

IMS 2002 Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the MTT-S

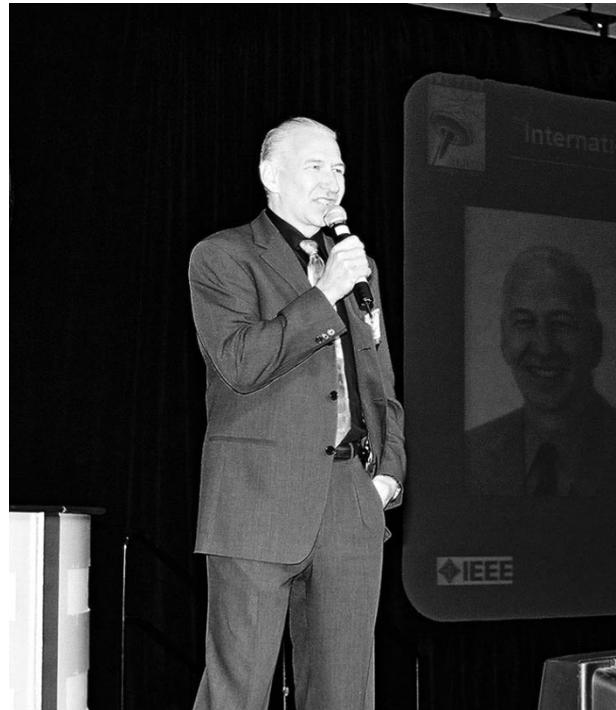
Donn T. Harvey, *Member, IEEE*

I. MICROWAVE WEEK

THE 2002 IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (IEEE MTT-S) International Microwave Symposium (IMS2002) was held in Seattle, WA. "Microwave Week," as it is informally known, started with registration on Saturday, 1 June 2002 and ran through Friday, 7 June 2002. Microwave Week once again was comprised of three conferences, the Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits (RFIC) Conference on Monday and Tuesday, the International Microwave Symposium itself on Tuesday through Thursday, and the Automatic Radio Frequency Techniques Group (ARFTG) Conference finished up the week on Friday. Interspersed throughout the week were over 30 workshops, panel sessions, and three days of interactive forums. This year, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the IEEE MTT-S, we featured an expanded historical exhibit and a special historical interactive forum. By every measure, the symposium was a great success with near-record-breaking attendance, while maintaining the same high-quality technical sessions the symposium is known for.

Many people may not realize the amount of work required to organize a symposium of this magnitude. Most of the work is done by a local volunteer group of society members, which form the local Steering Committee. Organization of the Steering Committee began in 1995 after the IEEE MTT-S Administrative Committee (AdCom) voted to have the IMS2002 held in Seattle, WA, a first for the IEEE MTT-S IMS. With little or no experience on the committee organizing the ever-growing symposium, the local committee had seven years to observe, learn, and solicit advice on the intricacies of organizing an event of this scale. As Chairman of the Steering Committee, I had two goals for the group: put on a great symposium and have fun along the way. We accomplished both of these goals.

The Steering Committee was made up of members from a diverse geographic area, but primarily the Portland, OR, and Seattle, WA, areas. The Technical Program Committee (TPC) was nearly all based in the Portland, OR, region with "Local Arrangements and Operations" based in Seattle, WA. Roughly half the committee was part of what became known as "The Portland Crew." Many of the committee members volunteered an incredible amount of time and put forth much effort, especially over the last year. Their reward was not financial, but came from developing personal and professional relationships with their peers that will last a lifetime.



General Chairman Donn Harvey addresses the plenary session.



IEEE MTT-S President John Barr addresses the plenary session.



Donn Harvey with Eric Strid (*left*) and IEEE MTT-S IMS Vice Chair Marc Sweet (*right*).



IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 TPC members Tom Ruttan, Leonard Hayden, and TPC Vice Chair Ed Godshalk.

II. ATTENDANCE STRONG

Planning the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 was complicated by challenging economic conditions and the corresponding slowdown in our industry. The Steering Committee faced many difficult decisions, as we attempted to predict attendance levels, plan for worst case scenarios, and modify our spending, yet maintain the quality our attendees have come to expect. The Steering Committee reviewed historical registration trends in detail and attempted to extrapolate this data to predict our attendance levels. The Steering Committee carefully monitored preliminary indicators throughout the preceding year. The first encouraging news came from the exhibitor registration; the booths were sold out with a waiting list. In all, we had 856 exhibit booths filled. The next indicator was the paper submittals, over 1200 papers were submitted, only a few percent down from 2001 and more than IEEE MTT-S IMS2000. This encouraging news was tempered by the pre-registration numbers; they were down 20% from last year. This information sent the budget committee scrambling to review the projected revenue and expenditures. Were there any places to cut in case the onsite



Panelists in “The Weakest Engineer” at the awards banquet.



