

1984 SYMPOSIUM

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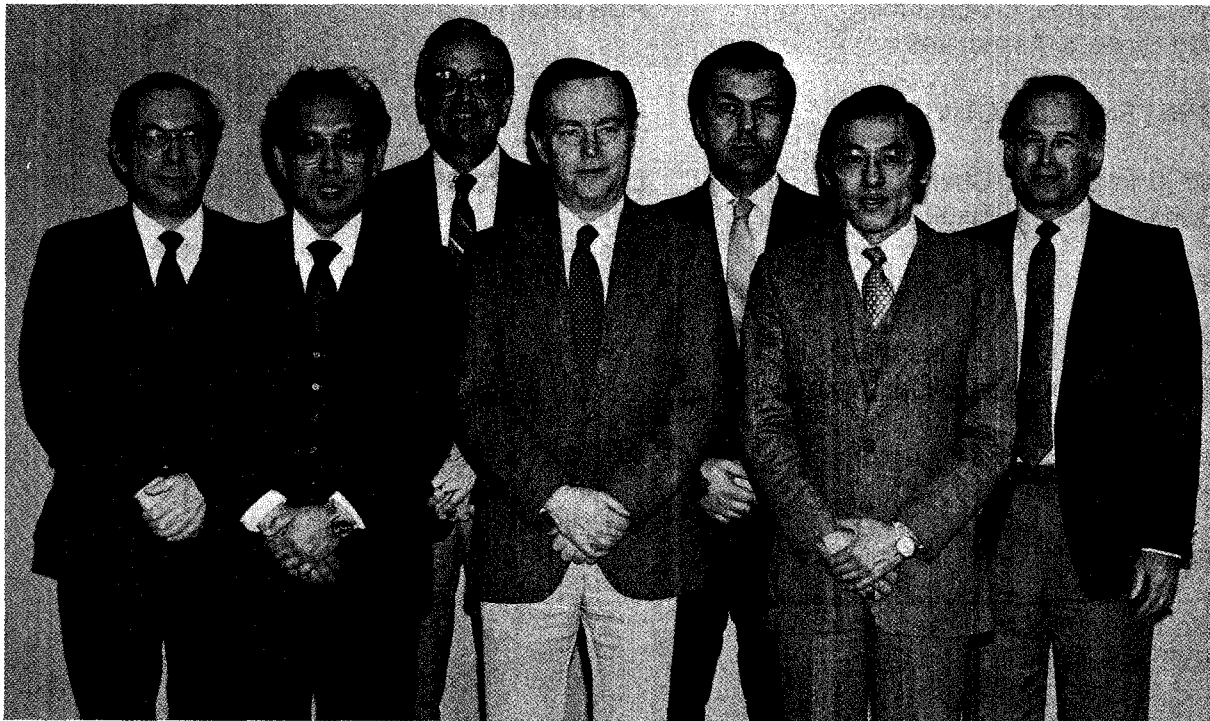
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MESSAGE FROM THE TECHNICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



It was a most rewarding experience to sort out the submitted summaries for evaluation by the 15 specialized groups of the Technical Program Committee and to see the symposium program taking shape. As it finally evolved after diligent work by the 99 TPC members who selected 145 out of the 250 contributions, the program gives us a snapshot of progress in the microwave theory and techniques field that extends downwards to acoustics and upwards to optics.

What does this program tell us? The answers are likely to vary depending on the viewpoint. The organizers tend to look for the unanticipated. To us it was the particularly strong showing of the mm wave technology. Our preliminary session plan, laid out prior to the TPC meeting, included two mm-wave sessions. Instead, we ended up with five session titles containing the words "millimeter-wave." These account for about one-fifth of the sessions. The long persisting saying that "the millimeter-wave technology is most promising and always will be" may thus no longer be valid.

As expected, GaAs FETs and their applications are prominently represented on the program. Five sessions are dedicated to these topics, including the two on monolithic technology, which are jointly presented by the MTT-S and MW & mmW Monolithic Circuits symposia.

The rest of the program is well balanced, as can be concluded from a quick reading of the session titles. However, one well represented topic group becomes evident only upon closer examination of the program: dielectric resonators and their active and passive applications. These are covered in several sessions. In spite of this, the corresponding papers provide a clear overall picture of significant progress toward a variety of dielectric resonator applications.

