionnel scientifique (Jérôme Boutin). Les recherches sont réalisées en laboratoire ou sur le terrain avec les deux composantes, expérimentale et modélisation. L'IRSST dispose depuis Mars 2011 d'un laboratoire acoustique de pointe commun avec l'École de Technologie Supérieure (ICAR : Infrastructure Commune Acoustique pour la Recherche) qui permet de réaliser des tests expérimentaux très variés mais aussi de former la relève en SST. Le laboratoire continue à se doter de nouveaux moyens expérimentaux grâce au financement de l'IRSST comme par exemple une nouvelle cabine audiométrique installée en 2014 ainsi que, prochainement, un laboratoire de caractérisation des matériaux acoustiques.

L'équipe de l'IRSST compte aussi sur plusieurs collaborateurs et partenaires locaux, nationaux et internationaux pour mener à bien les projets de recherche et venir compléter et bonifier l'expertise développée à l'interne. Ces collaborations et partenariat relèvent autant du niveau académique (ÉTS, U. de Sherbrooke, U. d'Ottawa, Concordia, etc.), du niveau institutionnel (INSPQ, INRS/France, CSST, ASP, ville de Montréal, etc.) que du niveau industriel (Graymont, Soft dB, Sonomax, 3M, Canmet, etc.)

## **4 Exemples de projets de recherche**

Les projets suivants sont des exemples de projets en cours ou terminés reliés au bruit au travail et financés par l'IRSST. Plus de détails sur ceux-ci ainsi que d'autres projets peuvent être obtenus sur le site internet de l'institut.

- « Reproduction d'environnements sonores industriels en vue d'applications aux études d'audibilité des alarmes et autres signaux sonores pour la santé et sécurité au travail : preuve de concept », A. Berry / U. de Sherbrooke, H. Nélisse / IRSST, P.-A. Gauthier / U. de Sherbrooke, F. Sgard / IRSST.
- « Étude comparative des performances d'outils de modélisation pour la résolution de deux problématiques de bruit et vibrations de type impulsionnel en santé et sécurité au travail » N. Atalla / U. de Sherbrooke, C.-K. Amedin / U. de Sherbrooke, F. Sgard / IRSST.
- « Évaluation de la performance acoustique des alarmes de recul dans les milieux de travail ouverts en vue d'une utilisation optimale » H. Nélisse / IRSST, C. Laroche, C. Véronique Vaillancourt / U. d'Ottawa, J. Boutin / IRSST.
- « Développement de méthodes de diagnostic vibratoire et acoustique pour les clouuses portatives pneumatiques » F. Laville / ÉTS, P. Marcotte, J. Boutin / IRSST.
- « Utilisation des prothèses auditives en milieu de travail bruyant » T. Leroux / U. de Montréal, C. Laroche / U. d'Ottawa, J. Voix / ÉTS, C. Giguère / U. d'Ottawa.
- « Évaluation des alarmes de recul à large bande de fréquences (« Broadband alarm ») », H. Nélisse / IRSST, C. Laroche, C. Giguère, V. Vaillancourt / U. d'Ottawa, J. Boutin / IRSST.
- « Développement d'outils et de méthodes pour mieux évaluer et améliorer la protection auditive individuelle des travailleurs », F. Sgard, H. Nélisse / IRSST, F. Laville, Y. Petit, J. Voix / ÉTS, J. Boutin / IRSST.



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# ÉTS-IRSST COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH IN ACOUSTICS - ICAR

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## Abstract

This year, the ÉTS-IRSST common infrastructure for research in acoustics (ICAR) celebrates its 4<sup>th</sup> year of activity. This is a joint laboratory between the École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) and the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST). When first created in 2011 at ÉTS, the lab included a semi-anechoic chamber coupled with a reverberation room. In 2014, an audiometric booth was added and a new laboratory for the characterization of acoustic materials, described in a companion paper [1], was added this year.

**Keywords:** laboratory, acoustics, vibrations, psychoacoustics, anechoic room, reverberant room, audiometric booth

## Résumé

L'Infrastructure commune en acoustique pour la recherche ÉTS-IRSST (ICAR) célèbre aujourd'hui ses 4 ans d'activité. Il s'agit d'un laboratoire commun entre l'École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) et l'Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) qui est en activité depuis 2011. À l'origine, il comprenait une salle semi-anéchoïque couplée à une salle réverbérante. En 2014, une cabine audiométrique a été ajoutée et un nouveau laboratoire de caractérisation des matériaux acoustiques, décrit dans un article complémentaire [1], s'est tout récemment ajouté à l'infrastructure ICAR.

**Mots clefs:** laboratoire, acoustique, vibrations, psychoacoustique, salle anéchoïque, salle réverbérante, cabine audiométrique

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## 1 Introduction

The exposure to high noise levels which can damage the auditory system in the long term is a present problematic with a strong impact on society. In order to (1) reduce the level of noise both at the source and during its propagation, and (2) improve technologies that can prevent hearing loss, a laboratory with the latest technology was needed. The École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) and the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST), with financial support from the Economic Development Agency of Canada, pooled their resources to create this unique research facility located within ÉTS's facilities at the heart of the Quartier de l'innovation, in downtown Montreal.

In collaboration with the industry and organizations concerned with occupational health and safety, the ÉTS-IRSST common infrastructure for research in acoustics (ICAR) is intended to further research in industrial acoustics, more specifically, in noise and vibration. ICAR addresses the problem of excessive noise from three possible solution-oriented angles: noise control at the source, control of the noise propagation paths, and individual protection devices. In other words, ICAR can test, improve and develop new and improved products or processes acoustically, be it industrial machinery, tools, transport vehicles, household appliances,

acoustic materials, and products for the ear (hearing protection headphones, hearing aids, telecommunications / telephony devices, etc.). Its ultimate goals are to increase the comfort, health and safety of workers (and the public in general) through its facilities of advanced acoustic testing, to meet the needs of manufacturers and researchers, as well as train highly qualified professionals in this specialized field.

## 2 Equipment



**Figure 1:** Semi-anechoic room

The semi-anechoic room shown in figure 1 has a useful internal volume of 83 m<sup>3</sup>. Removable wedges make it possible to render the room fully anechoic when such conditions are required for measurements. The cutoff frequency is then below 100 Hz. The room is also equipped with a pro-

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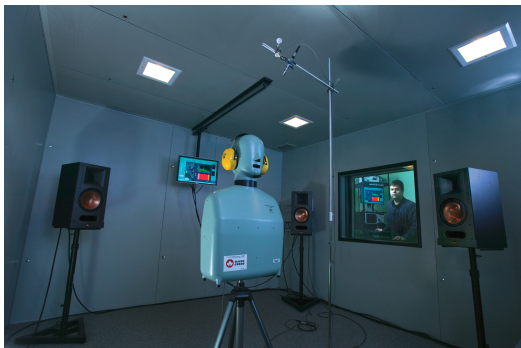
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grammable rotary arm located in the center of the room with a 2.0 m spherical diameter range. The arm can be equipped with either a speaker, for example to measure the attenuation of hearing protectors in free field conditions or with a multi-microphone antenna, for example to quantify the sound field created by a noise source.



**Figure 2:** Reverberation room

The reverberation room shown in figure 2 has a useful internal volume of 211 m<sup>3</sup>. It is equipped with 4 amplified power loudspeakers and has a reverberation time at 1000 Hz of about 3 s. The semi-anechoic and reverberation rooms are coupled with a measurement window 1.8 m high and 2.0 m wide and a niche depth of 0.3 m.



**Figure 3:** Double wall audiometric test booth

The audiometric test booth shown in figure 3 has double walls and a useful internal volume of 20 m<sup>3</sup>.

The laboratory is also equipped with: a mobile intensity mapping system (I-Track, Soft dB); an intensity probe (B&K); a wheel array of 42 microphones (B&K); several multi-processing acquisition systems (Pulse B&K: 44 inputs including 2 high frequencies; National Instruments LabVIEW-PXI: 5-slot PXI Chassis including the following cards 1 NI PXI-4462 (4 AI), 1 NI PXI-4461 (2 AI and 2 AO) and 2 NI PXI-6221); an artificial head ISL; an artificial head G.R.A.S. 45CB Acoustic Test Fixture in compliance with ANSI S12.42 standard; Multi-voltage power supply for industrial equipment (120/240 and 347/600 Volts); an omnidirectional sound source (BSWA); a “compression chamber” noise source type; a supply of compressed air for pneumatic tools up to 150 PSI.

### 3 The standard measures

ICAR offers a wide range of measurement capabilities, either for research or certification, such as measurements of: absorption coefficient of acoustic materials in a reverberation room according to ASTM C423-09a or ISO 354; sound power measurement in an anechoic or reverberation room according to ISO 3744; sound intensity mapping; source localization with acoustic holography and beamforming; intensity measures of wall sound insulation according to ISO 15186-1; directivity assessment of the attenuation of hearing protectors; source directivity, according to standard IEC 60268-5; attenuation of hearing protectors at different levels, ranging from auditory thresholds to typical industrial methods, and according to ANSI / ASA S12.6-2, ISO 4869 as well as AS / NZ1270 standards.

### 4 Examples of achievements

Various joint research projects between ÉTS and IRSST have already taken place and produced scientific and technological results, such as: the development of tools and methods to better assess and improve individual hearing protection for workers: acoustic and psychoacoustic measurements on human subjects [2]; experimental validation of finite element models of earplugs [3], earmuffs [4], and the occlusion effect due to earplugs [5]; the development of vibrational and acoustic diagnostic methods for portable pneumatic nailers: developing benchmarks for companies and experimental methods to measure noise and vibration emissions of this type of tool, identifying the mechanisms of noise propagation and proposing noise attenuation solutions; the localization of acoustic sound sources in the workplace with time-domain antenna methods [6].

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# IS MY MATERIAL AN EFFICIENT ACOUSTICAL MATERIAL?

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## Abstract

Researchers of ÉTS and IRSST decided to synergize again their efforts in order to expand the ICAR laboratory to include a facility dedicated to acoustical materials. Acoustic properties of porous materials such as the normal incidence sound absorption coefficient and the normal incidence sound transmission loss together with several physical intrinsic parameters required as input in the most commonly used associated models (i.e., porosity, airflow resistivity, Young's modulus...) can now be measured in ICAR. This new facility aims at (1) improving the knowledge about the physical phenomena associated with the dissipation of the acoustic energy in porous materials of various microgeometries, (2) developing new materials with dedicated or uncommon acoustical properties (e.g., metamaterial, metacomposite,...) for industrial applications such as hearing protection, building, aeronautic or aerospace and (3) providing the input parameters required in acoustical prediction software dealing with acoustical materials.

**Keywords:** sound absorption, acoustic materials, foam, porosity, airflow resistivity

## Résumé

Les chercheurs de l'ÉTS et de l'IRSST ont décidé d'unir à nouveau leur efforts afin d'agrandir le laboratoire ICAR pour y ajouter des équipements dédiés à la caractérisation et au développement de nouveaux matériaux acoustiques. Les propriétés acoustiques telles que le coefficient d'absorption et la perte par transmission de matériaux poreux excités acoustiquement en incidence normale ainsi que les propriétés physiques intrinsèques (i.e., porosité, résistivité au passage à l'air...) utilisées dans les principaux modèles associés peuvent maintenant être mesurées. Ces équipements ont pour but: (1) l'amélioration des connaissances quant aux phénomènes physiques associés à la dissipation de l'énergie acoustique au sein de matériaux ayant diverses micro-géométries, (2) la conception de nouveaux matériaux aux propriétés acoustiques adaptées ou inusitées (e.g., métamatériaux, métacomposite...) pour différentes applications industrielles telles que la protection auditive, le bâtiment, l'aéronautique ou l'aérospatiale et enfin (3) fournir les données d'entrée requises dans les logiciels de simulation acoustique dédiés aux matériaux acoustiques.

**Mots clefs:** absorption acoustique, matériaux acoustiques, mousse, porosité, résistance spécifique au passage à l'air

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## 1 Introduction

The science of acoustical materials faces a number of challenges identified by various industrial sectors and research laboratories dealing either with transportation or occupational health and safety issues. These acoustical materials should be (1) lighter to reduce payload and fuel consumption, (2) environmentally sustainable, (3) more efficient and particularly at low frequencies and (4) more comfortable in the case of hearing protection in order to increase the wearing time and decrease hearing impairments. In order to meet these challenges, researchers of École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) and Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) expanded the Infrastructure commune en acoustique pour la recherche ÉTS-IRSST (ICAR) laboratory [1] and include a facility dedicated to the analysis and characterization of acoustical materials. Acoustic properties of materials such as the diffuse field sound absorption co-

efficient and the diffuse field sound transmission loss can already be measured using the coupled chambers of ICAR laboratory. However, these measurements are cumbersome and can be time consuming if multiple tests have to be done. Furthermore, large surface of materials are most of the time not available in a design phase of new products. The facility presented in this paper is thus complementary since it allows for measuring the absorption and insulation properties of small sample of material subjected to a normal incidence acoustic excitation. The various physical parameters (e.g., porosity, airflow resistivity, tortuosity...), referred to as the nonacoustic properties, as well as mechanical properties required in the models established to predict the acoustical properties of materials [2] can also both be measured. This paper aims at presenting the various test benches available in this new facility.

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## 2 Test benches

### 2.1 Acoustic properties

#### Sound absorption coefficient ( $\alpha$ )

The sound absorption coefficient is related to the reflection coefficient ( $r$ ) defined as the ratio of the pressures created by the outgoing and incoming waves at the surface of the layer:  $\alpha = 1 - |r|^2$ . The normal incidence sound absorption coefficient is measured according to standard ASTM E1050-10 using impedance tubes. Multiple tubes of various inner diameter are available to cover the frequency band [50 Hz - 9 kHz].

#### Sound transmission loss ( $TL_n$ )

The normal incidence sound transmission loss is ten times the common logarithm of the reciprocal of the sound transmission coefficient ( $\tau$ ); the latter being the fraction of airborne sound power incident on a material that is transmitted through the material. It is determined from pressure measurements at three positions within the impedance tube according to the three microphone method [3] and standard ASTM E2611-09. According to this standard method, the following properties can also be assessed in the case of an homogeneous material: the characteristic impedance in material, the propagation wavenumber in material, the equivalent dynamic bulk modulus and equivalent dynamic density.

#### Earplug insertion loss (IL)

The normal incidence insertion loss of earplugs is measured by the use of a classical impedance tube [4]. The earplug is inserted in a rigid sample holder which is itself placed in a larger diameter impedance tube. The transfer matrix of the system is measured according to ASTM E2611-09 and the one of the earplug alone is then recalculated by eliminating the effect of the sample holder. Finally, the IL is estimated by coupling the earplug transfer matrix to a one-dimensional model of the occluded ear canal taking into account the tympanic membrane impedance.

### 2.2 Nonacoustic properties

#### Open porosity ( $\phi$ [-])

The open porosity is the fraction of the total material volume that is occupied by the fluid in the interconnected porous network. The volume of fluid present in closed pores is thus excluded. This property is measured using an isothermal pressure/mass method.

#### Airflow resistivity ( $\sigma$ [N.s.m<sup>-4</sup>])

The airflow resistivity of acoustical materials is the airflow resistance ( $R$ ) divided by the sample thickness. The later parameter is defined as the quotient of the air pressure difference across a sample divided by the volume velocity of airflow through this sample. It is measured in ICAR according to the ISO 9053 standard.

#### Tortuosity ( $\alpha_\infty$ [-])

The tortuosity is another intrinsic parameter related to the complexity of the frame micro-geometry. It is often interpreted as a characteristic of the sinuous aspect of the fluid flow associated with the passage of a wave in a porous media. Tortuosity of low airflow resistivity materials can be determined from the measurement of ultrasound acoustic waves transmitted through a slab of porous material. In the case of highly resistive materials, it can be estimated from the measurement of ultrasound acoustic waves reflected by a slab of porous material at oblique incidence. This parameter can also be estimated using indirect or inverse characterization techniques [5]. These two techniques are based on impedance tube measurements and require sound absorption coefficient in the case of the inverse method and the equivalent dynamic bulk modulus and equivalent dynamic density of the tested material in the case of the indirect method.

#### Viscous length ( $\Lambda$ ) and thermal length ( $\Lambda'$ [m])

The viscous and thermal characteristic lengths are two parameters used to describe the viscous and thermal dissipation phenomena at medium and high frequencies. These two characteristic lengths are measured by inverse or indirect techniques as described previously in the case of the tortuosity parameter.

### 2.3 Mechanical properties

Following theoretical models based on the Biot theory [2], the solid phase of an isotropic viscoelastic porous material is characterized by three in vacuum elastic properties: Young's modulus, loss factor and Poisson's ratio. These parameters are estimated at low frequencies using a quasi-static method (QMA) based on the measurement of the mechanical impedance of a cylindrical sample placed between two rigid plates and subjected to a small amplitude sinusoidal compression. Two samples of the base material having different shape factors are used to get both complex Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio.

