

## 11th Baltic Electronics Conference BEC2008

In October 2008, the scientists from 14 countries assembled at Tallinn University of Technology to participate in the 11th Baltic Electronics Conference (BEC2008). With this act we continued the tradition, which is dated back over 20 years already: the first conference was initiated in 1987. The BEC2008 was held in Tallinn and Laulasmaa. Main organizers were the Departments of Electronics and Computer Engineering of Tallinn



University of Technology (TUT). Support was given by the Departments of Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science, and Electrical Drives and Power Electronics; the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society gave the technical sponsorship. The Competence Centre in Electronics, Info- and Communication Technologies (ELIKO) connected us with industry, and the Laulasmaa Spa Resort gave us many benefits to run our conference near to the Baltic Sea beach not far from Tallinn. To the International Program Committee were submitted around 100 papers, mostly from Baltic, Scandinavian and German scientists, but also from Czech Republic, USA, France, Italy, Slovenia, Ukraine, Romania and Iran. Finally the Conference program featured 7 invited papers and 74 papers for presentation, mostly about the latest research and development results in electronics, microtechnologies, embedded systems, dependable computing, signal processing and communications in the Baltic Sea Region and wider. Contributions covered also the design, analysis, simulation and optimization in both component- and system-level electronics, microsystems technology and embedded systems. The papers in this issue have been directly reproduced from the BEC2008 materials.

The year 2008 was important to the conference organizers by several aspects. The Departments of Electronics, Computer Engineering, and Biomedical Engineering were the founders of the Centre of Research Excellence for Integrated Electronic Systems and Biomedical Engineering (CEBE), supported by the

European Regional Development Fund through Estonian Government. The same fund subsidised also the R&D infrastructure. Though our labs are pretty well equipped today, however, a new initiative for the improvement of the R&D infrastructure have been launched again in 2010. The BEC2010 organizers and their partners try to repeat the previous success.

In May 11, 2007, a memorial board for the founder of thermoelectricity, Thomas Johann Seebeck, was disclosed in Tallinn. This was an extremely important joint action of Estonian and German engineers, physicists, and material scientists. Today, all the scientific and engineering world recognizes the importance of Seebeck's work to modern semiconductor electronics, energy harvesting, optics, nanotechnology. Thomas Johann Seebeck was born in Tallinn on April 9, 1770. In 2010 we celebrate the 240th Anniversary of his birth. Our next conference in October this year, BEC2010, will be dedicated to T. J. Seebeck, some plenary talks will be focussed on his role in nowadays science and technology.

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