IEEE MTT-S IMS attendees ride the boat to Tillicum Village.



Deby Harvey and Jennifer Turso with the Seattle, WA, skyline in background.

registration lagged as well? Fortunately we had contingencies (as good engineers, we left a little design margin) and were able to make some last-minute adjustments with minimal impact. When the final numbers were tallied, we found the onsite registration was much stronger than expected and we were within 25 people of exceeding the number of attendees in 2001. Over 11 000 people attended the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002. The workshops were more popular than ever, with 3873 attendees.

Position	Member	Position	Member
General Chairman	Donn Harvey	Liaisons	
Vice-Chairman	Marc Sweet	University Liaison	Russ Hertenberger
Operations Chairman	Tom Raschko	Liaison, RFIC & ARFTG	Paul Ferguson
Technical Program		Liaison, ARFTG	Leonard Hayden
Chair	Eric Strid	International Liaison	Ming Chen
Vice-Chair	Ed Godshalk	Local Arrangements	
Workshops		Chair	Jim Freeman
Workshop Committee Chairman	Tom Ruttan	Vice-Chair	Shashi Sanzgiri
Workshops – Sunday	Larry Jacobs	Photography	
Workshops – Monday	Rick Campbell		Ed Adamick
Workshops – Friday	Walter Wohlmuth	Protocol	
Workshop Publicity	Nelly Vladimirska		Deby Harvey
Workshop Publications Editor	Terry Martin		Gerald Kaufman
Panel Sessions			Ray Butler
Sub-Committee Chair	John Cowles		Janet Oneil
Special Sessions		Publicity	
Sub-Committee Chair	Alok Tripathi	Chair	Jerry Prismantas
Interactive Forum		Member	Henry Oman
Chair	Darren Ferwalt	Registration	
Vice-Chair	Rick Lutz	Chair	Steve Pennock
Special Interactive Chair	Tim Mintzer		Eric Soshea
μAPS		RFIC	
Chair	Lisa Critchlow	General Chairman	Sayfe Kiaei
Audio/Visual		RFIC Local Arrangements	
Sub-Committee Chair	James McSpadden		Vikram Jandhyala
Member	Scott Raby	Signs	
Awards		Sub-Committee Chair	Roland Svensson
Chairman	Bill Gjertson	Special Events	
	Isaac Bekker	Sub-Committee Chair	Mike Florian
Catering		Student Papers	
	Gary Liebrecht		Branimir Pejcinovic
	Jan Liebrecht		Garth Sundberg
CD-ROM		Transactions	
CD-ROM Editor	Aurea Taylor	Co-Editor	Andreas Weisshaar
Data Base		Co-Editor	Wolfgang Hoefer
	Jock Argust	Co-Editor	George Heiter
		Administrator	Kathleen Runo
Digest		Transportation	
Sub-Committee Chair	Rob Hamilton	Sub-Committee Chair	Julio Navarro
Member	Gul Gazipura	Web Support	
Member	Norman Chiang	Sub-Committee Chair	Jimmy Takeuchi
Member	Rob Christ		Ruth MacDonald-Schmidt
Electronic Submissions			Trisha Sutakawa
	Rob Shaver	Other Members	
Presentations Coordinator	Joe Decuir	Owner, LRW Associates	Larry Whicker
Finance		Exhibition	
Member	Steve Peters	Chair	Harlan Howe
Member	Mark Virtue	Member	Kristen Dednah
Member	Scott Huhn	Program Publication	
Foothills Financial Services	Eric Downs		Keith Moore
Historical Exhibit		At-Large Member	
Chair	Harry Rutstein	Member	Howard Ellowitz
IEEE Travel And Convention Management Services (ITCMS)			
Conference Administrator	Jennifer Turso		

The state of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 is reflected in the following representative numbers.

Total Attendance	11 023
IMS	2097
RFIC	838

ARFTG	140
Workshops	3873
Awards Banquet	436
Tillicum Village Event	504
Exhibition Booths	856

III. 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IEEE MTT-S

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the IEEE MTT-S. There were a number of activities to commemorate this event, including an expanded historical exhibit and special 50th anniversary interactive forum on display throughout the week. My favorite event was the 50th anniversary Special Session chaired by Leo Young with panelists George Oltman, Harold Sobol, Kiyo Tomiyasu, Ted Saad, and James Wiltse. These panelists presented an all-too-brief historical perspective on our industry laced with anecdotes from their esteemed careers. The 50th anniversary was also marked by commemorative lapel pins, which were distributed to all the attendees. IEEE MTT-S members for over 25 years were given a special version of the pin with a ruby stone. These pins are sure to become IEEE MTT-S collector items.