Encouraged by the successful introduction of the Open Forum at the 1983 symposium in Boston, we adopted it and introduced additional structural program changes. First, by halving the session length we doubled their number and thereby gained greater freedom in paper grouping by topic. The resulting more homogenous sessions are expected to facilitate attendance decisions and reduce traffic between parallel sessions.

Another novelty is the short paper category. We introduced it to provide valuable updates on previously reported major projects or preliminary results of recently started projects. Such contributions may be of great interest to the MTT-S membership but usually do not qualify as full-length papers and therefore present a selection problem unless they are recognized as a separate category. The Technical Program Committee made good use of this, as can be seen from the fact that the sessions contain on the average three full-length and two short papers.

We are interested in your reactions to these and the other changes aimed at further improving the usefulness of the symposium to attendees and authors alike. The 153 papers should give everybody a wide choice in content and scope. The 24 sessions contain 72 full-length and 46 short papers. Of these, two sessions with 8 full-length papers have been jointly organized and are in common to the two symposia. The two Open Forums contain an additional 35 papers whose meaningful presentation requires including detail that makes such papers better suited for poster presentation and individual interaction between author and attendee.

To complement these sessions we again added panel sessions and workshops which provide yet another medium for presentation and exchange of technical information.

All of this was made possible through the contributions of many authors, the dedicated work of the Technical Program Committee, of the Steering Committee and especially vice chairman, Jim Crescenzi, the special sessions chairman Joe Barrera and co-chairman, Reynold Kagiwada, and the TPC secretary Phil Chen. We are looking forward to a productive meeting in San Francisco!

Ferdo Ivanek

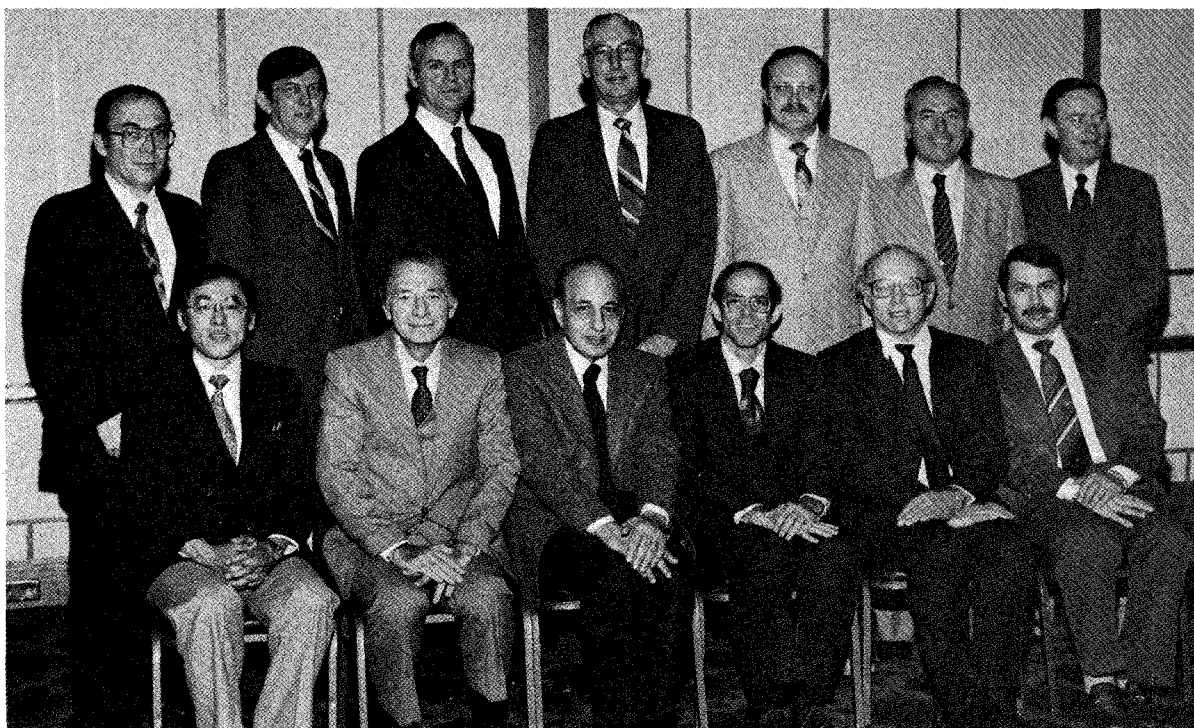
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