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# WSP GLOBAL – ACOUSTIC, NOISE AND VIBRATION SERVICES

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WSP Canada Inc.

Environment Department – Acoustic and Vibrations Team.

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## Abstract

With over 150 specialist acousticians, WSP Global owns one of the largest dedicated acoustics consultancies. Our acoustic specialists are based in the major cities around the world ensuring we can quickly mobilise local teams whilst leveraging global best practice and experience. Our scale also enables us to have technical experts across a diverse range of very specific areas of acoustics meaning we can look at all aspects of a project. We have the expertise to provide concept-to-commissioning solutions, ranging from impact and constraint assessments during the planning phase, to detailed acoustical services design, through to noise monitoring and mitigation during construction, operation and decommissioning. Outstanding technical excellence in our solutions is our fundamental, but we have a reputation for challenging the status quo and delivering creative, pragmatic, sustainable and commercially focussed designs.

**Keywords:** Acoustic, Noise, Vibration

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## 1 Integrated Service

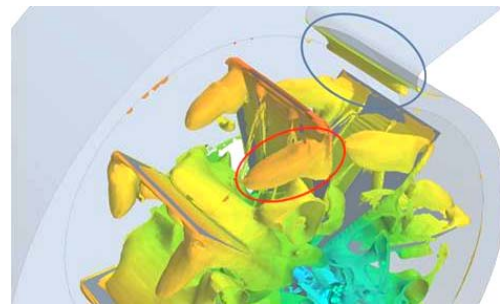
Having worked on some of the most reputed projects around the world, we are delighted in establishing ourselves as a core member of all multi-firm and multi-disciplinary project teams. We regularly work with notable companies such as Rio Tinto, Husky Energy, Alstom Power, Canadian Malartic General Partnership, Hydro-Québec, Montoni Group, Reliance, MTQ, Canadien Pacifique, etc.

In addition, Parsons Brinckerhoff recently joined WSP Global allowing us to be a 32,000 strong design, engineering and environmental consultancy. It enables us to provide you with seamless integrated expertise through working with in-house specialists ranging from M&E engineers, structural and civil engineers, fire engineers, environmental planning experts, transportation specialists and many more - an approach proven on various projects.

## 2 Expertise

### 2.1 Industrial Noise

Large industrial sites can be very complex. There are often a multitude of noise sources contributing to the overall noise environment. WSP Acoustics are able to undertake detailed 3D computer modelling of industrial noise sources to determine likely causes of noise complaints, and develop suitable and cost effective remedial measures. At complex industrial sites, and where noise sources are inaccessible, we use ‘acoustic cameras’ to visualise the dominant sources of noise. Another example of WSP’s knowhow in the industrial domain is led by the WSP UK team: we have developed a transient finite element method to model and improve any industrial ventilation fan without reducing flow or increasing pressure drop. The technique has been proven able to gain more than 10 dBA (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** CFD simulation of ventilation fan noise.

Through our Norwegian affiliate Multi-consult, we have extensive expertise in the special noise and vibration requirements for oil and gas projects, including engineering, quality control and verification of Public Alarm Systems, both offshore and onshore.

### 2.2 Quarries and mines

Extraction projects such as quarries or mining operations have to develop at the resource position. This implicates that some ore projects have to be executed close to sensitive areas or in some cases in urban areas. Under these conditions, enormous efforts are necessary in each phase of the project to reduce noise and vibration (design, construction, overburden/sterile handling, drilling/blasting, transportation and resource extraction).

WSP Canada inc. has developed through numerous mining projects an international expertise in mining acoustics and vibration (Royal Nickel Corporation – Dumont Project in Canada, Orzone – Bomboré project in Burkina Faso, Nordgold – Montagne d’Or project in French Guiana). In each of these projects, WSP has been a key partner for federal/provincial approval and social acceptance. Noise and vibration studies were conducted for mining infrastructure construction planning, blasting and extraction acoustical optimization, characterization of specific noise source and implementation of optimal mitigation measures to achieve regulatory compliance.

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Some of these projects required a real-time noise monitoring program on which controls the mining production rate based on climatic conditions (wind direction and thermal inversions can greatly increase a mine's noise contribution in habited areas). WSP is also capable of executing underwater noise studies for naval infrastructures or dredging operations which is sometime required for specific mining projects (Sharq project – Qatar, McInnis Cement plant – Canada).

### 2.3 Environmental and Transportation Services

Noise is very often a primary factor in determining the acceptability of a new residential or commercial development, with associated transportation development, within an environmentally sensitive area. WSP undertake environmental noise impact assessments in line with National Standards, Approved Codes of Practice, Planning Policy Guidance, and Building Bulletins. In addition to generating appropriate noise and vibration evidence to support planning applications, we are able to provide expert witnesses at planning inquiries to support our Environmental Statements.

Noise free or 'tranquil' areas are increasingly hard to find and is a notable environmental factor. WSP has undertaken both city and rural noise mapping projects in response to environmental noise directive. These studies have included the provision of guidance to clients on what steps need to be taken to satisfy the noise directive requirements. Noise mapping studies are also often included within our Environmental Impact Assessments to aid the understanding of how noise disperses around a new development. We have a selection of noise prediction software to generate easy-to-read and understandable colour presentations and noise maps (figure 2).

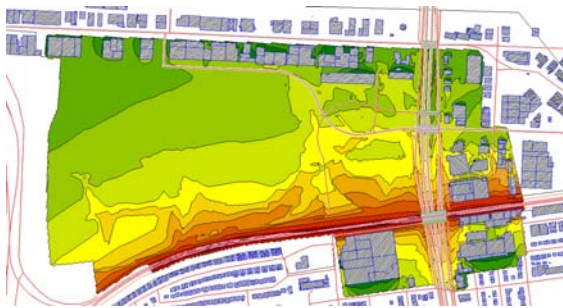


Figure 2: Noise mapping.

### 2.4 Architectural and Room Acoustics

We assist signature developers, architects, and contractors through:

- Advising on building layout to minimise the need for expensive acoustic countermeasures.
- Building façade acoustics design that minimises excessive road noise break-in
- Sound insulation design between private spaces
- Designs that optimise reverberation to enable high levels of speech intelligibility or audibility.

We pride ourselves on technical accuracy and depth to ensure your projects have cost-effective designs that deliver superior comfortable internal acoustics environments. We also undertake inspections and acoustic measurements within existing buildings. These include electro-acoustic system performance, airborne sound insulation, impact sound transmission, building services noise, etc.

### 2.5 Equipment Noise and Vibration Control

Our Acoustics team can assess mechanical and electrical building services plant with respect to both internal and external noise breakout and vibration transmission. Our team will ensure that noise and vibration specifications and advice are tailored to a client's requirement. This means that the level of quality and performance from noise control hardware is actually what a client needs, rather than what a particular hardware supplier would like to sell. We help to specify to the M&E plant and systems selected, evaluating their noise and vibration qualities. We design in extra measures to protect user comfort (noise barriers, vibration isolators, etc.).

### 3 Relevant Canadian past projects

- Osisko Mining Corp., Noise management of mining operations, Canadian Malartic gold mine, 2008-2014
- Graymont, Acoustic barrier for the Marbleton factory, Community noise monitoring and new sound sources contribution assessment, 2000-2014
- Rio Tinto Fer & Titane inc., Noise assessment program for the Sorel-Tracy industrial complex, 2002-2015
- Canadian Pacific Railway, Noise and vibrations impact assessment study for a new marshalling yard in Les Cèdres, 2012
- KPH Turcot, Ministère des Transports du Québec, Traffic noise study of the Turcot project and noise management program, 2015
- SM Group International, Acoustic impact assessment of east-west highway in Algeria, 2008-2009
- Husky Energy Inc., Noise survey and control for fans, ductworks, and mechanical equipment of the oil tanker Sea Rose, 2012
- La Presse, Acoustic study and optimization of the future open-space office on three levels in the former printing press room, 2014
- Pandev Inc. KF Architect, Globale acoustic and vibration study of the residential project Tom Condos, 2012-2014
- City of Montreal, Interior acoustic study of the former Montreal's library converted in an art venue, Gaston Miron Building, 2010

Raphaël Duée \*

Atelier 7hz – Acoustic, Noise and Vibration Engineering – Montreal (Qc) Canada

## Résumé

Spécialisée dans les domaines architectural, environnemental et les vibrations, Atelier 7hz se fixe deux objectifs : l'excellence de son expertise et la fourniture de recommandations utiles et claires. Nous sommes en recherche permanente d'approfondissement à travers de nouvelles méthodes de mesure et de calcul mais aussi en recherche de nouveaux matériaux et de solutions innovantes.

**Mots clefs :** Architecture, Environnement, Vibrations, Acoustique des salles, Bruit solidien, Ferroviaire, Bruit des machines

## Abstract

In the environmental domain, Atelier 7hz is particularly specialized in acoustic impact studies for urban planning, structure-borne noise in buildings, vibrations transmission in the ground and railways. In architecture, we have extensive experience in building studies as a whole and room acoustics optimization. We also design solutions to control industrial noise and mechanical equipment. Already backed by our multiple experiences, we are constantly looking to deepen our knowledge through new methods of measurement and calculation but also looking for new quality materials and innovative solutions. Atelier 7hz set two goals: excellence in expertise and providing useful and clear recommendations.

**Keywords:** Architecture, Environment, Vibrations, Room Acoustics, Structure-borne Noise, Railway, Equipment Noise

## 1 The company

### 1.1 Excellence in expertise

Our experts developed their expertise over multiple experiences in several business sectors. Interacting with other related specialties and the desire to provide an excellent service for our customers enables us to adapt to all types of projects and work organization. Our acoustic and vibration recommendations are designed to reach the original objectives set-up in the beginning of the project with the client. The solutions we present are always combined with a predictable acoustic performance and a cost-estimate. We are renowned for the clarity of our recommendations through understandable and ergonomic detailed reports and explanatory diagrams and sketches.

### 1.2 Method

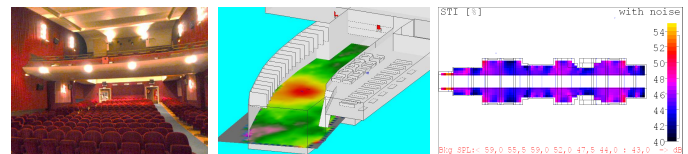
To ensure that our clients and our team have the same level of information, we offer the creation of a web interface dedicated to each project. Project monitoring is facilitated and it is possible at any time to inquire about its progress. We can join work teams, integrate design or intervene at the client's request in any projects. The satisfaction of our customers is then systematically achieved. Our extensive experience of the different instrumentations available allows us to choose adapted measurement tools for each project. We also use the latest simulation software, calculation codes and develop our own software tools (Scilab). If needed, we partner with other acoustic firms to pool our tools and resources.

## 2 Expertise

### 2.1 Architecture

Our experience in architectural projects allows us to consider all acoustic and vibration components based on the type of comfort desired by the client. We recommend studying the project as a whole to avoid heavy and expensive countermeasures after the project's end. We also offer a systematic program of inspections during construction to verify compliance with our recommendations but also acoustic and vibration performance measurements after construction (AHC, ASTC, NC).

**Institutional and Cultural Projects:** This type of project often involves large interior spaces where room acoustics is a major issue. The shape, size and organization of space and materials must be defined at first in agreement with the other disciplines involved in the project. Then, various acoustic criteria (TR60, H%, EDT, D50, C80, STI, G, LEV, etc.) are selected to be optimized.



**Figure 1:** Room acoustic study and PA system design

The analyzing methods we use to design the room acoustics of auditoriums and theaters are based on our experts' experience helped by numerical calculations and 3D modeling of acoustic spaces. Noise control of mechanical

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and stage equipment and sound insulation between different areas also require careful study.

**Residential and commercial projects:** We offer the study of residential and commercial projects through four optimization phases: interior insulation, building envelope acoustic insulation, noise and vibration of mechanical equipment, plumbing and electricity. Thus, every detail of the project is taken into account. We work during scoping meetings in consultation with project's stakeholders but also using drawings, plans and layouts of the different disciplines. Mechanical equipment noise is also assessed to ensure noise comfort.



Figure 2: Residential projects

**Open plan offices:** Controlling acoustics in open plan offices constantly requires a compromise between noise level and reverberation time in the area. A balance between acoustic comfort and acoustic privacy must be found. Sound masking devices can be implemented if found appropriate.

## 2.2 Transportation and Environment

**Transportation:** Our expertise in the field of environmental noise is not limited to the design of noise barriers, buffer zones and facade acoustic insulation recommendations to protect sensitive areas. Although these solutions are effective, we still prefer, if possible, a comprehensive approach to urban planning and infrastructure buildings.

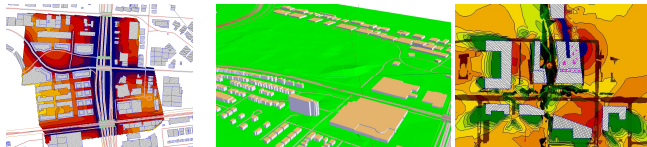


Figure 3: Environmental acoustic study

**Construction works:** We can deliver Noise Management Programs as requested by various Departments of the State. Because some activities can be very noisy and emit a lot of vibration (foundations pile driving, steamroller, trucks, etc.), monitoring levels during construction works can also be carried out for noise and vibration.

## 2.3 Industrial sites and Noise exposure at work

Controlling noise machines is crucial to limit the environmental noise pollution and noise exposure at work. Thus, our experts can design specific solutions based on the characterization of measures to reduce engine noise (enclosure, walls, acoustic treatment, etc.) and fans (acoustic louvers, silencers, etc.). In workshops, the respect of noise exposure limits is essential to ensure the good hearing health of workers.

## 3 In-depth studies

**Railway structureborne noise:** We have extensive experience in the railway field. We can for example perform

acoustic and vibration impact studies and participate in the design of the railway track type to limit vibration transmission and structureborne noise emission. We can also work on the rolling noise reduction (rail roughness, dynamic absorbers, etc.).

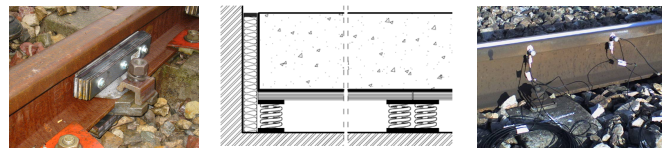


Figure 4: Railway noise and vibration mitigation

**Groundborne vibrations:** To be able to predict in advance vibration levels emitted in the environment, it is important to characterize the vibration sources (trains, construction equipment, etc.). We use the inverse method to measure the force injected into the ground by vibration sources. Thus, vibration measurements are taken at different distances from the real source and with a calibrated source of vibration. We also assess the vibration level decreasing in the ground at a particular site taking into account the soil composition. Assessing the transfer function of foundation vibration levels and structure-borne sound is useful to predict the audible structure-borne noise in a building.

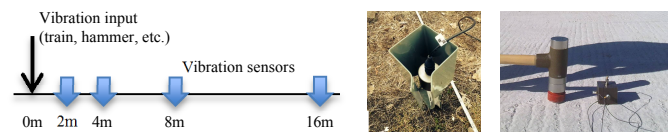


Figure 4: Ground-borne vibration decrease

**Soundscape and auralization:** We have developed our own tool for creating soundscape to offer our customers a comparative listening of the foreseeable impact of the various proposed solutions. This decision support tool is very useful and often saves valuable time.

**Simplified measurement tool development:** Our constant search for efficiency and an effort to reduce costs regularly brings us to question our methods. In particular, some measurement campaigns require the use of heavy and bulky equipment often difficult and expensive to implement. Thus, using new technologies and increasingly sophisticated tools available to the general public enables a reinvention and a simplification of our measurement methods.

## 4 Company and team projects

**Company projects:** Sciences complex, Outremont Campus, University of Montreal, Peterson Condominiums, Coopérative Griffin, "La Presse" press room, Wentworth Nord Biathlon Club, Proviso Claremont-Groupe Maurice combined project, Le Beaumont Condominiums, City Hall of Montreal, Auditorium of Air Canada head office, Montreal « Bain St-Michel » theater, St-Amable Hotel.

**Teams past projects:** Urban planning of the former Montreal's racetrack (Blue Bonnets), Jean Coutu head office, Campus Agropur, East line of Algiers tramway (acoustic et vibration impact), Line 8 of Paris Metro (acoustic et vibration impact), RATP bus workshop.

# MUSAE LAB RESEARCH: FROM ANTHROPOMORPHIC SPEECH TECHNOLOGIES TO HUMAN-MACHINE INTERFACES AND HEALTH DIAGNOSTICS TOOLS

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## Abstract

This paper introduces the Multimedia/Multimodal Signal Analysis and Enhancement (MuSAE) Laboratory, located at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS-EMT), University of Quebec, in Montréal, Québec, Canada. The MuSAE Lab conducts award-winning interdisciplinary research at the crossroads of multimedia and biomedical signal processing, with the end-goal of developing innovative anthropomorphic technologies, intelligent human-machine interfaces, and next-generation health diagnostic tools. The ultimate aim of the paper is to highlight the expertise available at the MuSAE Lab, with the end goal of fostering new collaborations and partnerships with related professionals in Canada and abroad.

