

News from Europe

Joint Meeting in Regensburg, Germany

The joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter held a very successful meeting on May 22-23, 2003, with 112 attendees. Hosted by Infineon, in the society "competence center" in Regensburg, near Munich, the meeting covered discussions about IEEE as well as scientific issues. Dr.-Ing. Peter Magyar, Chapter Chair, created an interesting agenda that drew people from university and industry over nine European countries, and mostly East Europe countries.

The welcome address was given by the German Chapter President, Prof. Dr.-Ing. W. Leonhard, IEEE Life Fellow. Regarding IEEE, the meeting objective was two-fold: discuss the status of established PELs chapters, and get information about chapters to be founded. Some experiences with other societies were also shared.

A presentation of some established PELs chapters was given by Prof. Z. A. Bencic (Univ. of Zagreb, Croatia), Prof. K. Jezernik (Univ. of Maribor, Slovenia), and Prof. V. A. Katic (Univ. of Novi Sad, Serbia & Montenegro).

New chapter projects were presented by Ms. D. Balogh (student at the K. Kalman Polytechnic, Budapest, Hungary), Dr. M. Mienskina (Motorola Czech System Lab., Czech Rep.), Dr. T. Ruzsanyi (Ganztrans, Budapest, Hungary), Dr. L. Szabo (Univ. of Cluj-Napoca, Romania), and Prof. J. Vittek (Univ. of Zilina, Slovakia). Most speakers made two main points; IEEE is not well known in their country, and promotion should attract new members. Unfortunately the membership fees are a strong limiting factor, as is the poor technical level. The German Chapter Chair repeated again the chapter program to promote and help create chapters in East Europe countries. Probably the position of Germany in Europe renders the German PELs Chapter very sensitive to the difficulties encountered in East Europe countries when looking for a PELs chapter.

Prof. A. Jack from Univ. of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, noted that IEE is the dominant Electrical/Electronic society in UK. IEE rules most University accreditations and probably represents a lobby. Prof. Jack commented on the necessity of cooperation between IEEE and IEE at a time the popularity of hard science and mathematics in schools continues to fall.

The meeting offered also a strong scientific agenda. Prof. Jack began with a lecture on "the possibilities for insulated iron powder as a new material for electromagnetic components." The latest developments in power semiconductor devices at Infineon were presented by Prof. Dr.-Ing. L. Lorentz and Dr. G. Miller. The latest developments in Silicon Carbide devices were covered by Prof. Dr.-Ing. H. Mitlehner, and microcontrollers were presented by Dr. A. Jansen. A tour of the semiconductor factory in Regensburg was followed by a lecture "on safe operating area limitations of integrated circuit output drivers" by Dr. P. L. Hower (Texas Instruments, Manchester, NH).

Numerous questions were addressed to all speakers. Details may be found at <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/Germany/ias-pels/>.

Bruno Allard

PELS European Liaison
CEGELY - INSA de LYON
Tel: +33 4 72 43 81 77
Fax: +33 4 72 43 85 30
Mobile: +33 6 62 87 02 14
allard@cegely.insa-lyon.fr



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For more information, contact Carolyn Solimine at +1 732 562-5484 or c.solimine@ieee.org or eab-accred@ieee.org.