

Welcome to Date 2003

On behalf of the Executive and Technical Program Committees, we take great pleasure in welcoming you to Munich and to **DATE 03**, the single, most comprehensive European Conference and Exhibition event bringing together academic researchers, industry specialists, users and vendors in the fields of Design, Automation and Test of electronic circuits and systems.

The endless quest for faster, cheaper, smaller electronic products, particularly for the growing consumer and communications markets, dictate that increasingly complex designs be generated in continuously shrinking time scales. Design automation is a strategic technology for modern electronic systems, from simple ASICs via embedded IP cores to large systems on chip made of heterogeneous processors communicating via on-chip networks. The use of embedded processors in SoCs requires an ever-increasing emphasis on embedded software development techniques as part of the design process of state-of-the-art electronic systems. Testing of these complex electronic systems remains a challenge.

DATE has become the pre-eminent European conference addressing research and development activities in the field of design technology. World leading companies in multimedia, wireless communications, and automotive industries have led to the emergence of recognised European specialities in Embedded Systems as well as Intellectual Property and System-on-Chip Technologies, particularly with a strong mixed-signal content. These are three of the most important driving forces behind the explosive growth of Information Technology and the main contributors to accelerate the pace of electronic integration allowing complex systems to be built into a single chip. **DATE** is a unique event where the latest scientific and technological developments are brought to the public from the leading players in the field. **DATE**, therefore, offers a once-in-a-year occasion to find out more about the technical and architectural trends of circuits and systems, small and large, and the design, automation and test challenges they bring to tool vendors and PCB companies as well as semiconductor and IP providers alike.

A total of 590 submissions were received for **DATE 03**, a close to 10 percent increase over the previous edition. After careful consideration, the Program Committee has selected 98 papers for long presentations, 54 papers for short presentations and 49 papers for presentation as posters. An additional 36 papers will be presented in the Designers' Forum, a technical program track devoted to the presentation and discussion of practical, industry-oriented design experiences and methodologies using state of the art design tools. New at **DATE 03** is the Embedded Software Forum, a technical program track covering the 3 days of the conference, dedicated to all aspects of embedded software. Last but not least, 12 Special Sessions have been chosen to bring stimulating insights and vibrant discussions in state-of-the-art topics.

Another innovation is the **DATE** Focus on Business and Industry, a presentation theatre located on the exhibition floor, offering exhibition visitors and conference delegates a fresh view on some key technical and non-technical issues in the current electronic systems design market. In complement to the main technical and scientific program, we have designed a number of valuable education activities in the days before and after the conference. These are the Pre-Conference Tutorials on Monday and two full day Master Courses on Friday. The organization of many Hands-on-Tutorials, a PCB Symposium, a University Booth, fringe meetings, and social events offer a wide variety of extra opportunities to meet and exchange information on relevant issues for the design, automation and test communities.

Many volunteers have given their best efforts to make this Conference and Exhibition an outstanding event. We would like to thank all the members of the Sponsors Committee, the Executive Committee, the Program Committee, the Vendors Committee and the Exhibitors, as well as all the Authors, Speakers, Session Organizers, Session Chairs, and Reviewers for their continued interest, energy and support to **DATE**. We hope that you will enjoy the **DATE 03** Conference and Exhibition as much as all of us have enjoyed organising it for you.

Diederik Verkest, General Chairman
Norbert Wehn, Program Chairman