**Keywords:** anthropomorphic, speech processing, human-machine interface, health diagnostics, interdisciplinary

## Résumé

Cet article présente le MuSAE Lab (Multimedia/Multimodal Signal Analysis and Enhancement – Laboratoire de traitement et de rehaussement de signaux multimédia et multimodaux), situé à l’Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS-ÉMT), Université du Québec, Montréal, Canada. La recherche interdisciplinaire effectuée au MuSAE Lab, maintes fois primée, combine le traitement de signaux multimédia et de signaux biomédicaux afin de développer des technologies anthropomorphiques novatrices, des interfaces humain-machine intelligentes et des outils diagnostiques de prochaine génération. Le but ultime de cet article est de mettre en relief l’expertise du MuSAE Lab, et d’ainsi développer de nouveaux partenariats et collaborations avec les professionnels et experts du domaine au Canada et à l’international.

**Mots-clés:** technologies anthropomorphiques, traitement de la parole, interface humain-machine, diagnostic médical

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## 1 Introduction

The Multimedia Signal Analysis and Enhancement (MuSAE) Laboratory was founded in 2012 and is located at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Centre Énergie, Matériaux, Télécommunications (INRS-EMT), in Montréal, QC, Canada. At the MuSAE Lab, we conduct inter-disciplinary research at the crossroads of human-computer interaction, multimedia signal processing, and neuroscience. Unlike technologies in existence today, the human brain has the ability to repair itself; make on-the-spot decisions; learn and adapt; and integrate multiple modalities, all whilst consuming the same amount of energy as an electric light bulb. Notwithstanding, despite the rapid development of neuroimaging technologies that have allowed us to better understand the inner workings of the brain, limited advances have been observed in translating such knowledge into anthropomorphic technologies. *We are conducting research to try to bridge this gap.*

## 2 Getting to Know the MuSAE Lab

### 2.1 Research Axes

We conduct research across three axes: anthropomorphic technologies, human-machine interfaces, and health

diagnostics. For the purpose of this paper, focus will be placed on the acoustics-related projects within these axes.

#### *B.1. Anthropomorphic multimedia technologies*

Audio quality (and quality-of-experience, QoE) perception plays a significant role in the acceptability of new services and technologies. As such, service providers and developers often conduct subjective opinion tests. Subjective tests, however, are very expensive and time-consuming, thus objective quality metrics are needed. Existing metrics, however, overlook the cognitive processing stage involved in the human quality judgment process and, instead, use statistical data mining on large amounts of subjectively scored data. Within this axis, we have paired neuroimaging with subjective listening tests in order to gain insight into the human quality and quality-of-experience perception processes for synthesized and noisy speech. We have also integrated human influence factors (e.g., affective states, attention) into music and speech QoE models. The interested reader is referred to representative references [1-3]; a more complete list is available at [4].

#### *B.2. Human-machine interaction (HMI)*

It is known that far-field voice activated HMIs suffer from detrimental room acoustics artifacts (e.g., reverberation and noise) and from varying vocal efforts. Within this axis, several subprojects exist, including i) environment-robust

speaker identification, ii) vocal-effort robust speaker verification, iii) blind room acoustics characterization, iv) objective speech quality assessment, and v) enhancement of bone-conducted speech. The interested reader is referred to [5-7] for representative works and [4] for a complete list.

### B.3. Health diagnostics

Within this axis, we have developed tools to i) diagnose autism risk in pre-verbal toddlers, ii) objectively characterize the intelligibility of dysarthric speakers, iii) tracheoesophageal speaker, and cochlear implant users, iv) characterize depression levels and v) enable hum-based assistive technologies. The interested reader is referred to [8-10] for representative works and [4] for a complete list.

## 2.2 Facilities and Available Equipment

Lab facilities feature a sound-proof data collection room with varying-size multimedia displays and an adjoining data analysis room with multi-core control and analysis PCs. Table 1 lists the equipment available in the MuSAE Lab.

**Table 1:** MuSAE Lab equipment list.

Category	Equipment	Manufacturer
Electroencephalography (EEG)	Active II (64-channel)	Biosemi
	Emotiv EEG	Emotiv
	Emotiv+	Emotiv
	MUSE	Interaxon
	Enobio (8-channel)	Neuroelectrics
Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS)	NIRScout (384 channels)	NIRx
	NIRSport (64 channels)	NIRx
Physiological signal monitors	Platinum sensor kit	Shimmer
	Q Sensor	Affectiva
	Hexoskin	Carré Technology
	Wireless BPM	iHealth
	Bioharness 3	Zephyr
Eye tracking	Eye Link 1000	SR Research
	ETG glasses	SMI
	EyeX	Tobii
Hearing assessment	AD629e audiometer	Interacoustics
Other	Kinect	Microsoft
	Rift Developer Kit	Oculus
	Ubi	UCIC
	Tesla K40 GPU	NVIDIA
	HD600 headphone	Sennheiser
	Saffire Pro 24 audio interface	Focusrite

## 2.3 Partnerships

Through partnerships with the McGill Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology, MuSAE Lab members have access to state-of-the-art recording facilities such as ITU-T standardized spatial audio labs, critical listening labs, and immersive presence labs. We also maintain a close relationship with several industry partners

to assure that our developed tools can positively impact society, both technologically and economically.

## 2.4 Open Science

We are strong believers in open science and research. As such, the majority of our developed software tools are posted online on Github (<https://github.com/MuSAELab/>) as open-source for others to use and modify for research purposes. Our objective speech quality metric, for example, was used in the 2014 IEEE REVERB (REverberant Voice Enhancement and Recognition Benchmark) Challenge.

## 3 Conclusions

The ultimate goal of this paper was to introduce the MuSAE Lab and highlight the available expertise with the hope of leading to new partnerships and collaborations with like-minded professionals (both academic and industry), working in allied and/or complementary areas, not only in the Montréal and Québec regions, but also across Canada and abroad. The interested reader is invited to visit the MuSAE Lab's website (<http://musaelab.ca>) for more details.

## Acknowledgment

The author wishes to acknowledge the support of NSERC, FQRNT, CFI, MDEIE, MELS, MEIE, Nuance Foundation, Google, NVIDIA, SYTACom, RQRV and DFATD.

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# THE ACOUSTICS TEAM OF LVM, A DIVISION OF ENGLOBE CORP.

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## 1. Introduction

Founded in Quebec in 1961, LVM, a Division of EnGlobe Corp., employs more than 1,600 people in 50 cities across the country. A leader in soil, materials and environmental engineering, the LVM team has developed an expertise in the acoustics and vibrations field.

Based in both Montreal and Quebec City, LVM's Acoustics Team has all the necessary experience and expertise to guide and assist its clientele by proposing innovative and economically feasible solutions, be it for noise control or improvement of acoustical quality.

## 2. Expertise

Our experts constantly strive to reduce the costs of implementing mitigation measures or modifying infrastructures when required. They can help with the preparation of noise-related regulations or be called on to lend their expertise in legal matters.

With this solid experience, LVM's dedicated team also offers an extensive range of integrated services including:

- Transportation noise control (road/highway, railway and airport)
- Acoustic and vibration surveys
- Modelling of indoor and outdoor sound propagation
- Architectural acoustic analysis
- Acoustic quality in residential and institutional settings
- Environmental noise management
- Industrial noise control
- Worker health
- Control and monitoring of construction site/works noise
- Mechanical noise control
- Optimization of public address (PA) and emergency call systems, etc.
- Legal expertise
- Assessment of noise pollution in terms of applicable regulations or criteria
- Urban acoustics (integration of acoustics in urban planning).

## 3. Architectural and Building Acoustics

### 3.1 Architectural Acoustics

Architectural acoustics deals with the comfort and quality of spaces. This is especially a concern in musical production and recording spaces. Using specialized commercial software dedicated to this purpose, it is possible to obtain a 3D model of spaces in order to optimize acoustical treatments aimed at achieving optimal listening conditions. Proof of the LVM team's skills in this area can be found in a number of recently completed projects, such as the new Montreal Planetarium, the Théâtre Banque Nationale in Chicoutimi, and several radio and recording studios.

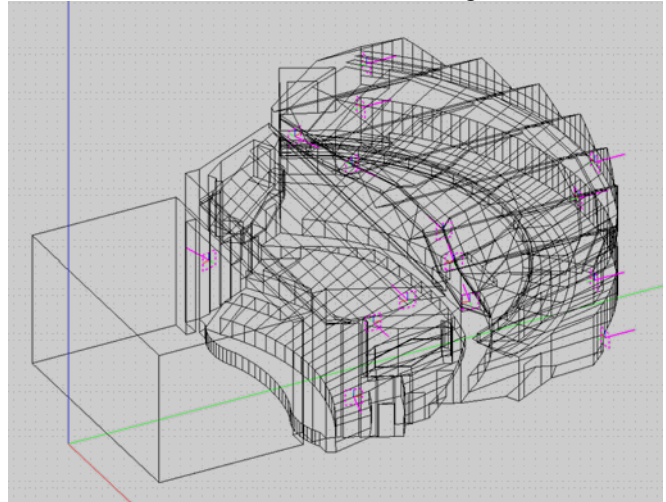


Figure 1: 3D Modelling (Ease™) of the Théâtre Banque National.

### 3.2 Building Acoustics

Building acoustics generally refers to residential, institutional or commercial type buildings. This branch of acoustics involves several elements, like mechanical and human activity noise control, soundproofing between spaces, environmental noise control (building in a noisy external environment), and intelligibility or confidentiality, and includes certain architectural acoustic aspects (classroom, auditorium, etc.) as well as PA systems (emergency call or communication systems). Our clientele are usually architects, developers, real estate managers, provincial and federal governments, etc.



## **4. Transportation Noise**

### **4.1 Highway and Road Noise**

These days, the population is increasingly concerned with the repercussions of road and highway traffic on the environment. In this context, the Quebec Ministry of Transportation (MTQ) adopted a highway and road noise policy in 1998, which clarified the Ministry's position on road/highway noise. The policy essentially favours two approaches to mitigating noise impact: a corrective approach to rectify the main noise pollution problems, and an integrated planning approach, which consists of taking the necessary measures to prevent noise pollution problems caused by road/highway traffic. The corrective approach aims to mitigate a problematic situation involving road noise in concert with the municipalities, by implementing corrective measures in zones where the external noise level is equal to or greater than 65 dBA ( $Leq_{24h}$ ). The costs of such mitigation measures will be shared equally by the affected municipalities. In the case of the integrated planning approach, the MTQ calls for a noise level of 55 dBA ( $Leq_{24h}$ ), which is generally recognized as an acceptable level for sensitive zones. When the noise impact from increased capacity of newly constructed or reconstructed roads/highways is deemed significant enough, the MTQ will ensure that noise mitigation measures are put in place in order to bring down projected sound levels to 55 dBA or as close to that level as possible.

LVM's Acoustics Team is a leader in terms of their extensive expertise related to road and highway noise impact assessment and control. They have worked on numerous projects for the MTQ throughout the province, and have been involved in such major ones as the new Turcot Interchange, the A19 extension, Notre-Dame Street in Montreal, and various others. Our expertise also extends to consulting, where we advise our clients with regard to property development, location of buildings and acoustical insulation of the building envelope for properties located along main traffic arteries.

### **4.2 Railway Noise**

In urban settings predominantly, the cohabitation between railroad activities (train tracks, yard, etc.) and residential neighbourhoods is often a major issue for municipalities, developers and railroad operations stakeholders. One thinks particularly of new housing developments near commuter train stations (transit-oriented development, or TOD) or along railway lines. For the past number of years, LVM's Acoustics Team has developed the right expertise for assessing the noise impact of such activities and advising their clients about the potential risks and possible mitigation measures.

### **4.3 Airport Noise**

Airport noise is generally a source of complaints from residents living along the airport periphery. LVM's Acoustics Team has worked on projects and developed innovative methods for assessing the impacts related to airport noise.

## **5. Environmental Noise Management**

According to Quebec's Environmental Quality Act (L.R.Q., chapter Q-2), a sound can be considered a type of contaminant. Usually considered a nuisance, noise is a major concern and has a direct impact on citizens' quality of life and, sometimes, their health. LVM's Acoustics Team has the skills to carry out predictive studies and compliance measures so as to minimize the noise impact within that environment. Noise management programs and noise monitoring during construction works can also be undertaken. These studies are chiefly of interest to industries, wind farm developers, businesses, institutions, contractors working for the MTQ, etc.

## **6. Industrial Noise Control**

Worker health is a key issue in industry. LVM has carried out several dosimetry measurement campaigns in order to assess the exposure of workers to noise, and the team can produce noise maps of noisy sectors. The Acoustics Team has all the necessary equipment to carry out noise surveys and modelling of noisy spaces, to enable them to propose effective corrective measures designed to reduce the ambient noise level within an industry, thereby reducing workers' exposure to such noise.

## **7. Urban Acoustics**

LVM's Acoustics Team has worked on numerous projects in collaboration with urban planners and municipalities, in order to integrate the acoustic element during urban sector redevelopment, development of specific construction standards near noisy sectors, and creation of public spaces, among other things.

## **8. Vibration Analysis**

LVM has the necessary seismographs and accelerometers to carry out various vibration measurements (i.e., assessment of vibration levels near railroad tracks, on construction sites, on vessels, etc.).

## **9. Conclusion**

LVM's highly qualified Acoustics Team has made a name in the industry thanks to their ability to offer a wide variety of acoustic and vibration studies as well as informed guidance during all steps of the client consultation process.

# THE TINNITUS AND HYPERACUSIS RESEARCH LABORATORY: FROM BASIC MECHANISMS TO CLINICAL INTERVENTION

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## Résumé

Cet article présente le Laboratoire de recherche sur les Acouphènes et l'Hyperacousie établi à l'Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada. Nos intérêts de recherche couvrent le domaine des sciences de l'audition allant des mécanismes fondamentaux impliqués dans la perception de la sonie jusqu'aux études d'intervention pour les acouphènes et l'hyperacousie. La compréhension des interactions sensorielles et centrales est une caractéristique essentielle de notre programme de recherche. Notre laboratoire possède des équipements et une expertise uniques pour étudier le système auditif de la cochlée jusqu'au cerveau.

**Mots clés :** Acouphène, Hyperacousie, Sonie, cochlée, cerveau, système auditif, facteurs non-auditifs

## Abstract

This paper introduces the Tinnitus and Hyperacusis Research Laboratory established at the Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada. Our research interests span the auditory science domain from basic mechanisms of loudness perception to intervention studies for tinnitus and hyperacusis. Understanding peripheral sensory-central interactions is a hallmark of our research program. Our laboratory has unique facilities and expertise to investigate the auditory system from cochlea to brain.

**Keywords:** Tinnitus, Hyperacusis, loudness perception, sensory-central interactions, cochlea, brain

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## 1 Introduction

The Tinnitus and Hyperacusis Research Laboratory (<http://www.brams.umontreal.ca/labohebert/en/>) is nested within the International Laboratory for Brain, Music, and Sound Research located at Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada, which is jointly affiliated to Université de Montréal and McGill University. We conduct fundamental and clinical research related to tinnitus and hyperacusis, and develop instruments to better characterize normal hearing as well as hearing pathologies.

## 2 Research themes

Our research focuses on two hearing problems increasingly recognized as major public health issues, namely tinnitus and hyperacusis, and their co-morbidities. Tinnitus – defined as a sound perceived in the ears or head in the absence of an external sound source – presents with variable pitch (humming, whistling) and loudness (soft or loud) qualities. Tinnitus affects approximately 10 to 12 % of the general population, with prevalence rates increasing up to about 30% after age 50 [1] and even higher among workers with occupational hearing loss. Our laboratory develops psychoacoustical methods to better characterize tinnitus [2, 3], in order to improve its diagnosis and study how the tinnitus percept is modified by intervention.

Although tinnitus is well tolerated by most of the affected people, 1 to 2 % experience severe distress. Why this is so is poorly understood. The notion that non-auditory factors play a critical role in tinnitus-related distress is a central theme of our research program, emphasizing the

necessity of distinguishing between the sensory (percept) and affective (distress) dimensions of tinnitus. The lack of correlations between the psychoacoustic loudness of tinnitus and distress shown in our work [3] and previous ones [4] is consistent with this idea. Accordingly, our research also focuses on tinnitus co-morbidities such as stress [5-7] and sleep problems [8, 9], and how they can either modulate or be modulated, by the presence of tinnitus- a typical (and intriguing) chicken and egg conundrum.

