Welcome to DATE 98

Europe has got its act together and we now have a single DATE98; the co-ordinated, unified and exciting single main event in Design Automation and Test of Electronic-based systems. To all delegates, exhibitors, presenters of scientific papers, designers, speakers, engineers and scientists, a hearty welcome!

DATE98 builds on the success of ED&TC (already a unification of EDAC, ETC, and EuroASIC), as well as that of EuroDAC (which was held jointly with the EuroVHDL conference). In recognition of this initiative, all the major institutions and associations are supporting this event. It is bringing together the whole community from the learned academic through to the practising design community. It provides support and interest at all levels, from that of senior management to the newest student. DATE98 is indeed an “Event” covering an impressive list of important topics ranging from (Electronic) System Design Methodologies to Testing, Verification and Design Reuse.

The quality of the sessions are of the highest order, with only 120 papers making the Technical Programme from nearly 500 submitted, a Users Forum with electronic design examples as a separate track, a major Exhibition, Tutorials, Keynote Speeches, Hot Topic Sessions, Panel Sessions, Vendor Sessions, and lots of Fringe Meetings.

The liveliness of the Electronic Design Community in Europe is nothing less than astounding. The preparation of DATE98 was undertaken with great vigour and enthusiasm, and with more than 100 people actively participating. We gratefully acknowledge the active participation of many scientists from America and the Far East; their import was essential to maintain balance and quality.

DATE98 shows the shifting emphasis in the Design Community: from circuit level to system level, from pure CMOS design to heterogeneous design, from testability to BIST, from hardware to embedded software. Classical issues are as alive and useful as ever, in particular simulation, layout synthesis and verification, due to the new frontiers in speed and scale offered by microelectronics technology moving into the deep submicron dimensions.

DATE98 will make a shift in application domains apparent. Embedded systems on a chip are becoming the ideal of the day, complete with embedded communication functions at the level of ATM, or immense embedded memories and DSP-oriented massive processing for multimedia applications.

DATE will take place annually in the early Spring February/March timeframe. This decision minimises possible clashes with other global events in our field. It will take place alternate years in Paris and Munich. We are grateful for general support of the scientific and industrial communities for this timetable.

The organising bodies of DATE, as well as the members of the Steering Committee and the Conference Committee have greatly enjoyed putting an event together of the magnitude and quality of DATE and are confident that it will meet the expectations and enjoy the appreciation of its participants!

Patrick Dewilde
Conference Chairman

Franz Rammig
Chairman of the Programme Committee

Gerry Musgrave
Chairman of the Steering Board