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Also Published Online at

www.highfrequencyelectronics.com

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Looking Ahead to Microwave Week 2014

Tom Perkins
Sr. Technical Editor



As of this writing in late October, southern New Hampshire still has not encountered a plant-killing frost. Quite unusual for these parts, but Autumn has definitely arrived. Recently I was far removed from the threat of oncoming cold, spending three days in Tampa, Florida, for a planning meeting of the 2014 IEEE Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits (RFIC) Symposium, International Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) Symposium (IMS2014), Automatic Radio Frequency Techniques Group (ARFTG) and Wireless and Microwave Technology Conference (WAMICON). Can you say “Microwave Week on Steroids”? Yes, all of that will take place between June 1 and June 6, 2014. This venerable June event will be unique.

If you want to see what IMS was like back in the “IEEE PGMTT” days, but with all of our modern amenities, plan on staying for WAMICON on Friday. This event is traditionally earlier in the Spring in sunny Florida. Next June only, it will be uniquely incorporated with IMS2014, just for one day, partially due to proximity with its traditional Florida geographical venue. Much like RFIC and the earlier week days of IMS, WAMICON will be carefully coordinated with the traditional Friday ARFTG event to provide an enriching learning atmosphere along with an opportunity to network with colleagues.

Tampa: Excellent Venue

This week-long event could prove to be the best IMS ever! Why? First, the venue selected is quite inviting and close to scenic waterways. Also, if you can manage to bring the family along there are numerous attractions in and around Tampa. I’m told that the guest program may include offerings in the Orlando area and even on Florida’s east coast.

The hotels in Tampa are spectacular. The 2014 Steering Committee, led by Dr. Larry Dunleavy, is very enthusiastic and energetic. There are a number of plans afoot to make the symposium experience friendlier and easier to navigate, both mentally and physically. Hint: the RFIC and IMS technical sessions will be in easily accessible rooms, all on one floor. It’s been a while since I’ve seen such a straightforward layout of rooms that are actually numbered consecutively, 1 through 25. I wish I could share more, but that would be premature and not our prerogative.

Also, if you desire to submit a paper, you have more choices than usual for submittal. And don’t forget Microwave Application Seminars (MicroApps) on the exhibit floor! If you are an exhibitor and have not

reserved a booth, better hurry, space is quickly filling up. A couple more take-aways: There will be an emphasis on STEM and a program called "Connect" which will attempt to richly engage students in engineering. Also, there will be the growing Student Paper and Student Design Competitions. While many talk a good game on this topic, to me this is *walking the talk*.

I urge you to pursue a paper submittal. Check out www.ims2014.mtt.org and associated links for various deadlines and other symposium information. Start early to get your management to approve your attendance. Lots of good learning opportunities, and the exhibits are literally a large shopping mall for solving your project software and hardware needs. If it's a 2014 line item in your firm's budget, get it in there! If you are not a member of IEEE, join now and your attendance fees will likely be lowered by more than the cost of membership. I've attended 28 of these annual events since 1975 and, like our microwave field of endeavor, it never gets old!

Odds and Ends

- This past week I became acutely aware that there is a shortage of EMC/EMI engineers. This is a moving target for many companies as they expand their product lines into the world of wireless connectivity.
- Looks like Dick Tracy's Two-Way Wrist Radio is finally a reality! Samsung announced a "Galaxy Gear Smartwatch" in September that apparently has more capability than previously released devices. I don't think I'm ready for one just yet!
- Speaking of ideas from the 1940s: in our December 2011 issue I mentioned the collabo-

ration of Hedy Lamarr and George Antheil (related to my aunt by marriage) on early spread-spectrum techniques. I recently obtained a book titled *Spread Spectrum: Hedy Lamarr and the Mobile Phone*, by Rob Walters. Edition II Version: 2 just released in

September 2013 gives a very interesting overview of how we got to our current state of communications and entertainment. It's an easy read that's difficult to put down.

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