Hyperacusis is defined as abnormally excessive intolerance to common sounds in the environment, in spite of normal or near-normal hearing. For instance, a hyperacusis sufferer cannot tolerate certain sounds perceived as normal by others, nor tolerate noisy environments. In other words, the person becomes hypersensitive to, and behaviourally ill affected by environmental sounds. Remarkably, there is no consensus concerning the prevalence of hyperacusis, partly because of a lack of objective criteria and variable definition from one study to another.

We have shown that individuals with tinnitus, even the ones displaying normal audiograms, are more sensitive to sounds than individuals without tinnitus [2], suggesting shared mechanisms for tinnitus and hyperacusis; avowedly, there would be a need to consider some pathophysiological differences since hyperacusis can also present without tinnitus. Hyperacusis is at times distinguished from misophonia- a hatred for specific sounds -, and phonophobia – a fear of sound. However, misophonia and phonophobia are ill defined in terms of their symptomatology, nosology (psychiatric *versus* neurological), and pathophysiology.

Tinnitus and hyperacusis can be viewed as pathologies of loudness perception, which is the attribute of an auditory percept that can be ordered on a scale from quiet to loud. Although the main determinant of loudness is sound intensity, its normal perception can be modulated by non-auditory factors as well as acoustic conditions [see 10 for a recent review]; we are therefore interested in exploring how normal loudness is encoded in the brain and how it can be modulated in normal hearing listeners. In order to better understand the mechanisms of normal loudness, tinnitus and hyperacusis, and to plan intervention studies, our laboratory recruits highly qualified people from a wide range of disciplines: we recruit and welcome graduate students with an Audiology, Neuroscience, Psychology, Music, Engineering, and Life Sciences background.

### 3 Available Equipment

Laboratory facilities include highest quality audiological clinical equipment, custom-made devices developed over the years, as well as equipment and software used to produce and analyze sound, study physiological responses, and conduct non-invasive brain stimulation.

A quite unique feature of the laboratory is the audiological testing suite allowing the assessment of hearing function from periphery to cortex. Table 1 summarizes the available equipment and assessed hearing functions.

Several specific in-house devices have been developed to conduct research on loudness, tinnitus, and hyperacusis – some of which are the object of exploratory knowledge transfer endeavours with private partners. One such device assesses the spectrum and loudness of tinnitus with a high degree of test-retest reliability [3, 11], an indispensable instrument for conducting intervention studies that target the sound of tinnitus. Another device under development in our laboratory is the psychophysical adaptive task measuring loudness function growth to assess loudness perception [2] using the Tucker-Davis Technology-3 system, a real-time signal processing system.

Through the BRAMS there is on-site access to five BIOPAC mobile systems for the recording of physiological responses such as respiration heart rate, galvanic skin response, five 64-channel BioSemi EEG systems for high-density recording of electrical brain activity, and non-invasive brain stimulation devices such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and transcranial direct current stimulation (TDCS). This is only an overview of the available equipment. The whole list of available equipment at the BRAMS is available at <http://www.grams.org/en/equipment/>.

### 4 Conclusions

The auditory system and its disturbances provide a unique heuristic vista to explore the relationships between sensory inputs and central processing. Our studies are based on the hypothesis that tinnitus (and hyperacusis) develops from central maladaptive responses thriving on the substratum of disturbed peripheral hearing abilities.

**Table 1:** Equipment to assess hearing function from cochlea to brain.

Equipment	Tests
Interacoustics AC40 clinical audiometer (calibrated yearly to norms) in soundproof clinical booth	Audiometric tests (free field or headphones)
Otoscope	Ear canal and middle ear
IL 0292 USB-2 – Otodynamics Ltd	Inner ear function: spontaneous otoacoustic emissions and distortive product growth of otoacoustic emissions
Interacoustics Titan tympanometry device	Middle-ear and tympanum function
Bio-Logic commercial system in two electrically shielded booths (+ EEG technician)	Auditory brainstem responses (short and middle latencies)
Larson Davis sound level meters, AEC101 artificial ear, earphones (insert, open-set, closed set)	Sound level measurement and calibration
Ear impression and fitting workstation	Fitting hearing aids, noise generators, custom-made earplugs

### Acknowledgments

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## ENGINEERING AND ACOUSTIC DESIGN EXPERTS

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### Abstract

Stantec is a Canadian engineering consulting firm with more than 15 000 employees working in over 250 offices mainly located in North America. Over 35 acoustics professionals regularly share their knowledge and innovations in Canada and the United States, allowing us to offer customers innovative and economically viable solutions. For over 20 years, Stantec (previously Dessau) has offered acoustics services in Quebec.

**Keywords:** acoustics, noise, assessment, mitigation, public-address system, intelligibility.

### Résumé

Stantec est une firme de conception qui compte plus de 15 000 employés oeuvrant dans plus de 250 bureaux répartis principalement en Amérique du Nord. L'entreprise regroupe plus de 35 professionnels travaillant en acoustique au Canada et aux États-Unis, qui partagent régulièrement entre eux leurs expertises et innovations, ce qui lui permet de proposer à sa clientèle des solutions innovatrices et économiquement viables. Depuis plus de 20 ans, Stantec (anciennement Dessau) offre des services en acoustique au Québec.

**Mots clefs :** acoustique, bruit, expertise, atténuation, sonorisation, intelligibilité.

Stantec offers acoustics services in various fields:

- ✓ Roadway, railway, aerial and industrial noise control and assessments;
- ✓ HVAC noise control;
- ✓ Architectural acoustics and soundproofing;
- ✓ Enhanced sound insulation of building envelope;
- ✓ Room acoustics optimization, reverberation control, intelligibility enhancement;
- ✓ On-site noise readings;
- ✓ Noise level calculation and prediction using computer simulations (software TNM, CadnaA, Ease, etc.);
- ✓ Guidance and recommendations;
- ✓ Design of mitigation measures ;
- ✓ Preparation of plans and specifications;
- ✓ Legal expertise;
- ✓ Drafting noise regulations.

Most of our projects are located in the Montreal area. Our major clients are the Quebec Ministry of Transport (MTQ), the *Agence métropolitaine de transport* (AMT), the *Société des transports de Montréal* (STM), municipalities, industries, architects, real estate developers and road infrastructure contractors

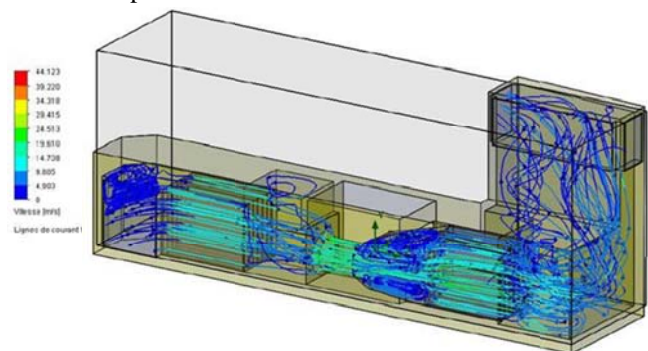
A brief overview of some of Stantec's acoustical projects follow.

### Réno-Systèmes– Ventilation stations

For 10 years, Stantec's (previously Dessau) acoustics team has been working in consortium with the STM in the *Réno-Système* project office, dedicated to the modernization of fixed equipment in the Montreal metro.

One of the *Réno-Systèmes* projects, was the renewal of several ventilation stations over 25 years old. Located in the tunnels between the subway stations, these ventilation stations have two 100 000+ cfm fans supplying or extracting air to or from the subway tunnels. The ventilation shafts are usually located behind residential buildings, so the major challenge is to ensure that shaft noise levels fully comply with Montreal noise limits.

To that end, we designed large-high performance silencers (approx. 3m x 3m x 5m), and monitor the execution and worksite supervision.



### Réno-Systèmes– Stations public-address system

Another *Réno-Systèmes* project was the metro stations public-address systems (PAS). Montreal metro stations architecture seriously hinders the PAS acoustical performance (reflective surfaces, complex volume, etc.). Stantec proposed a new public-address system which provides better intelligibility of the messages for both customers and staff.



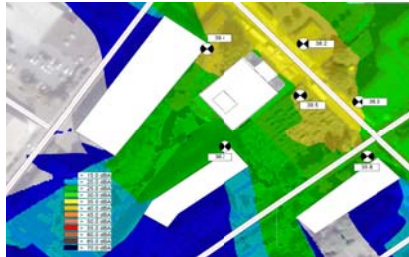
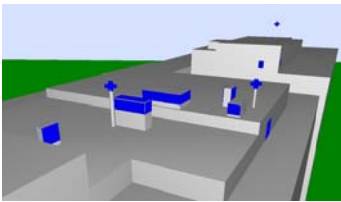
## Réno-Systèmes project– Control center

Stantec assisted mechanical engineers and architects in the lay out of the new control center to integrate acoustic aspects in the building design and equipment selection. Severe noise criteria as well as the installation of a 1 500 kW generator and a mechanical room just below the control room, required a particular attention to acoustics.

Stantec also defined the NC criteria in the control room and other working spaces, recommended architectural treatments in the control room for an optimum reverberation time, recommended the partitions noise insulation and the HVAC treatments.

## Projects – Environmental noise assessments

These projects assess the noise produced primarily by industries and verify their compliance with the noise levels recommended by the *Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques* (MDDELCC). Using on-site noise readings, a computer simulation evaluates the contribution of each sound source (dryers, chimneys, dust collectors, etc.) at several locations. Subsequently, Stantec recommends measures to reduce the noise from the main sound sources.



For example, the construction of a test cell for industrial gas turbines by Rolls Royce Canada in an urban area required careful management of the noise emissions to meet the noise criteria in Montreal and Verdun. The facility included a test cell for industrial gas turbines, a natural gas compressor, a 120 kW transformer substation, a room for auxiliary equipment, a control room and administrative offices. Noise control was one of the major challenges of this project.



## Roadway noise projects

In the field of roadway noise, Stantec's expertise is well known in Quebec. Over thirty noise pollution studies or noise impact assessments were conducted for the MTQ. Stantec carries out studies, recommends mitigation measures and works with the ministry at the *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* (BAPE) or at citizen consultations. Stantec works on, among others, the project to rebuild the Turcot Interchange (see pictures below) and the modernization of the Notre-Dame boulevard in Montreal.



## Railroad noise projects

Stantec has had the privilege to participate in several related to railroad and marshalling yard noise projects.

- ✓ Noise impact assessment of the new 12 km suburban railway between Mascouche and Charlemagne. Project submitted to the BAPE proceedings.
- ✓ Assessment of the noise levels produced by the Charny marshalling yard and recommendations of mitigation measures for residential, commercial and industrial developments in adjacent areas.
- ✓ Assessment of the noise produced by a suburban railway based on the new noise and vibrations proximity guidelines of the Canadian Transportation Agency.
- ✓ Noise impact assessment of the East Junction staging– a 90 degrees crossover - between the Saint-Laurent and Deux-Montagne railways (see pictures below).



- ✓ Study of the electrification of the AMT railway routes. This project assessed the noise benefits of changing the energy source for trains from diesel locomotives to electrical power.

# ACOUSTIC IMAGING AND SOUND MAPPING OF MINING AND TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES

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## Résumé

À la demande de la clientèle de Soft dB, de nouvelles méthodes ont été développées pour communiquer efficacement les résultats des mesures acoustiques. Ces méthodes réduisent le temps de mesure, d'analyse, d'explication des résultats et améliorent nettement la compréhension des clients, permettant ainsi des prises de décision rapide. Dans cet article, deux concepts innovants sont présentés : 1) le système *I-track* d'imagerie acoustique par intensimétrie utilisé pour mesurer rapidement la puissance sonore d'une source et localiser les zones les plus bruyantes de véhicules ou machines; 2) une méthode de mesures de multiples sources instationnaires, transmises en temps réel à un serveur par un réseau sans fil, ces mesures servent ensuite à générer des cartographies de bruit automatiques disponibles sur une page web en quelques secondes. Le feedback des clients est extrêmement positif à l'égard de ces nouvelles techniques. Une image vaut mille mots.

**Mots clefs :** Bruit, mine, véhicules, contrôle, imagerie, cartographie

## Abstract

In responding to the needs of our clients, Soft dB Inc. has developed innovative techniques for communicating the results of acoustical measurements. We have found that using these techniques reduce the time required for measurement and analysis, reduce the explanations necessary during reporting, and accelerates the client's understanding and decision-making process. We present two of our most successful concepts. In the first technique, the *I-track* sound intensity imaging system is used to both measure quickly the sound power output, and precisely localise the source of noise on various vehicles and equipment. In the second technique, multiple sound levels are remotely measured next to site with varying sound sources. The measurements are transmitted in real-time to a server, which then generates a noise map for the adjacent town, viewable online within seconds by the clients. Client feedback to these new presentational techniques is extremely positive; an image can say a thousand words.

**Keywords:** Noise, mining, vehicles, control, imaging, sound-mapping

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## 1 Introduction

Non-technical clients can often find large acoustical studies overwhelming, especially those reports evaluating the production of noise from multiple sound sources across mining, refining or industrial sites. At the same time, clients typically want their studies done as quickly as possible, with minimal disruption to activities on site and to the highest possible accuracy.

*Soft dB* has both an acoustical consultancy division and an acoustical instrument production division. Our equipment & software engineers often work together with our consultants, to continually find ways of simplifying data acquisition, processing and ultimately the presentation to clients and stakeholders.

In this paper, we present two of the new techniques we have developed and refined in Quebec that have proved particularly successful.

## 2 New Techniques

### 2.1 *I-track* sound intensity imaging

The *I-track* sound intensity imaging system developed by *Soft dB* combines a class 1 sound intensity probe, an HD camera, and visual tracking software to create sound intensity and sound power images in real-time. A military-grade laptop and cabling permits use in the most rugged of conditions. Here, we demonstrate two such applications that facilitate efficient acoustical consultancy:

#### Mining equipment

In this study, a client had requested the noise evaluation of all the individual noise sources within an open-cast mine (50+ noise sources), and the noise control solutions available for each source. Creating these solutions required the identification of the main components creating the noise within each source.

Using the *I-track* system allowed for the onsite derivation of the principal individual sound sources (drill, drill shaft, fans, and engine). It also allowed for the instantaneous calculation of both the individual sound power outputs of each component, and the total sound power output

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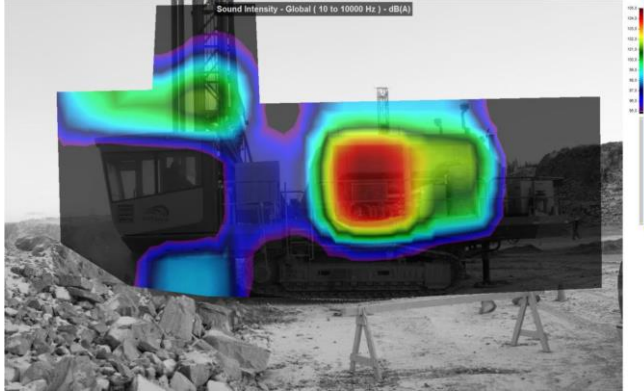
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of the as a whole. Because of the optical tracking of the probe, no dimensional measurements are required. Similarly, the speed of the probe movement and the scanning path are not a factor as this is automatically accounted for by the system, unlike standard sound power measurements.

As an example, an *I-track* scan output from mobile drill rig is presented in Figure 1:



**Figure 1:** Sound Intensity imagery from drill rig.

In all, measuring five sides of this piece of equipment took approximately 1 hour, with the majority of the analysis work, including the sound power calculations, having been done by the system during the measurement process.

Compared to the alternative methods of investigations considered, using the *I-track* system accelerated both the measurement of the individual sources and significantly shortened the analysis time required. Upon receiving the images, the clients were able instantly understand the sources requiring treatment, and to what extent. Conducting the same scans after noise control treatments had been applied allowed the client to visually gauge the effectiveness of the solutions and compare the difference the solutions had made.

### Transportation vehicles

The same technique has been used recently on transit buses to identify the sources of noise and routes of transmission for the sound affecting the passenger seating areas. The *I-track* system has found to be particularly useful for enclosed areas where beamforming antennas/cameras are often affected by resonant sound build-up.

During three hours of assessment driving around a test track, the *I-track* was used to scan the various structural components of the bus and quantify the sound power from each part. After creating a hierarchy of the sound sources on-site for the disturbing frequency range, the problem was localised to a vertical members at the back of the bus and the panels beneath the rear seats transmitting structure-borne noise from the engine. Recommendations were made to suitably isolate the engine, to the satisfaction of the client.

