



## EPE 2003, Toulouse, France

**10th European Conference on Power Electronics and Applications (2 – 4 september 2003)**

*EPE Conference, a show-window to attract young people in power electronics*

As an original European conference, the EPE venue has taken place in European towns starting with the capital of unified Europe, Brussels. Each two years EPE is held in different location in Europe so Grenoble, Aachen, Florence, Brighton, Sevilla, Trondheim, Lausanne and Graz hosted the next conferences.

This conference has grown during twenty years to become in the field the largest of Europe and even of the world. In the field of Power Electronics, Europe is the world leader with some well known societies and several large academic laboratories of all the main European countries.

Considering the topics of this Conference, a number of issues are, non exhaustively, related to the problem of the power devices and circuits, the power supplies, the modulation strategies, the electrical drives, the automotive industry, the transmission and distribution of electrical energy, the EMC and power conditioning. It draws regularly the foremost technical contributors from industry and academia world wide. The average amount of participants is between 900 and 1000.

This Conference provides an interesting meeting between the specialists in Power Electronics, allowing some technological, economical and environmental improvements in the conversion, the treatment and the use of electrical energy.

To build the European Community, two research and industrial domains are particularly significant: transports and energy. In these two fields, the Power Electronics part is growing more and more to improve security, reliability, quality, efficiency...

Today, Europe is a leader in the transport systems (High speed (TGV) train, underground railway, maritim traction...) also in the use of electrical drives in aeronautical applications (Airbus). Electrical energy is contributing towards the people comfort and the improvement of the quality of life.

So, Power Electronics (devices, circuits, systems...) is today a strategic field in the production, transport, distribution, treatment and use of the electrical energy which has become the first energy source in the world. Transports are contributing towards the exchanges of the people from the European regions and countries and so towards a greater European unity.

Now, the young people are less and less attracted by engineering studies and specially in the field of Energy and Power electronics. As Europe is a leader in this field, it is very urgent to maintain a strong activity in this domain. For this, we have to show at the young people that this field offers in research and in industry several attractive jobs and that some important challenges of our society will be solved by a good control of the energy and of our environment.

This conference is a show-window where the up to date products and researchs are shown by the industrial exhibition and the lecture and poster sessions.

Toulouse will host the 10th European Conference on Power Electronics and Applications. Toulouse is located in the south of France, near Pyrénées and Spain, between "Massif central", Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. It is very accessible by an international airport linked with the main European towns, by several motorways and by TGV. More than 40 flights per day connect Toulouse to Paris.

The first traces of life were in 2500 BC but the name Toulouse was for the first roman town in 150 BC. During several centuries, Toulouse was the capital of "Occitanie" before his attachment to France in 13th century. Capitol and several nice churches and buildings are constituting its architectural treasures. Today, Toulouse is the fourth town and the second university in France and it is the capital of aeronautic and space industry. Several electronic industries are located in Toulouse and its region as well. The nearby countryside offers splendid possibilities for vacation and recreation, e.g. mountain tours or stays at the seaside with natural warm weather during this period.

The conference will take place in the "Pierre Baudis" Congress Center, located near the centre of the town and at a foot walking distance from the main hotels. This modern building offers a nice and functional sight.

Beyond the scientific aspects of the Conference, we will give our best to organize EPE 2003 in Toulouse as a pleasant meeting to improve our friendship and cooperation. I am looking forward to seeing you at the EPE 2003 in Toulouse and I shall hope you will enjoy the conference and the region, encouraging you to stay some time longer.

Bernard de FORNEL  
EPE 2003 Chairman