

Fantasy

Wednesday 1 April 2015. The weather looks nice today. Birds are singing happily their spring tune. They put you in a good mood. After a tasty breakfast and some family business, you turn to your desk and your computer to see what is in the mail today. The computer's voice tells you that besides different business messages, the EPE Journal (Vol. 25, n° 1, 1/2015) has arrived. "Finally! Those guys in Brussels can't meet a deadline. Two weeks delay... But let's see what they publish this time." You open the document, switch to the contents and check: "New components, control, drives, topologies, ... the usual topics. This one looks interesting". You click on the title and the author appears on the screen. He shortly explains the contents of his communication and proposes you a multichoice menu, with the different parts of his work.

I could elaborate further on this fiction, but I think it is unnecessary. I just wanted to give you a glimpse of what was passionately discussed at the colloquium that celebrated the 100 years of existence of the French Electrical Engineering School SUPELEC.

The use of multimedia in daily life, the information's highways, interactive consulting of huge data bases and the impact of those new technologies on the economic and social life were the keypoints of the lectures and panel discussions given by French and International personalities.

Power electronics was not visible but was present everywhere, in each terminal, portable machine, laptop, pocket sized, hand held sets needing highly efficient battery powered energy supply. Requirements for high efficiency, low cost, reliability, small volume will be as high as ever, pushing for new components, topologies and lay out techniques. The wide spreading of battery powered sets will put even more stress on the Mains, so that power factor and harmonic contents control will remain key issues.

On the other hand, and at other power levels, the electric vehicle is finally making his entrance. The EUC supports several programmes and car manufacturers are starting actual production. The technology still needs improvements and all components will evolve to improve overall efficiency, ease of use and reliability. Power electronics is also active on board of thermal motors. Again, efficiency, costs, volume and weight are key issues and the market is huge.

These short remarks show that even in a time where data processing is really in the mood, power electronics still deserve our interest and efforts to improve the products we are and will be using. Obviously, there is a future.

To come back to the present day situation, I can tell you that we are currently fully busy with the preparation of the provisional programme of the Conference and the tutorials' programme. All information and hotel reservation information will be mailed around 15 May. Shouldn't you receive your personal copy, do not hesitate to request one from the secretariat.

In the mean time, I want to draw your attention on the two PED-EPE courses that are organised in June and July, in Lausanne and Brussels (see p. 45)

We'll keep in touch!

Brigitte Sneyers, Editor