### 2.2 Real-time noise map creation

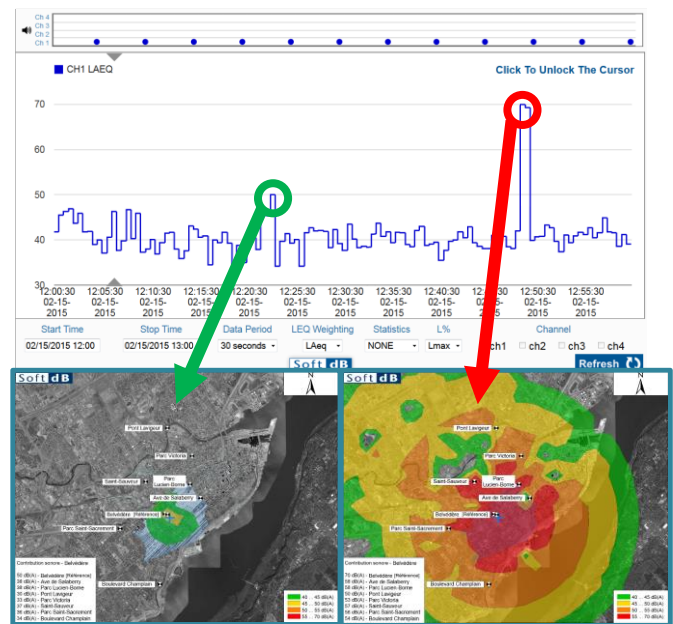
Noise maps are a useful tool for improving client understanding sound propagation from noise sources. However, their generation can take anywhere from a few

minutes to several days. At the same time, clients are increasingly requesting the continuous monitoring of noise sources that have the potential to disturb adjacent areas. In a recent project, we developed a method to communicate more effectively the results of the continuous remote monitoring of noise sources with the automated, real-time generation of noise maps.

We placed an array of continuously monitoring sound level meters around the site under investigation. The sources on site are in fixed positions, but vary significantly in sound output throughout the day. The sound level data and meteorological conditions are wireless transmitted from the measurement stations to a central server. A CADNA-A noise map is then automatically and instantly produced.

The automated generation of the noise maps is possible because the map is actually selected from a bank of pre-existing maps that have been modelled and stored on the server for each meteorological condition and each possible sound level at each receiving position.

On a privately accessible web-page, the client can view the continually updated history of sound pressure levels for a single measurement station in the centre of the site, as well as the corresponding noise map, as shown in Figure 2:



**Figure 2:** On-line viewing of automatically generated sound maps from remotely measured sound data (demo version available at [http://www.softdb.com/noise-monitoring\\_beta.php](http://www.softdb.com/noise-monitoring_beta.php)).

The client can then click on any period in the time trace to view the noise map, and accompanying video and audio for that period. The satisfied client has now been using this system to monitor sound output for over two years.

### 3 Conclusions

By using new presentational techniques, large volumes of complex acoustical measurements can be rapidly analysed by the consultant, and be efficiently communicated to clients. Client feedback to these new presentational techniques is extremely positive; an image can say a thousand words.



# UNIQUE RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN ACOUSTICS AND VIBRATION AT GROUPE D'ACOUSTIQUE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE (GAUS)

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## Résumé

Cet article présente les ressources humaines et les infrastructures disponibles au Groupe d'Acoustique de l'Université de Sherbrooke (GAUS) situé à Sherbrooke, QC, pour la recherche et le développement dans le domaine de l'acoustique. Le GAUS a été fondé en 1984 par Jean Nicolas et est aujourd'hui reconnu à travers le monde comme un groupe de recherche incontournable dans le domaine de l'acoustique et des vibrations, avec une équipe d'environ 60 personnes. L'expertise, l'infrastructure et quelques exemples d'applications sont présentés dans cet article.

**Mots clés :** acoustique, vibrations, contrôle, ultrasons

## Abstract

This paper presents the human resources and infrastructure available at Groupe d'Acoustique de l'Université de Sherbrooke (GAUS) located in Sherbrooke, QC, for research and development in acoustics. GAUS was founded by Jean Nicolas in 1984 and is now recognized worldwide as one of the leading research groups in acoustics and vibration, with a team of around 60 people. The expertise, infrastructure and examples of applications of the work conducted are shown in this paper.

**Keywords:** acoustics, vibration, control, ultrasounds

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## 1 Introduction

Since its inception, Groupe d'Acoustique de l'Université de Sherbrooke (GAUS) [1] has established itself as a leading research group in acoustics and vibration, with recognized expertise, comprehensive infrastructure and unique approach in terms of internal and external collaborations, and graduate education [2]. Part of its success lies in the fine balance that GAUS has always achieved between fundamental and applied research. The expertise available at GAUS is briefly outlined, together with the unique infrastructure, and a few examples of applications.

## 2 Expertise

A strong and wide expertise has been developed at GAUS in the field of acoustics and vibration. The modeling expertise covers numerical simulation tools for noise control materials (Atalla and Panneton), analytical and numerical simulation tools in both vibroacoustics (Berry, Atalla) and ultrasonics (Masson and Micheau). The experimental expertise covers acoustic materials characterization tools (Panneton and Atalla), noise and vibration performance evaluation of complex structures (Champoux and Atalla), 3D laser vibrometry (Masson), acoustic imaging and spatial sound field reproduction (Berry), and implementation of arrays of ultrasonic transducers (Masson and Micheau). The control expertise covers active noise and vibration control (Berry,

Masson and Micheau), transducers design and fabrication (Masson), system identification and control (Micheau).

## 3 Infrastructure

GAUS has laboratory facilities which are unique in Canada, allowing research and development work to be conducted in acoustics, vibrations, vibroacoustics, aeroacoustics and ultrasonics. Through major funding obtained recently from government agencies (CFI, MELS and MDEIE) and from private partners, GAUS extended its laboratories with a new anechoic room coupled to a wind tunnel and a Wave Field Synthesis facility (Fig. 1).

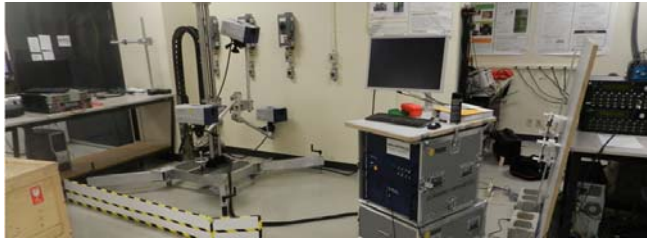


**Figure 1:** Laboratories at GAUS: anechoic room coupled to a wind tunnel (top) and Wave Field Synthesis room (bottom).

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**Figure 2:** Equipment at GAUS: microphone array (top) and 3D scanning laser vibrometer (bottom).

Significant pieces of equipment were also recently added to an already extensive set of excitation and measurement tools, such as a powerful hydraulic shaker, a 196-microphone array, low and high frequency multi-channel acquisition systems, and a 3D laser vibrometer (Fig.2). All this enables GAUS researchers to tackle large-scale acoustics and vibration problems found in the transportation industry. As active members of *Calcul Canada*, GAUS researchers have also access to a platform of unequalled computing power in Canada.

## 4 Applications

The unique set of expertise and infrastructure has been used in both fundamental and applied research work, and has positioned GAUS as a pioneer and active player in large research networks such as in AUTO21 (leader of three projects in acoustics and vibrations for automobile applications), or in the CRIAQ (leader of six projects in acoustics or ultrasonics for aerospace applications). Industrial partnership has always played an important role, through collaborative projects and contracts with industry. Although partnerships have covered a wide range of applications, the transportation area has been of special interest over the past few years. In this respect, GAUS hosted two NSERC Industrial Chair positions in “Aviation Acoustics” (in partnership with Bombardier Aerospace, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Bell Helicopter Textron Canada, from 2009 to 2014 (chair holders : Nouredine Atalla and Alain Berry).

For example, noise and vibration control strategies have been developed using passive approaches with acoustic materials [3] or advanced structural design [4], or using active and semi-active approaches, both in acoustics [5] or vibrations [6]. Techniques have been developed for noise sources identification and reproduction [7], and efforts have been put forward to launch GAUS into sustainable acoustics [8].

Structural health monitoring strategies using guided ultrasonic waves have been developed within the CRIAQ, NSERC or contract projects. For example, dedicated

transducers have been designed [9], and advanced damage imaging techniques have been proposed [10].

## 5 Conclusion

For more than 30 years, GAUS has achieved international recognition, for its expertise, its infrastructure and its unique approach in terms of internal and external collaborations, and graduate education. GAUS has always tried to balance fundamental and applied research. Major contributions to fundamental knowledge in acoustics and vibrations have been achieved. Industrial partnership has always played an important role, through collaborative projects and contracts with industry.

In the future, GAUS aims to maintain and improve its track record by fulfilling the following missions in the diverse aspects of acoustics and vibrations: 1) contribute by research to the improvement of leading-edge knowledge, 2) train engineers and qualified researchers, 3) insure knowledge transfer to industry and public sector, and offer practical and innovative solutions.

## Acknowledgements

GAUS researchers would like to acknowledge the funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the *Fonds de Recherche du Québec – Natures et Technologies* (FRQNT), the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the *Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et des Exportations* (MEIE), and the *Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de la Science* (MESRS).

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# NOISE IMPACT - WIND FARMS IN QUEBEC

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## Résumé

La filiale éolienne de la production énergétique au Québec, a été créée véritablement à la fin des années 90, avec la mise en service du parc Le Nordais dans la région de la Gaspésie. Au fil des différents appels d'offre lancés par Hydro-Québec, société d'État chargée de la fourniture d'énergie, la production éolienne a augmenté graduellement pour atteindre une capacité installée de près de 2900 MW. Au Québec, les projets industriels, desquels font partie les parcs éoliens, doivent selon certains paramètres, faire l'objet d'études d'impact et d'audiences publiques. Malgré que cette forme de production d'énergie soit qualifiée de verte, les projets éoliens ont rencontré de l'opposition fondée notamment sur le bruit, ayant mené à l'abandon de certains des projets. Des membres du personnel du groupe acoustique et vibration de SNC-Lavalin inc., ont été impliqués depuis le tout début de cette filiale énergétique et ont su développer une expertise unique au Québec, au niveau de la caractérisation de la situation initiale, la modélisation, la vulgarisation des aspects techniques lors des audiences publiques, la surveillance lors des travaux de construction et finalement, lors du suivi en phase d'exploitation.

**Mots clefs :** bruit, infrason, syndrome éolien, parc éolien

## Abstract

The wind energy branch of power production in Quebec was truly created at the end of the 1990's, with the commissioning of the Le Nordais wind farm in the Gaspésie region of Quebec. Throughout various tenders issued by Hydro-Québec, the Crown corporation responsible for the supply of energy, wind generation has increased gradually to reach an installed capacity of nearly 2,900 MW. In Quebec, industrial projects (including wind farms) must be the subject of impact assessments and public hearings, according to certain parameters. Although this is a green form of energy production, wind farm projects have met with opposition on the basis of noise, which has led to the abandonment of some projects. The noise and vibration personnel at SNC-Lavalin Inc. have been involved in the Quebec's wind energy branch since its beginnings and have developed a unique expertise in Quebec in terms of their ability to characterize a wind farm's initial situation, perform noise modeling, popularize technical aspects of the project at public hearings, to monitor during construction, and finally to monitor during the operational phase.

**Keywords:** noise, infrasound, wind turbine syndrome, wind farm

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## 1 Introduction

Most of the energy produced in the province of Quebec (Canada) comes from renewable sources. Among these renewable sources, wind energy started to become more prominent in the late 1990's, with the project *Énergie Le Nordais* [1]. Now there are more than 30 wind farms in Quebec either in operation or in development.

Wind farms are generally seen as a good sustainable way to produce energy. However, their construction and operation are not without some alleged impact on the environment, including the impacts of noise and vibration.

SNC-Lavalin Inc. and its staff has been a key player in noise impact assessments for the majority of wind farms in operation in Quebec, since the first project.

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## 2 Noise impact assessment overview

Industrial projects in Quebec which have the potential to emit contaminants into the environment must go through a process of assessment and verification of their impacts, including noise. Furthermore, if reasonably requested by a person, a group or a municipality, the minister of the environment asks for public hearings to be held with regards to the project's potential environmental impacts.

The most stringent provincial noise criteria in Quebec (during nighttime and in low density of occupation lands), is 40 dBA  $L_{Aeq1hr}$ , with corrective terms added if applicable. [2]

The following paragraphs give an overview of the history of noise impact assessments for wind farms in Quebec.

For the first wind farm project (Le Nordais), no comprehensive noise modeling was performed at the impact assessment stage. Wind turbines were presented to be noise

emitters only in windy conditions, and that noise produced by the wind itself would mask the noise from the turbines. Despite this indication, it was required for the developer to implement a noise survey to determine, among other things, the presence of infrasound.

For a later project in early 2000 (Murdocville), a noise model was prepared during the environmental impact assessment stage, using the dominant wind direction and average wind speeds over the year as inputs. It must be mentioned that the ministry of Environment in Quebec does not give any specific directives regarding the noise modeling, and is still the case at the time of this writing.

For the next project (in the Gaspésie region), a more general approach was used. Site-specific considerations for wind speed and direction were discarded and the ISO 9613-2 methodology was adopted (e.g. all receivers are downwind from all wind turbines). The presence of wooded areas was also taken into account, and the parameter G for the ground effect was assumed to be 1 (soft and sound absorbing).

Following this project, SNC-Lavalin conducted a comprehensive noise survey, including long term noise measurements both inside and outside dwellings in proximity to a wind farm, along with long term ground vibration measurements both at a dwelling and at the nearest wind turbine.

This survey shows that apprehension expressed by some inhabitants regarding vibrations produced by wind turbines were not correlated with actual quantitative onsite vibration measurements. It also provided the opportunity to better establish which parameters are most important for a noise model for wind farms.

All noise models produced for subsequent projects conducted by SNC-Lavalin Inc. have taken into account these adjustments. A more accurate prediction of anticipated noise levels due to wind farms allows developers to better determine their wind turbine layouts and reduce possible issues regarding noise criteria and complaints.

### 3 Noise surveys during the operational phase

The ministry of environment in Quebec asks for noise surveys on all wind farm projects for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> year after commissioning. This is not a general request from the ministry for all types of industrial projects. For the primary projects, only short term measurements (1 hour) were taken when the wind turbines were considered to be at full power. It was quickly observed that it was very difficult to use weather forecasts to determine when the turbine production rate would be at 100%, and thus when to perform the survey. A 24 hour sampling was then adopted, which was further increased to 2 weeks.

To get the most out of the measurements, recent surveys include portable weather stations, special wind screens on

the microphones, and digital audio recorders (if not already included in the sound level meter). In some remote locations, standalone stations which are remotely accessible and have been developed by SNC-Lavalin Inc., were used.

## 4 Public Hearings

SNC-Lavalin inc. has participated in a great number of public hearings over the years on wind farm projects.

The main concerns raised by the public were on the noise level itself (e.g. misunderstanding of the difference between sound power level and sound pressure level, which occurs both among the public as well as some ministry representatives), the dose effect curve specific for wind farms (as preliminarily determined in a Swedish study[3]), infrasound and its numerous alleged effects on the health of humans and farm animals, and the misleading statement that wind turbines are always masked by the wind.

The social acceptability of projects is also an issue, given the fact that some aspects of wind farm energy in Quebec are not well perceived by the public (subsidies, energy surplus, visual impact, private interest vs. public).

## 5 Conclusion

The wind farm industry has evolved since its first project in Quebec, on many aspects including noise impact assessment and measurements.

SNC-Lavalin inc. has been a key player in this evolution, and is involved in many other areas of acoustics related to transportation, construction, architecture, and industry.

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# MJM ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANTS INC.

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## Résumé

MJM CONSEILLERS EN ACOUSTIQUE INC. est un bureau de consultation fondé au printemps 1984 par son actuel président, l'architecte Michel Morin, qui possède 36 ans d'expérience en acoustique et en contrôle du bruit. MJM, dont l'équipe est constituée de 3 à 5 conseillers, s'est fait connaître par le nombre et la variété des **projets** auxquels il a participé, par les projets de **recherche** en acoustique et en contrôle du bruit qu'il a menés à terme et dont les comptes-rendus ont été distribués à travers le monde, ainsi que par le **support technique** qu'il procure aux industries désireuses d'améliorer la performance acoustique des biens qu'elles produisent. MJM fournit des **recommandations claires** qui peuvent être mises en place facilement à l'aide de **matériaux courants** le plus souvent **disponibles chez plusieurs fournisseurs de matériaux**.

**Mots clefs :** conseil, acoustique, Montréal, contrôle, bruit

## Abstract

MJM ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANTS INC. is a consulting firm practicing in Montreal since 1984. Its founder, architect Michel Morin brings over 36 years of experience in acoustical consulting in the private sector. MJM, whose team is composed of 3 to 5 consultants, is known for the number and variety of **projects** in which it has participated, for the **research** projects in acoustics and noise control which it has undertaken and whose reports have been distributed worldwide, as well as for the **technical support** it delivers to industries wishing to improve the acoustical performance of their products. MJM provides **clear recommendations** which in most instances can be easily put into place using **commonly available materials** distributed by **a large number of suppliers**.

