

EPE Association has been increasing its activities by organizing every year its flagship conference. By doing so, we hope to offer Europe a regular platform for quality discussions on all topics where Power Electronics is involved.

The position of Power Electronics remains how it always was: hidden but unavoidable: The enabling technology. Energy savings, renewable energy sources connected to the grid, storage, electric mobility, light, increasing need for efficient power supplies for IT systems, to name a few recent or expanding applications continuously require still improved power electronics systems, reducing losses, weight and cost.

As our field has the real capability to improve or create new technical applications, the EPE 2015 ECCE Europe keynotes will enlarge the scope of possible applications of our field. Here is the programme: let's dream!

1. High Energy Physics: present and future by Rolf Heuer, CERN Director General
2. TOSA concept: a full electric large capacity urban bus system by a speaker from ABB
3. HYDROS project: from flying boat to energy efficiency by Jérémie Lagarrigue (HYDROS project manager) (<https://vimeo.com/117178326>)
4. ITER: Fusion challenge and technologies by Prof. Minh Quang Tran (Director of the Institute for Physics of Energy and Particles EPFL)

Do not wait any longer to register to the conference, as the number of seats in the main hall is limited! When visiting the conference Internet site (www.epe2015.com) you will also realize that the exhibition is attracting a large number of companies and will offer increased networking opportunities.

1985 – 2015: This year will celebrate 30 year EPE Conference! Happy birthday to all conference participants!

Another way to unveil and discover best practices in the field will be to take part in the discussions organized by the EPE Chapter on Control on Monday 22 June 2015 in Aachen, just before the IEEE PEDG conference (see announcement on page 59). The title of the event is "Power electronics at the heart of tomorrow's Power networks control and operations". As from the political decisions to close nuclear power stations and to increase the share of renewable energy sources, the latter share is becoming threatening for the safe working of the current grid. Transmission systems operators (TSOs) are putting together network codes and the EPE Association and its chapter on Control has to make sure that these codes are set up taking into account the features enabled by the latest power electronics systems. The aim of the workshop will be to highlight new power electronics systems functions (existing or not) that could contribute to the development of the power network of the 21st century and the output will be a European Roadmap to ensure that R&D in power electronics will correctly feed this energetic transition. The programme is being put together and registration will soon be possible. I have to stress that this workshop is a real opportunity for strategic thinking between industry and academia on this important topic: Do not miss it.

Further in time, the 2016 conference is being prepared and the Call for papers will be launched shortly. All information will be posted on the Internet site (www.epe2016.com).

Last but not least, the Venue for the 2017 Conference has been decided on: Warsaw, from 11 to 14 September! The local team is warming up to welcome you there for another great conference. But this is another story!

See you very soon!

Brigitte Sneyers
Secretary General