



Joint power electronics chapter meets

THE FIRST meeting of the German IEEE IAS/PELS/IES Chapter in 2006 was held at Lust Antriebstechnik GmbH in Wetzlar/Lahnau on 30–31 March.

After a guided tour of the city of Wetzlar, Prof. Andreas Lindemann, Chapter chair, opened the IEEE Business session of the meeting in the conference center of Wetzlar. Afterwards, attendees visited a show and dined together.

On the next day, the audience was welcomed by

Karl-Heinz Lust, the founder of Lust Antriebstechnik. Dr Andreas Bünte of Lust Drive-Technics introduced technologies used for the pitch systems of sea flow turbines. Dr Christian Redemann of Levitec reported about high-speed drives with active magnetic bearings.

The last presentation was given by Joachim Achenbach of Sitec and Dr Jan Marien of Naomi Technologies about the applications of XMR sensors.

After the presentations, all participants were invited to a guided factory tour of Lust Antriebstechnik viewing the production of control units for electrical drives and magnetic bearings.

The event was a great success, which has been underlined by the high number of some 70 participants.

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WILGA hosts biannual IEEE-SPIE symposium

THE 18TH IEEE-SPIE Symposium was held on 29 May to 4 June at WILGA, part of the Warsaw University of Technology, Poland.

The week-long event included sessions on such topics as advanced photonic and electronic systems for biomedicine and advances in optical fibre technology. More than 200 research papers were contributed, plus around 20 invited digest papers. Chosen papers will be printed in a special issue of *Electronics Monthly*, a journal by the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers. The symposium is free, and attracted over 250 participants.

*Prof. Ryszard Romaniuk
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IEEE WUT SB Counsellor*

First Saudi Engineering Forum attracts over 700

THE FIRST Saudi Engineering Forum was held on 24–25 May at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The Forum was a Kingdom-wide, top-drawer event at which many notable experts spoke to an audience of over 700 professors, deans,

university administrators, and leaders in Saudi industry. The focus of the Forum was the future needs and directions for engineering in the year 2020.

This was a very interesting conference as the format was designed around a number of presentations on the theme, delivered by in-

ited keynote speakers from inside and outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other selected speakers with specialist knowledge and experience.

The presentations and discussion at the forum will lead to specific recommendations that can be implemented to achieve results.

GOLD activities: regional round-up

Czechoslovakia

The fourth meeting of GOLD members together with student members took place on 11 May at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague. Monika Schmidtova lectured on 'How to prepare and execute a presentation'. We plan to organise similar meetings on general topics in towns outside Prague.

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Denmark

Local IEEE GOLD events have included workshops on soft skills, such as 'Idea Development' and 'Coaching in the IEEE Region'. We recently started a new Virtual Community called IEEE Denmark Community and invited all Danish IEEE members to join. This web-service offers a rich set of tools to facilitate the communication among the IEEE members in a convenient way and we see an increasing number of users logging in.

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Egypt

The GOLD team visited the new Morocco Section in April to deliver presentations about FOLD and the Industry University Link programmes in Egypt. The visit coincided with the NSAST forum. Our thanks to Dr Mohamed Essaaidi and all Morocco Section for their kind invitation and warm hospitality.

Mohamed Aboud

Nigeria

GOLD was strongly involved in the commissioning of the IEEE/HP Telecenter at the University of Ibadan in January. The two-day event included a Section meeting during which a new executive committee was sworn

in. The majority of the committee are GOLD members, reflecting the major role that GOLD plays in the Nigeria Section.

Hungary

The sixth BME-KTH International 24-hour Programming Contest took place at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) on 21–23rd April. Isolated from the world outside, 30 teams of three had to solve complex programming tasks in 24 hours. The Problem Set was created by PhD students from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. The winner and runner-up were from Poland, while four Hungarian teams finished in the top 10. More info at: www.challenge24.org.

Peter Nagy

United Arab Emirates

UAE-GOLD has launched its first website (www.eecs.umich.edu/~faloul/4/gold). The website contains the latest news on GOLD activities in UAE, a list of GOLD members, and a link for IEEE members to register in the affinity group. UAE-GOLD also co-organised a workshop at several sites in December 2005 entitled 'Developing Leadership Skills', given by IEEE Fellow Kurt Richter.

UAE's GOLD team also participated in a range of major events in March 2006 including the Water & Energy Technology and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) and the IEEE 3rd Industrial Electrical and Electronics GCC Conference. We were involved in the First IEEE UAE Student Day on 4 May, and joined a group of 27 students on a study tour to Hungary.