**Keywords:** consulting, acoustics, Montreal, noise, control

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## 1 Introduction

In 1979, a few months after graduating from the School of Architecture of University of Montreal, Michel Morin starts his career at Barron and Associates, which was at the time the largest acoustic consulting firm in Canada. While at the employment of Barron and Associates in Vancouver B.C., Mr. Morin has been responsible for the acoustics and noise control of the Edmonton and the Calgary Convention Centre, the acoustical site survey of Expo 86, the impact study of the B.C. Place amphitheater on the neighbouring residential development, and many other projects. In April 1984, Mr Morin returns to Montreal, becomes a registered member of the Ordre des Architectes du Québec and founds MJM ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANTS.

## 2 Services & projects

MJM Acoustical Consultants provides measurement and consulting services that cover all aspects of acoustics and noise control related to buildings and environment, and most aspects related to industrial noise control.

Since its foundation more than 30 years ago, MJM has participated in construction projects varied in nature and in

size whose value ranges from 20,000.00 \$ to 480M\$. Among some projects of importance are:

- The **Bell Center** (originally the Molson Center): acoustics and noise control for this complex containing a 21,500 seats amphitheater, the television studios and a 7 storeys office tower; la Place Bell in Laval (10,000 seats amphitheater, 2,500 seats Olympic rink and a community rink).
- Several **auditoriums and theaters** among which the Baie-Comeau auditorium (900 seats), the Theater des Deux Rives (800 seats), the Dell'Arte complex, Saydie Bronfman theater and the auditorium of the FACE Music School.
- **Teaching facilities** such as the College G erald-Godin, the Formation Center of the Government of Canada, l' cole Nationale d'A rotchnique, Pavillon Lassonde de l' cole Polytechnique de Montr al, l'Aile "Z" de l'Universit  de Montr al.
- The LEED certified Phi Center dedicated to the **production and diffusion of audio-visual arts**, located in Old Montreal; the renovation of the Mus e des Beaux-Arts de Montr al (Pavillon Jean-Noel Desmarais), the Concordia University library, and the



**libraries** of the Cities of Outremont and Dollard des Ormeaux.

- Environmental noise studies for several residential, institutional and commercial sites among which l'îlot Balmoral, le Centre de Recherche du CHUM (tours St-Antoine et Viger), Tour des Canadiens, Place L'Acadie, 1800 René-Levesque Ouest.
- **Speech privacy and acoustic comfort in the offices** of Hydro-Quebec (four buildings totaling 1M ft<sup>2</sup>), Canadian National Railways (500,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), Provigo, executive offices of the Federal Bank of Development, Bombardier, IBM.
- Acoustics and noise control for **institutional and commercial projects** such as the Research Center of the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (480 M\$); the New Bell Campus at Nun's Island (250 M\$, 840,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), the Cité du Commerce Électronique (two office towers 150 M\$), Place Montreal Trust (200 M\$), 1250 René-Lévesque Ouest (200 M\$), Air Canada Head Office building in Dorval.
- Control of the noise produced by human activity, plumbing and mechanical systems in condominium buildings totalling more than 30,000 dwelling units, among which: the Séville, Lowney (all phases), Sommets sur le Fleuve, the Vistal and the Evolo towers, Tour des Canadiens (50 storeys), Icône, District Griffin, the Solano, the 1800 René Lévesque, Bassins du Havre, District Griffin, Symphonia, Crystal de la Montagne, Roc Fleuri, the 333 Sherbrooke East, Lofts Imperial phases I to VII, to name a few.

### 3 Acoustic software

MJM has developed numerous **software applications** for acoustics and noise control evaluations and simulations, among which REFLEX, a software application for room acoustics analysis. REFLEX is a powerful design tool which uses the 3D capabilities of AutoCAD (release 10 and following) to identify sound reflections of first and multiple order on the boundaries of a room, and to reorient surfaces or panels inside this room in order to provide early reflections where they are most needed.

### 4 Research

Several research reports produced by MJM [1-15] are available to the public and can be downloaded on our internet site at [www.mjm.qc.ca](http://www.mjm.qc.ca).

The insertion loss measurement method developed during the research project on the noise isolation provided by access doors in multi-dwelling buildings [6] has become the ASTM Standard E 2964-14 entitled *Standard Test Method for Measurement of the Normalized Insertion Loss of Doors* [16].

### 5 Integrity

MJM dedicates 100% of its resources to acoustical consulting and noise control and is totally **independent of**

**any supplier or manufacturer** of acoustical materials and vibration isolators.

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# DEVELOPMENT OF BIO-BASED RENEWABLE BUILDING SOUND INSULATION PRODUCTS

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## Résumé

FPIInnovations est l'un des plus grands centres de recherches forestières privés sans but lucratif au monde. En interne, les départements « Système de construction » et « Biomateriaux du bois » se sont alliés pour d'une part mieux comprendre l'atténuation du son dans tous types de bâtiments et d'autre part développer des bio-matériaux innovants répondant à ces besoins spécifiques. Cette synergie se développe des analyses laboratoires aux tests *in situ* pour développer une expertise cohérente au service des ingénieurs, architectes et manufacturiers.

**Mots clefs :** Isolation acoustique des bâtiments, bio-matériaux, CLT, ossature légère, indice d'isolement aux bruits d'impact (IIC), indice de transmission du son (ITS)

## Abstract

FPIInnovations is one of the largest private, non-profit forest research centres in the world. Internally, the departments "Building system" and "Wood biomaterials" joined forces to firstly understand the attenuation of sound in constructions and in parallel develop innovative bio-materials that meet these specific needs. This synergy is growing from laboratory analysis to *in situ* testing in order to develop a coherent expertise for engineers, architects and manufacturers.

**Keywords:** Building sound insulation, bio-material, CLT, light wood framing, Impact Insulation Class (IIC), Sound Transmission Class (STC)

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## 1 Introduction

Building sound insulation is an important serviceability consideration for the design of multi-family and residential midrise and tall occupancies. Building sound insulation consists of three elements: knowledge of insulation materials, solutions of sound insulated wall and floor assemblies that are made of structural components and insulation materials, and proper installation *in situ*. To understand the fundamentals of building sound insulation is the first step towards development of building solutions and insulation materials.

For airborne noise, the 2010 National Building Code (NBC) requires that a dwelling unit shall be separated from every other space in a building in which noise may be generated by construction providing a sound transmission class rating (STC) not less than 50. The 2010 NBC does not set a requirement for impact noise (structure borne noise) protection, but recommends that bare floors tested without a carpet should achieve an impact insulation class (IIC) of 55.

A forthcoming change in the 2015 NBC will recognize Apparent Sound Transmission Class (ASTC) and Apparent Impact Insulation Class (AIIC) instead of STC and IIC. ASTC and AIIC are a single number rating of the sound insulation performance of the combined wall and floor systems in buildings as perceived by the occupants (i.e. taking into account the direct sound and flanking sound transmission paths).

FPIInnovations and the Canadian Wood Council are

working with the National Research Council (NRC) to develop the design guideline that can be used in the construction of buildings using various materials, including light-frame wood assemblies and Cross Laminated Timber (CLT), to meet target ASTC and AIIC values.

The knowledge and data gaps of sound insulation performance are summarized below:

- Lack of information on the field sound insulation performance of a wide range of light frame wood floors and walls;
- Lack of information on the sound insulation performance of innovative wood systems, such as heavy timber and wood-concrete composite floor systems;
- Lack of information on the effects of various sound absorption materials on airborne sound insulation performance of wood walls and floors;
- Lack of information on the effects of finishings, finishing membranes, toppings, and topping underlayment materials on wood-based floor sound insulation;
- Lack of information on the interaction of the floor-ceiling assemblies made of variable finishing-membrane-topping-underlayment material with gypsum board ceilings and the base floor structures for the optimized impact sound insulation performance in terms of satisfactory sound insulation, while taking into account cost and ease of installation.

FPIInnovations is undertaking a series of studies to bridge the knowledge and data gaps using a two-fold approach.

## 2 Experimental Approach

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First solutions have been developed in mock-ups, then follow-up tests have been conducted in the buildings where the solutions were implemented, to measure the sound insulation performance indicated by ASTC and AIIIC ratings and to examine whether the solutions work equally well, or better than those in the mock-ups. It was found that the insulation materials play significant roles in wood building sound insulation and there is a lack of bio-materials with high sound insulation performance on the market.

Therefore, the Wood biomaterial department started working on the development of new acoustic materials to improve the sound insulation in wood building. The first phase was to define the relevant material properties that impact the sound insulation performance of a system (floor/ceiling or wall assembly). Then an on-going research program was initiated in order to develop a mathematical model to quantify the interrelation among raw materials properties, process parameters, characteristics of bio-based building sound insulation products and their final acoustical performance.

### 3 Brief Summary of Findings

#### 3.1 Wood Building Sound Insulation Performance

##### Light-frame wood-joisted floor (illustration on Figure 1)

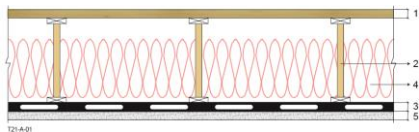


Figure 1: Structure for light-frame wood joisted floor/ceiling [1]

With good flanking control, to achieve ASTC and AIIIC rating above 50, a decoupled drywall ceiling and a properly designed four-layer sandwich above the floor were required. The sandwich was composed of a finishing, membrane, topping, and underlayment.

##### Cross Laminated Timber and heavy timber floor

For both CLT floors and heavy timber floors with wood exposed on ceiling side, to achieve ASTC and AIIIC rating above 50 is a challenge. It requires an intelligently designed four-layer sandwich topping on the floors, and knowledge of the sound insulation performance of the finishing, membrane, topping, and underlayment. With a dropped acoustical ceiling, using acoustical hangers, it was relatively easy to achieve ASTC and AIIIC ratings above 50.

##### Wood-concrete composite floor (illustration on Figure 2)



Figure 2: Concrete topping on a Cross Laminated Timber floor [1]

A 100 mm thick heavy concrete slab bonded to an 89 mm wood deck can achieve ASTC and AIIIC ratings above 50 quite easily, without requiring a dropped ceiling. Such

composite floors were the simplest wood floor systems studied so far. The floor was composed of only four layers: the finishing, concrete, insulator, and wood slab, but it achieved satisfactory sound insulation. This is an attractive approach for sound insulation design of wood slab floors with wood exposed on the ceiling side.

#### 3.2 Performance of Bio-based Sound insulation materials

Different types of bio-based sound insulation materials were made of wood fibres and tested in applications such as membrane for floor finish, and underlayment. Their performance was compared to that of commercial products that are typically used in these applications (rubber, cork, bitumen, plastic foams or synthetic fibres). These tests were conducted on a full scale floor-ceiling system made of CLT, a heavy topping and a four-layer sandwich consisting of a finish, a membrane, a topping and variable underlayments including the commercial and the FPInnovations developed bio-based sound insulation underlayment.

During the testing, as the structural element (CLT) was not modified, the improvements of sound insulation rely on the underlayment which plays a role in the dampening of vibrations through the floor system.

Preliminary FIIC (Field impact insulation class) results on the CLT floor with a concrete or a dry topping showed that bio-based sound insulation underlayment had similar or better impact sound insulation performance than the commercial insulation materials. Researches are now focusing on developing specific bio-materials for each area of application (membrane for finish flooring, underlayment for topping in wood floors and absorptive material for wall and floor cavities).

### 4 Conclusion

With the increase of multi-family buildings, sound insulation is becoming a major issue for constructors. The sound insulation materials with high performance and less environmental impact can make a significant contribution to address the issue. FPInnovations, is working to develop knowledge and practical solutions for better acoustic performance in all types of constructions.

Final delivery of this on-going research will be the development of fit-for-purpose acoustic products with a comprehensive user guide for designers and builders.

#### Acknowledgments

This research was financially supported by the Canadian Forest Service under the Contribution Agreement existing between the Government of Canada and FPInnovations for financial support and the team for their great work: Anes Omeranovic, Antoine Henry, Redouane Ramzi, Xiaolin Cai, Ayse Alemdar.

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# SONOMAX-ÉTS INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CHAIR IN IN-EAR TECHNOLOGIES

Jérémie Voix\*<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

The Sonomax-ÉTS Industrial Research Chair in In-Ear Technologies (CRITIAS) focuses on the development of a broad set of technologies applicable to the human ear, from “smart” hearing protection against harmful noise, to the integration of advanced system of inter-personal communication including hearing aids and embedded hearing diagnosis. More fundamental scientific aspects are also discussed, such as micropower generation within a miniaturized in-ear device using jaw-joint movement, to address future autonomy issues.

**Keywords:** acoustics, earplug, signal processing, hearing protection, hearing aids, communication, power harvesting, wearables

## Résumé

La Chaire industrielle de recherche en technologies intra-auriculaires Sonomax-ÉTS (CRITIAS) se concentre sur la mise au point d'un vaste ensemble de technologies applicables à l'oreille humaine, depuis la protection «intelligente» de l'oreille contre le bruit nocif jusqu'à l'intégration de système avancés de communication inter-individuels en passant par l'aide auditive et le diagnostic auditif embarqué. Des aspects scientifiques plus fondamentaux sont également abordés, comme la micro-génération d'énergie électrique au cœur même d'un dispositif intra-auriculaire miniaturisé, utilisant le mouvement de l'articulation temporo-mandibulaire, afin de remédier aux problèmes d'autonomie à venir.

**Mots clefs:** acoustique, bouchons, traitement du signal, protection auditive, prothèse auditive, communication, micro-grapilage énergétique, wearables

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## 1 History

The Sonomax-ÉTS Industrial Research Chair in In-Ear Technologies (CRITIAS) was created in June 2010, as part of a longstanding and successful partnership between Sonomax and École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS).

The partnership was initiated in late 1999 when Jérémie Voix began doctoral work on the development of an “intelligent” earplug for Sonomax under the direction of Professor Frédéric Laville of ÉTS. With financial support from the NSERC Collaborative Research and Development Grants program and Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST), the young researcher launched his work and quickly established himself as an R&D leader within the company. Working together, Jérémie Voix and the team at Sonomax developed a unique technology designed to protect industrial workers from hearing loss. The resulting product, Sonomax Solution™, is protected by over 50 patents and trademarks and has been marketed all over the world, while its core technology, an earplug field attenuation measurement device, is now the property of 3M Innovations (MN,USA).

Following 10 years of collaborative work, the partnership became more firmly established when Jérémie Voix accepted a position as an associate professor at ÉTS and founded the CRITIAS research chair dedicated to his original quest: to de-

velop a true “bionic” ear providing effective protection, amplification, and communication within a single in-ear device.

## 2 Mission , Research Focus and Benefits

In general, the objectives of the Chair are to approach the problematics associated with hearing protection and communication in noise systematically. Specifically and not exhaustively, the work of the Chair will explore the possibilities offered by digital signal processors (DSP), modern radio systems and miniaturized transducers (microphone and speaker) to remedy the difficulties to effectively protect the ear against excessive noise while allowing communication. The research chair activities focus on four areas: **Hearing Protection:** Digital protectors for musicians [1]; Continuous noise dosimetry (24 hours) [2]; **Hearing Aid:** Measurement of hearing fatigue and recovery [3]; Speech enhancement [4] and warning signals detection [5]; **Communication:** In-ear and virtual radio-acoustic environment [6]; **Power Generation:** In-ear energy micro-harvesting using piezoelectric materials [7] .

## 3 Equipment and Technology

The Chair is equipped with dedicated electronic test benches, various electro-acoustic measurement systems, signal processing platforms and development boards as well as a highly isolated double wall audio test booth.

While Sonomax, the industrial partner of the research

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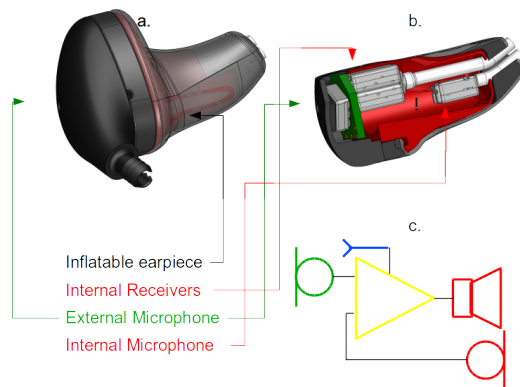
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chair, has commercial rights to all the developed technologies, some technologies, such as the *Auditory Research Platform* are made available to the research community, as open-source hardware/proprietary hardware solutions, as shown in Fig. 1. The ARP consists in a pair of custom earpieces that are instantly custom-fitted using the technology developed by Sonomax and a dedicated hardware circuit with Digital Signal Processor (DSP), Micro-controller and I/O's, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The ARP is available with complete software and hardware support for researchers interested in portable real-time audio processing unit.



**Figure 1:** Overview of Auditory Research Platform, as a pair of instrumented earplugs (here equipped with a generic eartip) and a belt-pack processing unit.



**Figure 2:** Overview of the digital custom earpiece (a), its electro-acoustical components (b), and equivalent schematic with external amplifier (c).

