

Reinforcing Links between European Chapters

The challenge to strengthen networking between established and potential new chapters in Europe has successfully been faced in the course of European Chapter Support Program, which was funded by IEEE Germany section in 2002 and 2003: The program permitted 23 guests from European chapters out of 14 countries to take part in meetings of Joint IAS/PELS/IES German chapter; those, taking place on a regular basis, mostly invited by leading industry and typically visited by more than 100 attendants, are a major activity of this chapter. Progress could be achieved in three major respects:

The close contact to chapter officials and members of neighbouring countries permitted to intensify direct cooperation across the borders, leading to the last meeting in 2003 at Philips in Aachen being a joint meeting of IAS/PELS/IES German and IAS/PELS Benelux Chapter; the latter also elected a new chapter board on this occasion. Further, relationship to eastern Europe could be strengthened; this is a remarkable success because of the moderate presence of IEEE in those countries. The contacts, e. g. initiated during the Chapter meeting mid of 2003 at Infineon Regensburg, since have been used for an in depth exchange of experience. This shall facilitate foundation of chapters in eastern European countries. Remarkable progress is already reported from Czech, Slovakian and Hungarian chapters to be founded. Last but not least chapter work profited from intensified contact to international IEEE and also IEE officers, serving in different areas; in return, accepting the invitation, those could gain a personal impression from current chapter work, which is highly appreciated.

For the future it is planned to continue the successful Chapter Support Program as far as funding permits. In times of budget restrictions, the organisers intend to further pursue the approach to concentrate financial provisions on a limited amount of compensation for travel expenses of invited international guests, which has proven to be very efficient in the course of the program. Further, the second meeting in 2004 at Berlin will comprise IEEE IAS/PELS/IES/PES Inter Society Meetings and an R8 IAS Chapter Workshop, which shall strengthen existing and help building new relationships.



Eastern European delegates visiting the cleanroom in Infineon's Regensburg facility during a meeting of joint IAS/PELS/IES German chapter