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Founder member of EPE and Chairman of EPE'93 Conference, Brighton, 13–16 Sept. 1993

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Power Electronics in Europe has indeed been unified to a remarkable extent by the EPE Association, and it must be gratifying to Professor Gaston Maggetto, the founder of EPE, that his vision has been largely realised.

What started as a unifying conference held every second year has now developed to embrace within the EPE Association the EPE Journal, University/Industry co-operation under COMETT (Community Programme for Education and Training in Technology) and UETP (University Enterprise Training Partnership), and the incorporation of the Materials and Devices Symposium, MADEP, as one of the EPE's specialist "Chapters", the other being the Drives Chapter.

The courses held or planned under UETP are at specialist and introductory levels and details appear in this issue on pages 124–126.

These developments by the EPE Association into educational spheres and the creation of specialist "Chapters" have in no way detracted from the importance of the EPE Conference which remains the EPE's central activity bringing together practising engineers and managers from Industry and Academia. Nothing can take the place of these personal contacts and their value cannot be over-emphasised.

The EPE Conference to be held in Brighton, UK, from 13–16 September, provides four days of opportunity for making such contacts and exploring how they can be used for mutual benefit. The Plenary sessions each morning are intended to focus our minds on topics of broad interest and technological – and even political – importance. The 96 papers presented orally over four days have been selected by typically three assessors as being of high quality and of sufficient broad interest for a large audience. These will be presented in three parallel sessions.

The four dialogue sessions for which EPE Conferences are renowned, occupy the afternoons and provide, par excellence, the

opportunities for in-depth discussions between authors and those with similar interests. Such discussions have been known to last for hours and valuable cooperative links have been forged as a result. Where a topic area includes a large number of dialogue papers, eg devices and drives, these have been distributed over two, three or even four afternoons so that the maximum opportunity will be provided to visit as many presentations as possible within the four afternoons of the Conference.

Having perused most of the paper titles, I am struck by three areas of technology which are already having an impact on Power Electronics and which will be addressed by papers to be presented at Brighton. They are: fuzzy logic controllers, power quality (EMI, RFI) and soft switching techniques for high (as well as low) powers. Each of these topics is concerned with removing the sharp corners from our technology and generally making Power Electronics a more comfortable technology for our neighbours.

Much effort has been devoted to keeping the registration fee as low as possible, primarily through seeking sponsorships but also by the IEE, who is providing secretariat services, minimising their organisational costs. Those attending from Mainland Europe will benefit further as a result of the UK pound being no longer tied to the ERM, and devalued as a result.

May I, as Chairman of EPE'93, give you every encouragement to register for the Brighton Conference, grasping the opportunity it provides for keeping up with the rapid advances in Power Electronics and Drives, and renewing, or making fresh contacts with workers having similar fields of interest. I would also mention the specialist seminars being arranged for the days before the Conference. Please turn to page 131 for further details.

**WELCOME, BIENVENUE,
WILLKOMMEN, BENVENUTO,
BIENVENIDOS, WELKOM TO
EPE'93**