#### 4 Collaborations and Training

Since its inauguration, CRITIAS has also undertaken strategic collaborations with key research groups, namely: BRAMS - International laboratory for Brain, Music and Sound Research, a research center is devoted to the study of music cognition with a focus on neuroscience; EREST - the ÉTS occupational health and safety research team; ICAR - a common infrastructure between IRSST and ÉTS for acoustical research; LACIME - a communications and microelectronic integration laboratory at ÉTS; MuSAE - The Multimedia/Multimodal Signal Analysis and Enhancement (MuSAE)

Lab, conducting research at the cross-roads of biomedical engineering and telecommunications. Numerous students and researchers have been trained within the chair and several graduates have already accepted advanced engineering positions in prestigious companies in the Silicon Valley (USA).

#### 5 The future

The Sonomax-ÉTS Research Chair in In-Ear Technologies is about to celebrate its 5th year anniversary and can already proudly account significant achievements in the development of several technologies designed to complement the human ear, from “intelligent” protection against extreme noise to hearing support and embedded hearing diagnostics to the integration of advanced inter-individual communication systems. With its new industrial partner, eers Global Technologies, CRITIAS is now actively looking at complementing its expertise in audio processing for the occluded ear in two new highly specialised areas: in-ear micro-energy harvesting and in-ear brain-computer interfaces (BCI) using electroencephalographic (EEG) reading from inside the earcanal [8].

#### Acknowledgement

The author wishes to acknowledge the editorial assistance of Dr. Cécile Le Cocq for the preparation of this article.

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**Canadian Acoustical Association**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Teleconference  
 May 3, 2014

Present: Frank Russo (chair), Christian Giguère Jérémie Voix, Hugues Nélisse, Alberto Behar, Dalila Giusti, , Roberto Racca, Bill Gastmeier, Bryan Gick, Karen Turner

Regrets: Sean Pecknold, Chantal Laroche, Kathy Pichora-Fuller

The meeting was called to order at 12:18AM. Minutes of the previous Board of Directors' meeting on November 9th 2013 were approved without correction (*Moved by D. Giusti, seconded by R. Racca, carried*).

**President's Report**

Frank Russo thanked Christian Giguère for his help with transition to the role of President. He noted that his major focus this year has been in supporting Karen Turner with the upcoming Winnipeg meeting. Frank raised the idea of Fellowships that would recognize lifetime contributions in service, research or practice. Frank will prepare a formal proposal for review at the Fall board meeting.

**Secretary's Report**

Frank Russo presented the Secretary's report on behalf of Chantal Laroche. The report notes 510 active members, up by 58 from last year (See Table). The increase in membership over last year appears to have been due in part to an incentive program that was offered at the ICA'13 meeting.

Indirect subscriber			
- Canada	9	9	0
- USA	6	6	0
- International	5	5	0
Direct subscriber	5	5	0
<b>Total</b>	510	452	+ 58

There was only the renewal of the postal box (\$194.36) from Nov. 2013 to April 2014, and the account balance totals \$530.02.

*(Approval of report moved by R. Racca, Seconded by C. Giguère, carried)*

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Dalila Giusti, submitted a report indicating the CAA's current assets and money paid in awards. CAA finances are in reasonably good standing. However, we are expecting that a deficit of \$10,000 will be incurred due to losses stemming from the 2013 Joint ICA/CAA 2013 (Montreal) meeting. The losses would have likely been larger had we not asked for a cap when negotiating our agreement with the ICA (10K). \$7,631.52 in awards was distributed at the 2013 Joint ICA/CAA conference. These losses were mitigated to some extent by the \$6,806.42 profit incurred at the ISRA2013.

Dalila noted that Lori Robson (on behalf of Clair Wakefield) is making progress on tracking down

Category	Paid 2014 (Apr. 2014)	Paid 2013	Change from 2013
Member	351	292 + 61 ICA (free)	+ 59
Emeritus	1	1	0
Student	81	81	0
Sustaining subscriber	52	53	- 1

missing advertising revenues. These accounts should be in order over the coming months. It also seems that some ads were effectively run for free in 2013 as a consequence of the advertisers not having in fact requested or paid for their renewal.

*(Approval of report moved by R, Racca, seconded by B. Gick, carried)*

### **Editor's Report**

Jérémie provided his inaugural report as Editor. On the basis of an email discussion among members of the board, it was decided to not change pricing for USA and International Indirect Subscribers. Jérémie investigated the cost of working with a professional publishing house. The upside of this would be that it might help the "look and feel" of the journal but his opinion (shared by others on the Journal Advisory board) is that it is cost prohibitive at this time (\$14,500+/annum), particularly given recent advancements with respect to in-house production automation and copy editing.

The automation of the journal is now 80% complete. PDF production of articles is now highly automated following the peer review.

Dr. Cecile Le Cocq has been appointed as the Journal's copy editor. She has and will continue to ensure that the layouts are of high quality.

The journal continues to have a shortage of manuscripts submitted. Jérémie has reached out to the Associate Editors to try to generate new submissions. The membership will also be solicited via email with information about the new open access model and the upcoming Winnipeg meeting.

Jérémie raised a proposal developed by the Journal Advisory Board regarding instant open access. Essentially, the submission and review process would remain unchanged but the 12-month "moving wall" for unrestricted on-line viewing of published articles would be removed for authors willing to pay \$300. The motion was clarified and then voted on with unanimous support.

Jérémie has investigated new website hosting services that are independent from University research servers. Several commercial options seem feasible but the current webhosting is active until April 2016.

Jérémie will also be developing a conflict of interest policy for the journal in consultation with the Journal Advisory Board.

### **CAA Conferences – Past, Present & Future**

2013 (Montreal, ICA 2013): This meeting was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest meeting ever held in Acoustics and a huge success on the technical front. However, the meeting will be heading towards a financial deficit for which the CAA will be partially responsible to a capped amount.

2013 (Toronto, ISRA 2013): We thank John Bradley and John O'Keefe for delivering a successful conference. As mentioned in the Treasurers report, this conference yielded a profit.

2014 (Winnipeg): Karen Turner, in charge of local organization, has secured the Fairmont (Winnipeg) as the conference Hotel. She has also secured the new HR Museum for the reception (set to take place on the evening of Tuesday October 7). Karen is assisted by Ramani Ramakrishnan who is acting as the Technical chair. Frank Russo is also involved in providing some context and extended support with respect to organizational details. The most pressing details in the near term are to launch the conference website and send out a new call for participation to the membership via email. The message will also draw attention to the journal and its new open access status. F. Russo and B. Gick will develop the message in consultation with R. Ramakrishnan, K. Turner, and J. Voix.

Several sponsors and exhibitors have already expressed interest. D. Giusti and B. Gastmeier have offered to help secure sponsors and exhibitors.

J. Voix has developed an online conference registration and article submission system. He will be working out the details with F. Russo and K.

Turner so that the system can move online and start to receive payments.

2015: Halifax is still an option. Sean Pecknold and Michael Kieft (Dalhousie) have agreed to organize the meeting. R. Racca noted that JASCO Dartmouth would be able to provide organizational support.

2016: The World Congress in Audiology in Vancouver was discussed as a possible venue. The board expressed some concern about having our presence lost in the context of a large meeting. We will also be focusing on the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) as an alternative for this meeting. F. Russo will follow up with individuals in the GTA who had expressed interest earlier to C. Giguère.

2017: Vancouver was discussed as a good venue to consider for 2017. However, we do not yet have a champion for this meeting.

### **Awards**

Hugues Nélisse noted that all awards/cheques for 2013 have been sent/received and that the deadline for 2014 has now passed. This is the second year in which we have offered and received nominations for the Bregman student prize in psychological acoustics. The Northwood prize in architectural acoustics is now listed on the website and will be officially announced at the Winnipeg meeting. The newest prize is the Bradley prize, which will be sponsored by Aeracoustics. A committee has been formed to discuss the details of the award (C. Giguère, K. Pichora-Fuller, H. Nélisse, J. O'Keefe and J. Bradley). Discussions continue but at the moment the focus is on interdisciplinary scholarship. This award will also be announced formally in Winnipeg.

### **Acoustical Standards Committee**

Tim Kelsall, Chair of the Committee, was invited to present a motion regarding the CAA Guide to Acoustical Standards. The Committee has produced an amended version of the Guide that now includes a legal notice to limit the liability of the CAA for its contents. The Board voted on whether to approve the document for posting on the CAA website, despite being English only (*oved by R. Racca, Seconded, C. Giguère, carried with 3 members abstaining*). Although there is no obvious source of funds at the moment the board has expressed interest in further translating the core structure of the document and as much of the technical content as possible (e.g. standards' summaries).

### **New logo**

A proposal was made at the last meeting for the graphic designer to prepare a letterhead version of the logo. The new version was reviewed. Some concerns were expressed. We will ask for some revisions and consider a second round of drafts. Following that we may consult another graphic artist with more experience.

### **Acoustics Education in Canada**

A. Behar has offered to develop a new guide for Acoustics Education in Canada. C. Giguère noted that a similar guide had been commenced by V. Parsa. A. Behar will build on the prior guide with the intent of eventually making it available on the association website. The board also discussed the possibility of expanding the guide to include acoustical services in Canada. Some concern was raised about the potential for this to be interpreted as an endorsement of certain companies.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM (*Moved by B. Gastmeier, seconded by R. Racca, carried*)

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**Canadian Acoustical Association**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**  
Teleconference  
8 May 2015

**Present:** Frank Russo (chair), Christian Giguère, Jérémie Voix, Hugues Nélisse, Alberto Behar, Dalila Giusti, Roberto Racca, Bill Gastmeier, Mehrzad Salkhordeh, Michael Kieft

**Regrets:** Karen Turner, Kathy Pichora-Fuller

The meeting, held by video conference, was called to order at 14:10 EST. Minutes of the previous Board of Directors' meeting taken by K. Pichora-Fuller on 8 October 2014, that Board members had previously reviewed, were formally praised by F. Russo for their quality and approved by participants without further revisions (*Moved by J. Voix, seconded by D. Giusti, carried*).

### **President's Report**

Frank Russo informed the Board of the updating of the Association's Letters Patent (replacing the original from 1977) and bylaws (replacing those passed in 2001) to meet the requirements of continuance with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a charitable organization. As reported in the March issue of Canadian Acoustics, a special meeting of members was held in Toronto on 2 December 2014 to consider and vote on a Special Resolution authorizing the Association to file Articles of Continuance under the Charities Act and to adopt the new bylaws. Unanimous support was received at that meeting, and on 8 January 2005 Kate Robertson of Blumberg Segal LLP filed the documents with CRA. The certificate of compliance was received and filed with CRA on 14 January. As of the date of the present Board meeting approval under the Charities Act was still under review, which was not surprising given the backlog of applications; an outcome was expected before the Fall 2015 Board meeting.

Other business reported and discussed included the consolidation of the Association's mailing addresses, the status of the Association's new logo (already used in some documents and Web site) soon to be finalized in its various graphical forms, and the progress in appointing a new Advertising Coordinator and providing continuity in related duties and information with the assistance of Board members.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dalila Giusti presented an outline of the Association's current assets, revenue and expenses, and monies paid out in Awards. For the first time in many years the assets position has taken a downward trend, showing a decrease of about \$50,000 over the prior year; reasons for this include the shrinkage or non-collection of advertising revenue (down to about \$5,000 collected, from nearly \$20,000 in 2012), losses at recent Conferences (\$11,634.00 at the joint ICA/CAA 2013 meeting in Montreal and \$8,135.00 at the 2014 CAA meeting in Winnipeg), and decrease in number of membership and Sustaining Subscriber dues from 2012 and 2013 levels. In discussion, Jérémie Voix noted that sustaining companies wish to see greater value from their contribution compared to regular subscribers. A way forward for improving the performance in attracting advertisers and managing the collection of associated revenue was also reviewed.

Dalila noted that the Association is still doing well in terms of assets, but must be watchful to avoid erosion from low revenue. Investment of the Capital Fund in GIC's, which guarantee the principal, stands to give a substantial boost to the finances if a high-yield account performs well. Funds maturing

in 2014 and most of the interest have been re-invested, keeping the withdrawal of interest at a minimum with the aim to generate larger returns.

Awards for a total value of \$9,000 were distributed at the 2014 CAA conference in Winnipeg. The terms of an additional award fund from a private donor are presently being negotiated.

*(Approval of report moved by M. Salkhordeh, seconded by A. Behar, carried)*

### Secretary's Report

Roberto Racca prefaced his report by noting that his provisional transition into the role of Secretary was still ongoing and he had not had a chance to receive from Chantal Laroche (past secretary) and assimilate all pertinent background materials. He indicated that his experience in the role had been generally positive and he was comfortable carrying on the position for the time being, so there would be no immediate need to search for a successor.

Regarding the status of membership and subscription numbers, Roberto pointed out that in the past there had been some problems in the way the Association's subscription database was being queried that had resulted in inflated numbers that included expired memberships. The numbers being presented this year were the result of correct queries and would therefore show a large variance over previous years, not indicative of the effective change in paid-up numbers of members and subscribers.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Paid-up 2014</b>	<b>Reported 2013</b>
Regular member	158	351
Emeritus	1	1
Student	16	81
Sustaining subscriber	27	52
Indirect subscribers		
- Canada	3	9
- USA	3	6
- International	3	5
Direct subscribers	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>	510

Whilst the numbers may appear small in comparison to previous reports, Roberto noted that the relations with members and subscribers and the Association appeared healthy and efficient. The majority of members and subscribers, including sustaining ones, have found the recent on-line renewal approach convenient; only a relatively small percentage found it necessary to contact the Secretary with technical issues or update requests. Some subscribers, especially academic institutions and agencies acting on their behalf, still found it necessary to have an invoice submitted and to pay by cheque. Chantal Laroche had continued to receive the cheques and handle them according to procedures.

A proposal was discussed to introduce a senior member category (specific name yet to be decided). After some debate, the Board voted in favour of a motion raised by Frank Russo to offer a 50% fee

discount for members over 70. The emeritus category (free membership for exceptional lifetime contributions) would continue to stand as it exists, as a rarely offered special recognition. In other discussion Jérémie Voix as editor in chief of the Journal indicated that his interaction with the Secretary in matters of digital management of subscriptions and other technical issues had been positive and productive.

*(Approval of report moved by F. Russo, seconded by D. Giusti, carried)*

## **Editor's Report**

Jérémie Voix highlighted a number of points related to his editorial team's ongoing work in modernizing the Journal's production environment and streamlining its processes. One of the immediate benefits of the new database is the ability to run queries about membership numbers and other metrics that are more detailed and reflective of actual status; this also facilitates following up with advertisers to keep accounts current. Jérémie indicated that he was looking at adding further on-line options including the ability to make charitable donations to the Association with tax receipts automatically issued. Work was also progressing on the consolidation of the Journal and Conference on-line article submission sites to facilitate the management of Conference proceedings by guest editors (technical chairs) and enhance the on-line search capabilities for proceedings papers. Other highlights of the new JCAA digital publishing environment included the coverage of the Journal in third-party repositories and search engines and its potential inclusion in the Web of Science for better tracking of research efforts. In discussion, it was agreed to give Jérémie mandate to respond positively to the and UNIweb offer, a web portal for researcher, and nto egotiate terms that would then be presented to the Board for ratification.

Jérémie remarked on various matters of procedure in the handling of editorial duties and relations with authors, including how conflict of interest situations would be resolved by delegation of editorial roles when involved in authorship of papers. He pointed out that new privacy regulations would require opt-in for any e-mail distribution related to Association matters, which could be offered as an option at membership renewal time. He also proposed to better clarify for authors the optional instant open access fee (which makes published articles immediately accessible to the scientific community) that could be confused with a mandatory publication fee.

## **CAA Conferences – Present & Future**

### Halifax 2015

Michael Keftie, Conference co-Chair with Sean Pecknold, informed the Board that the registration was open and the Conference web site up, though not yet linked from main CAA-ACA web site. The conference will be hosted at the Westin Nova Scotia in downtown Halifax; Michael gave an outline of the facility and planning. Board members made suggestions for the coordination of exhibits and sponsorship, both drawing on past expertise by organizers of previous events and leveraging the assistance of the Association's advertising coordinator. Dalila Giusti commented from the Treasurer's standpoint on the need to streamline the processing of payments from exhibitors and sponsors.

### Vancouver 2016

There appears to be consensus on the proposed location but still no clear indication of an organizing committee. The Board discussed people who could be contacted about co-chairing.

### Looking Ahead

There are proposals for potential venues and organizes in 2017 and 2018, presently both in Ontario. The Board will be reviewing information and working with the proponents while seeking further expressions of interest from other geographic areas.

## **Awards**

Awards coordinator Hugues Nélisse reported that all awards and cheques for 2014 had been sent / received and that the deadline for 2015 award applications had now passed. He provided an outline of the number of applicants for each of the awards and indicated that the evaluations were in progress. The papers qualifying for the Directors' Award would soon be sent out among the Board members for the evaluation and ranking process.