IV. NEW FOR IEEE MTT-S IMS2002

The 2002 Steering Committee continued with many of the traditions of past symposiums and added a few changes of our own. Two of the changes were the addition of the abstract book and a switch to a soft-cover digest. The intent of the abstract book was to provide something easy to carry and take notes in and the soft-cover digest helped reduce costs and made the digests less bulky for shipment. Other less noticeable changes included increased usage of all electronic presentations and the elimination of the 35-mm slide format. For the second year in a row, technical papers were submitted and judged in an electronic web-based format, a trend that I believe is here to stay.

V. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The social aspect of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 allowed attendees to get to know each other better and develop new friendships. Social events were held nearly every day and included the RFIC Symposium Reception, Microwave Journal/IEEE MTT-S Reception, Industry Hosted Cocktail Reception, IEEE MTT-S Awards Banquet, and the Student Awards Banquet. The IEEE MTT-S Awards Banquet was a special opportunity to honor our IEEE MTT-S award recipients for 2002. Attendees were also treated to a great dinner, entertainment by Timeless Soul, a Seattle vocal group and a special screening of the show "The Weakest Engineer," which featured an impressive demonstration of knowledge by some of our finest IEEE MTT-S representatives. On Tuesday evening, we had an excursion to Tillicum Village, which included a boat cruise to Blake Island and a Northwest Coast Indian-style baked salmon dinner and dance show.

Our guest program had a long list of events with something for everyone. The most popular event was the Boeing Everett Plant tour, where the Boeing 747 jumbo jet is assembled. Other popular tours included a day trip to Victoria, Morning runs through downtown Seattle, walking tours of Seattle, a trip to Mount Rainier, Seattle city highlights tour, Northwest Winery

and Brewery tour, Snoqualmie Falls, Hedges Winery, Seattle Museum Tour, and Seattle Harbor Tour.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am writing this two months after the close of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002, and I feel that by all measures that it was a great success. A number of people have called or written with congratulations on a job well done. The true congratulations should go to the people on the Local Steering Committee who volunteered many hours to make the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 the success it was. Each one has my heartfelt thanks for making my job easier. A proper list of thanks would far exceed the page allotment for this paper. I hope I have the opportunity to do that in person. There are a few people that I feel need special mention because, without them, the outcome of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 may have been a different story.

Thank you E. Strid for being there since day one, keeping me and the committee on track, adding credibility to this rag-tag bunch, and becoming a true friend. To E. Godshalk for backing up Eric during the rough times and helping us succeed with the "fun" part of our goal. Thank you to the glue of the "Seattle Crew" T. Raschko and J. Freeman for never giving up. Finally, there is one person without which we would have been lost. Who took on a daunting task without complaint and never let on when she was overwhelmed or frustrated with us engineers. A true professional with a can-do attitude and endless energy who became a hero and fast friend to all the committee members. A special thank you to our friend . . . J. Turso.



Donn T. Harvey (S'84-M'85) received the B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Milwaukee, WI, in 1985, and completed course work toward the M.S. degree in electromagnetics and applied math from the University of Washington, Seattle, from 1986 to 1987.

He is currently the President of Techlink Northwest Inc., Issaquah, WA, a technical staffing firm that specializes in placing consultants and contract engineers with high-technology companies. Prior to founding Techlink Northwest Inc., he spent six years with Metawave Communications, where he helped pioneer smart antenna technologies for analog, CDMA, and global system for mobile communication (GSM) cellular systems. He spent 12 years with the Boeing Company, where he was involved with the development of millimeter-wave airborne phased-array antennas for high-speed data connectivity. While with the Boeing High Technology Center, he supported 35-GHz frequency-modulated continuous wave (FMCW) RADAR circuit design, high-frequency packaging research, and GaAs monolithic microwave integrated circuit (MMIC) circuit design. He was a member of a team that developed the world's first on-wafer MMIC measurements at 50 GHz using thru-reflect line (TRL) calibration techniques. He has authored or coauthored numerous papers and given presentations on smart antenna and phased-array antenna technologies. He holds four patents.

Mr. Harvey has been an active member of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (IEEE MTT-S) and is a past Seattle section vice chairman and chairman for two terms. He served on the Technical Program Committees for the Wireless Workshop and RAWCON Conferences. He was chairman of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 and has built and coordinated the efforts of over 60 volunteers for seven years.