

EMC Europe 2006 in Barcelona, Spain

by Ferran Silva and Mireya Fernández

On September 4 to 8, the seventh edition of the EMC Europe International Symposium was held in Barcelona, Spain. It was an entire EMC week with some 600 people “flooding” the North Campus of the Technical University of Catalonia. It was a truly international event with EMC people from 44 different countries attending the oral and poster regular sessions, the workshops, the courses, and the technical exhibition.

For the regular sessions, EMC Europe 2006 received 244 papers from 31 different countries. All the papers were carefully examined by three independent reviewers of the EMC Europe editorial board before being accepted to be presented in the oral and posters sessions. The call for workshops resulted in 14 workshops focused on different and interesting hot EMC topics.

The activities of the week were as follows:

Monday, September 4, the symposium starts with the first lectures for the students of the Socrates IP course EMC Related to Wireless Communication Systems. After the lectures, students and Professors enjoyed the Barcelona skyline at sunset, sailing aboard the Orsom catamaran.

Tuesday, September 5 was the first day for the symposium workshops. It was time to start arguing on EMC and to meet up with old EMC friends during the coffee breaks. A whole day workshop on reverberation chambers organized by Chris Holloway of NIST was held this day. During the week, more than 80 presentations were scheduled in the different workshops and tutorials. This day, exhibitors were working hard to set up their stands for the next morning Technical Exhibition opening.

Wednesday, September 6 was the central symposium day. During the opening ceremony, the symposium chairman Dr. Ferran Silva, the vice rector of the Technical University of Catalonia, Professor Lluís Torres, and the EMC Europe Chairman, Professor Johan Catrysse, welcomed all the attendees. Mr. Andrew Drozd, the president of the IEEE EMC Society, presented the activities of IEEE in the EMC area, and Professor Jan Luiken ter Haseborg invited all us to the next edition of EMC Europe that will be held in Hamburg in September 2008. Mark Bogers from the European Commission closed the opening ceremony with a conference about the New

EMC European Directive.

After the opening ceremony, everyone went to the exhibition area for the opening of the technical exhibition. During the coffee break, attendees visited the booths from 24 companies, three universities, and the IEEE EMC Society. After this break, the oral regular sessions started. During the week, three oral sessions were scheduled in parallel with two workshops sessions so everybody could find an interesting topic to attend.

The nine poster sessions were programmed over two days during the lunch break in the exhibition area, together with the hands-on sessions (experiment shows) that had a large audience. Several companies' technical presentations were also scheduled at that time. The long lunch break allowed the attendees to enjoy their meal and to visit the exhibition to see the posters and experiments without haste, except for the poster session chairs that worked hard to decide the winner of the Hewlett-Packard best poster presentation award! This was not the only award in the symposium. The election for the best paper award winner was also a difficult decision. In a primary round, the members of the editorial board voted for the best paper between the candidates selected by the editorial board.

During the evening, a welcome cocktail was held at the Casa Llotja de Mar, one of the best examples of two-story civil Gothic architecture in the Mediterranean. Historically, the Casa Llotja de Mar was the seat of the most emblematic institutions of Catalan commerce, for instance, the Consulate of the Sea, or the Royal Particular Board of Commerce of Barcelona. Today, it is the corporate headquarters of the Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Shipping of Barcelona.

Thursday, September 7 was a very busy day, full of EMC with 10 oral sessions, four workshops, and the poster sessions during the lunch break. The IEEE Region 8 EMC Chapter Retreat was also held on Thursday.

In the evening, the symposium dinner was held at the Cavas Codorniu. After a short visit to the cellar in a small train, an exhibition of Castells took place. “Castells,” a Catalan word for castles, are a cultural phenomenon particular to Catalonia and

consist of erecting human towers. This tradition originated at the end of the 18th century in Valls, Tarragona, when rival groups of people called “colles”, began to compete in constructing the different kinds of human towers that we recognize nowadays. The towers or castles are erected following very precise techniques and every castle is a law unto itself because of the different factors to be taken into account. As a rule the “pinya” (the base) is formed first of all, this involves a very strict order and discipline, everybody having an allotted station within the base group. Thereafter, the different storeys begin to rise up. The strongest people are at the bottom, on the “pinya”, and the most agile and lightest on the top storeys. The last person to climb the whole tower or castle is the “anxaneta”, a young girl or boy who, on arriving at the very summit raises the arm and salutes the public. This is the highlight of the event as the “castell” is now considered to be crowned. But, in fact the job is only half done, as the structure still has to be brought down safely. Nowadays, Castells up to 10 storeys are erected by the best colles. After the Castells exhibition, dinner was served inside the modernist cellar designed by the architect Joseph Puig i Cadafalch, who, together with Antoni Gaudí, was one of the leading representatives of the great Catalan modernist architectural school.

During dinner, the winners of the EMC Europe 2006 best paper award and of the Hewlett Packard best poster presentation award were announced. The best paper award was for S. Egot, M. Klingler, L. Koné, S. Baranowski, F. Lafon, and C. Marot from France (PSA Peugeot Citroën, IEMN-TELICE, VALEO, and Siemens VDO Automotive) for the paper entitled, “Modeling Automotive Electronic Equipment in a Realistic Sub-system.” The prize was announced by Dr. Ferran Silva, Chairman of the Symposium, and given by Professor Johan Catrysse, Chairman of EMC Europe.

The Hewlett-Packard best poster presentation award went to N. Raičević, and S. Llić from the faculty of electronic engineering of the University of Niš, from Serbia, for the poster of the paper entitled, “One Method Which Determines the Influence of the Solenoid Coil System onto the Permanent Magnet.” Mr.

Andrew Frost gave the prize from Hewlett-Packard in Barcelona.

Friday, September 8 was the last day of the symposium. Attendees went to the last six oral session presentations, and to the last two workshops. They also

had the last look at the exhibition stands. A farewell “aperitivo” with Spanish products (jamon iberico and queso manchego) was the last opportunity to say goodbye. Attendees look forward to seeing everyone again at the EMC

Europe workshop in Paris next June, in Honolulu next July at the 2007 IEEE International Symposium on EMC, and in Hamburg during September 2008 for the next edition of the EMC Europe Symposium. EMC



UPC Vice Rector, Lluís Torres, EMC Europe ISC Chairman, Johan Catrysse, and IEEE EMC Society President, Andrew Frost, (from left) at the Opening Session of EMC Europe 2006.



Johan Catrysse, Mauro Feliziani (EMC Europe ISC Chairman and Secretary) and Andy Drozd (seated from left) are shown with the authors of this article, Ferran Silva and Mireya Fernández, (standing) from the Barcelona local organizing committee.



The Technical University of Catalonia symposium organizers alias booth.



Poster session at lunch time in the Exhibition Area at EMC Europe 2006.



Traditional Catalan “Castells” at Codorniu Cellar during the EMC Europe 2006 Symposium Dinner.



G. Bargboer from Eindhoven shows a “hands on” demonstration about “Induced Electric Fields” during the exhibition held in conjunction with EMC Europe 2006.



Andrew Frost (right) presents the Hewlett Packard Best Poster Presentation Award to N. Raičević.



Christos Christopoulos (left) from the University of Nottingham greeting the symposium chairman, Ferran Silva.