Hugues provided further details of the new award in honor of John Bradley, sponsored by Aercoustics in the annual amount of \$1000. The award was announced during the conference in Winnipeg and a committee (Christian Giguère, Kathy Pichora-Fuller, Hugues Nélisse, John, O'Keefe and John Bradley) was formed to discuss and define the particulars of the award. The process had been slower than anticipated due to some logistical difficulties and role changes among the stakeholders involved, but the intent was to draft by summer 2015 a text for the CAA website describing the specifics and particulars of the award, to be approved by the Board.

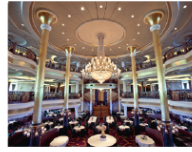
Looking at the possibility of expanding the range of the Association's recognition of excellence with the institution of new awards for non-students, Hugues outlined in his report a number of possibilities. He and Bryan Gick would continue working on the definition of possible awards similar to those given by the Acoustical Society of America (e.g., a gold medal, an award for distinguished service to the association, honorary fellowships, an award for a junior and/or senior researcher, an award for education, an award for excellence in professional practice, etc.) to be brought to the Board for consideration in the future.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 16:45 EST.

*(Moved by Alberto, seconded by Hugues, carried)*





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Acoustics Week in Canada 2015  
The Westin Nova Scotia  
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## ACOUSTICS WEEK IN CANADA 2015

October 7–9, 2015, Halifax, Nova Scotia

### Welcome to Halifax!

Halifax looks forward to welcoming delegates to the 2015 Acoustics Week in Canada. Acoustics researchers, professionals, educators, and students from across the country are welcomed to Canada's scenic East Coast for 3 days of plenary lectures and technical sessions. The Canadian Acoustical Association Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the conference, along with the Acoustical Standards Committee Meeting, the conference banquet, and an exhibition of acoustical equipment and services. The conference will be held at the Westin Nova Scotian, a short walk from historic Pier 21 and the Halifax Seaport District.

Halifax is the authentic East Coast experience. Here you can satisfy your taste for adventure, entertainment and cuisine. Enjoy exploring the historic downtown or take in the iconic coastline of the Halifax... from the natural beauty of Peggy's Cove to the pristine beaches of the Eastern Shore.

Come and discover what visitors have known for centuries—Halifax is a city you will not soon forget!

### Venue & Accommodation

The historic Four Diamond Westin Nova Scotian is ideally located close to all amenities in Halifax's exciting Seaport District, overlooking the Harbour. The Westin Nova Scotian offers 310 deluxe guest rooms, 23,000 square feet of modern meeting space, and full service amenities. The hotel's Wine Spectator award winning-restaurant, **Elements**, features local cuisine. Other services include the Sykea Spa, The Westin

Workout, and an indoor pool. Rooms will be available to conference participants at the special rate of \$159 per night.

## Plenary Lectures/Technical Sessions

Acoustics Week in Canada 2015 will feature three plenary lectures (see below) covering current acoustical topics, and highlighting regional expertise and situations. Technical sessions will cover all major areas of acoustic interest, including Hearing Loss Prevention, Acoustical Standards, Architectural Acoustics, Noise Control, Shock and Vibration, Hearing and Speech Sciences, Musical Acoustics, Underwater Acoustics, Marine Bioacoustics, and other topics.

## Plenary Speakers

F. Stuart Foster, Ph. D. (Medical Ultrasound)

Harold M. Merklinger, John C. Osler (Underwater Acoustics)

Dennis P. Phillips, Ph.D. (Spatial Hearing)

## Exhibition & Sponsorship

There will be an exhibition area for acoustical equipment, products, and services on Thursday October 8. If you or your company is interested in exhibiting, or if you would be interested in sponsoring a conference social event, technical session, coffee breaks, or student prizes, please contact the **Exhibition Coordinator**. The conference offers an excellent opportunity to showcase your company and products or services.

## Student Participation

Students are enthusiastically encouraged to attend the conference. Travel subsidies and reduced registration fees will be available. Student presenters are also eligible to win prizes for best presentations.

## Paper Submissions

The abstract deadline is July 2, 2015 (note the change in date!). Two-page summaries for publication in the proceedings of Canadian Acous-



tics are due by August 1, 2015. Please see further details on the conference website: <http://awc.caa-aca.ca/index.php/AWC/AWC15/>

## **Registration**

Registration fees are C\$440 for members and C\$560 for non-members for the full three-day meeting. Student registration is C\$220. Single-day rates are also available. Late-registration fees apply after Sep. 5. See the conference website for more details.

## **Contacts/Organizing Committee**

Conference Chairs: Michael Kiefte, Dalhousie University  
Sean Pecknold, DRDC Atlantic Research Centre  
Technical Chair: Steve Aiken, Dalhousie University  
Exhibit Coordinator: Roberto Racca, JASCO Applied Sciences

### **CONFERENCE WEBSITE:**

<http://awc.caa-aca.ca/index.php/AWC/AWC15>

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Acoustics Week in Canada 2015  
The Westin Nova Scotia  
Halifax NS



## SEMAINE CANADIENNE D'ACOUSTIQUE 2015

7 au 9 octobre, 2015, Halifax, Nouvelle Écosse

### **Bienvenue à Halifax!**

Halifax se réjouit d'accueillir les délégués de la Semaine canadienne d'acoustique 2015. Des chercheurs en acoustique, des professionnels, des éducateurs et des étudiants de partout au pays sont invités sur la pittoresque côte est du Canada pour trois jours de séances plénières et de sessions scientifiques. L'assemblée générale annuelle de l'Association canadienne d'acoustique aura lieu en conjonction avec le congrès, ainsi que la rencontre du comité de normalisation en acoustique, le banquet du congrès, et une exposition d'équipements et de services acoustique. Le congrès se tiendra à l'hôtel Westin Nova Scotian, à quelques pas de l'historique Pier 21 et du quartier Seaport de Halifax.

Halifax représente l'expérience authentique de la côte est. Ici vous pouvez satisfaire votre goût de l'aventure, du divertissement et de la cuisine. Profitez de l'exploration du centre-ville historique et de la côte emblématique de Halifax... depuis la beauté naturelle de Peggy's Cove aux plages immaculées de la côte est.

Venez découvrir ce que les visiteurs ont connu pendant des siècles — Halifax est une ville que vous ne serez pas prêt d'oublier!

### **Lieu et hébergement**

L'hôtel historique Westin Nova Scotian est idéalement situé près de toutes les services dans le quartier passionnant Seaport de Halifax avec une vue sur le port. L'hôtel Westin Nova Scotian propose 310 chambres de luxe, 23.000 pieds carrés d'espace de réunion moderne et des centres de service complet. Le restaurant primé de l'hôtel, Elements, propose une cuisine locale. Les autres services comprennent le spa Sykea, un

centre de mise en forme, et une piscine couverte. Les chambres seront disponibles aux participants du congrès au taux préférentiel de 159\$ par nuit.

## **Séances plénières et sessions scientifiques**

La Semaine canadienne d'acoustique 2015 mettra en vedette trois présentations plénières (voir ci-dessous) dans des domaines actuels d'intérêt en acoustique et mettant en évidence l'expertise et le cadre régional. Des sessions scientifiques porteront sur tous les domaines principaux d'intérêt en acoustique, y compris la prévention des pertes auditives, la normalisation, l'acoustique architecturale, le contrôle du bruit, les chocs et les vibrations, l'audition et les sciences de la parole, l'acoustique musicale, l'acoustique sous-marine, la bioacoustique marine, et d'autres sujets.

### **Scéance plénières**

F. Stuart Foster, Ph. D. (l'Échographie Médicale)

Harold M. Merklinger, John C. Osler (l'Acoustique Sous-Marine)

Dennis P. Phillips, Ph.D. (l'Audition Spatiale)

### **Expositions et commandites**

Il y aura un espace d'exposition pour l'équipement en acoustique, les produits et les services le jeudi 8 octobre 2015. Si vous ou votre entreprise êtes intéressé à exposer, ou si vous êtes intéressé à commanditer un événement social du congrès, une session scientifique, des café pauses, ou des prix d'étudiants, veuillez contacter le coordonnateur de l'exposition. Le congrès offre une excellente occasion de présenter votre entreprise et vos produits ou services.

### **Participation des étudiants**

Les étudiants sont chaleureusement encouragés à participer au congrès. Des subventions de voyage et les frais d'inscription réduits seront disponibles. Les présentateurs étudiants sont également admissibles à gagner des prix pour les meilleures présentations.



## **Soumissions**

La date limite pour les résumés est le 2 juillet, 2015 (noter le changement de date !). Des articles de deux pages pour publication dans les actes de congrès sont dues le 1er août, 2015. Veuillez voir plus de détails sur le site de la conférence :

<http://awc.caa-aca.ca/index.php/AWC/AWC15>

## **Inscription**

Les frais d'inscription sont de 440\$ pour les membres de l'Association canadienne d'acoustique et de 560\$ pour les non-membres pour le plein congrès de trois jours. Les frais d'inscription des étudiants sont de 220\$. Les inscriptions pour une seule journée sont également disponibles. Des tarifs plus élevés de retard pour l'enregistrement seront en vigueur après le 5 septembre. Voir le site du congrès pour plus de détails.

## **Contacts / Comité d'organisation**

Présidents: Michael Kiefte, Dalhousie University  
Sean Pecknold,  
RDDC Centre de recherches de l'Atlantique  
Directeur scientifique: Steve Aiken, Dalhousie University  
Coordinateur exposition technique:  
Roberto Racca, JASCO Applied Sciences

## **SITE WEB DU CONGRES**

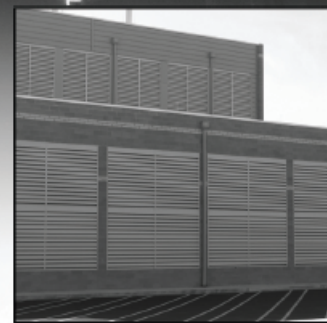
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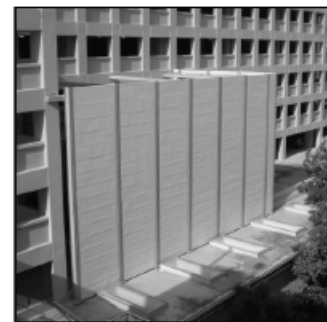
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The Canadian Acoustical Association - L'Association canadienne d'acoustique

## CANADIAN ACOUSTICS TELEGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS - ANNONCES TÉLÉGRAPHIQUES DE L'ACOUSTIQUE CANADIENNE

### **CAA Guide to Acoustic Standards Now Available!**

The CAA Standards Committee is pleased to announce that the CAA Guide to Acoustic Standards is now available free of charge on the Standards Committee page of the CAA website.

CAA Guide to Acoustic Standards Now Available The CAA Standards Committee is pleased to announce that the CAA Guide to Acoustic Standards is now available free of charge on the Standards Committee page of the CAA website. This Guide describes Canadian and international acoustical and noise control Standards recommended for use in Canada. In addition, recommendations are provided for the appropriate application and use of each Standard. At present the document is primarily in English with references to French versions where they are available. We are looking for help to produce either a French version or to make the document bilingual. This is our first Standards Committee publication and we would appreciate feedback from readers on its content and usefulness. If any organization is interested in sponsoring this standard, and more particularly its translation into French, please contact Tim Kelsall at tkelsall@hatch.ca

*September 16th 2014*

### **ICA Early Career Award nominations**

All member societies of ICA are invited to consider nominating one of their membership for the prestigious ICA Early Career Award. This award will be presented during the ICA 2016 congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

All member societies of ICA are invited to consider nominating one of their membership for the prestigious ICA Early Career Award. This award will be presented during the ICA 2016 congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The award is presented to an individual who is relatively early in his/her professional career (about 10-15 years of active career), who has contributed substantially, through published papers, to the advancement of theoretical or applied acoustics or both and who has been active in the affairs of Acoustics through his/her National Society, other National Society(ies), Regional or International organizations. The Award consists of an Award Certificate, a Medal, and an Honorarium. The honorarium for the Early Career award to be announced at the ICA 2016 Congress will be Euro 2,000. If you wish to nominate a member of the CAA for this award, please submit the nomination to Alberto Behar (albehar31@gmail.com) prior to July 1, 2015. Alberto is chairing a committee that will oversee the selection of a nominee.

*April 26th 2015*

### **Prix de l'Association Canadienne d'Acoustique**

#### **Rappel de dernière minute Date limite**

La date limite pour le dépôt des candidatures pour les différents prix étudiants offerts par l'Association Canadienne d'Acoustique approche à très grands pas, soit le 30 avril 2015. N'hésitez pas à consulter notre site internet (<http://www.caa-aca.ca/fr/awards/>) pour obtenir tous les détails au sujet de nos prix et à encourager les étudiants que vous connaissez à soumettre leur candidature.

*April 27th 2015*

## **Canadian Acoustical Association Awards**

### **Late reminderDeadline**

The deadline for the applications to the various awards offered by the Canadian Acoustical Association is rapidly approaching (April 30th 2015). Don't hesitate to visit our website (<http://www.caa-aca.ca/awards/>) to obtain all the details regarding our awards and to encourage students who may be interested to submit their applications.

*April 27th 2015*

## **Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications**

The good news? Publication and copyright policies of Canadian Acoustics journal are fully compliant with these new rules! That's another good reason for researchers to publish in Canadian Acoustics!

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) are federal granting agencies that promote and support research, research training and innovation within Canada. As publicly funded organizations, the Agencies have a fundamental interest in promoting the availability of findings that result from the research they fund, including research publications and data, to the widest possible audience, and at the earliest possible opportunity. Societal advancement is made possible through widespread and barrier-free access to cutting-edge research and knowledge, enabling researchers, scholars, clinicians, policymakers, private sector and not-for-profit organizations and the public to use and build on this knowledge. According to a new policy, all grant recipients that were funded in whole or in part by NSERC or SSHRC for grants awarded May 1, 2015 and onward (January 1, 2008 for CIHR) are required to ensure that any peer-reviewed journal publications arising from Agency-supported research are freely accessible within 12 months of publication.

*May 28th 2015*

## **Editorial Position Available for Canadian Acoustics**

Our current deputy editor, Prof. Josée Lagacé, will be stepping out this summer and the position will become available September 1st, 2015. Many thanks from all the editorial board for her help during the 4 years spent on the editorial team.

The position of Deputy Editor of the Canadian Acoustics journal will become available on September 1st and represents a great opportunity for an academic or anyone interested in the editorial process of a peer-reviewed journal. The duties of the Deputy Editor are: to establish, together with the Editor-in-Chief, the editorial board of the journal, to organize annually, together with the editorial board of the journal, special issues of the journal, to ensure the fair and balanced language representation within the journal, to assist the Editor-in-Chief in the editorial tasks, especially in the enforcement of the Conflict of Interest journal policy. If you or someone you know may be interested, simply contact the Editor ([jcaa@caa-aca.ca](mailto:jcaa@caa-aca.ca)).

*June 18th 2015*

## **Acoustics Week in Canada Conference**



ACOUSTICS WEEK IN CANADA 2015 will be held October 7-9, 2015, Halifax, Nova Scotia

See last call for paper at the end of the June 2015 journal issue

June 18th 2015



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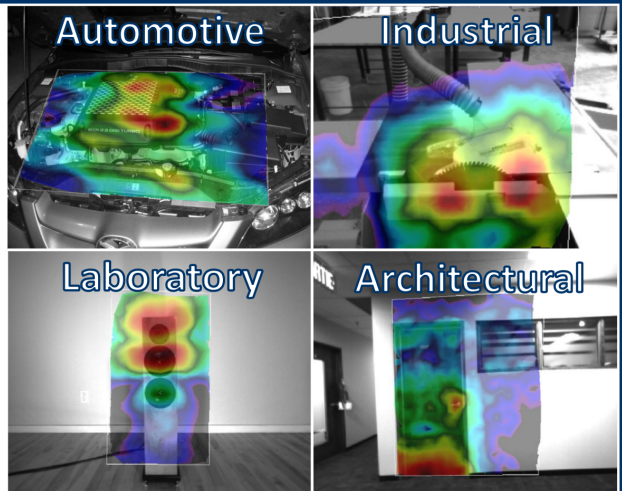


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# Pourquoi publier dans Acoustique canadienne ?



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**canadian acoustics**  
**acoustique canadienne**  
The Canadian Acoustical Association - Journal de l'Association Canadienne d'Acoustique  
SEPTEMBRE 2015  
Volume 43 - Numéro 2

## Parce que, c'est...

- Une revue respectée, forte de 40 années de publications uniquement dédiée à l'acoustique au Canada
- Une publication trimestrielle en format papier et électronique, rejoignant une large communauté d'experts à travers le monde
- Une publication "accès libre" dont le contenu est disponible à tous, 12 mois après publication
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