

## Nordic Workshops on Power and Industrial Electronics



Below is the short history of NORPIE. The number of attendees is about 100 and is only slowly growing. This kind of a local conference is fairly easy to organize and the payback is large. Close to all Nordic PhD students in our field attend; often their paper is “My first conference presentation” in a little informal setting. A stable 1/3 of the papers are from outside the Nordic countries, mostly from northern Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the Baltic countries. By meeting all the graduate students in the neighbourhood, the conference creates everlasting networks for future professors and researchers in industries. This is the type of conference that EPE endorses, it strengthens the European power electronics community and its chairmen are all important contributors to the development of EPE. The papers presented can be found on the EPE website.

Renewable energy and especially wind energy is important in the Nordic countries. Norway has (in theory) wind resources to supply Germany and France with all the electricity they need. The Norwegian windy land areas, the production facilities of Denmark and Finland and the investment climate of Sweden make the Nordic countries a stronghold for wind energy. The fact that almost any renewable electricity generation involves power electronics reflects the programmes of the NORPIE conferences.

The NORPIE Workshop series was initiated by Professors Seppo J. Ovaska and Jorma Kyrrä of Helsinki University of Technology. They organized the 1997 Finnish Workshop on Power and Industrial Electronics, FINPIE '97. The technical program offered 27 high-quality papers and presentations. Approximately 80 registrants from 11 European countries took part in the intensive one-day Workshop.

Based on the great enthusiasm generated by the FINPIE, it was decided that NORPIEs will be organized biannually in different Nordic countries. The first NORPIE was also held at Helsinki University of Technology in 1998. It contained 40 papers, and about 90 registrants from more than 10 countries took part.

Norpie 2000 was held in Aalborg chaired by professor Frede Blaabjerg and professor Stig Munk-Nielsen. More than 50 papers were presented in oral and poster sessions. Close to 100 participants enjoyed the two conference days. In addition, one day included an industrial tour and another day covered state-of-the-art tutorials.

NORPIE '02 was organized in Stockholm, by Hans-Peter Nee. The total number of papers was 66 and all papers were lecture papers presented in the morning sessions. Each paper was reviewed by four reviewers, which ensured a high quality of the papers. During the afternoon the laboratory was open for lab-sessions, in which the participants could have hands-on experience on a variety of laboratory set-ups. During the lab sessions the experimental results were also discussed among the participants. One of the social high-lights was the “fermented-herring testing event” during the welcome reception.

NORPIE '04 was like a Nordic reunion of the EPE '97, in Trondheim, but with partly nice weather. The 3 days were filled with oral and dialogue presentations. Within wind area there were some good papers also from Delft University. The chairmen selected the three best papers of the conference. These papers were submitted for review to be published in EPE Journal, and can be found in this edition. We had a field trip to Smola windfarm on the Sunday before the conference and a nice social programme.

NORPIE '06 will be held June 12-14 in Lund, Sweden. The city of Lund is located in the expansive Öresund region in southern Sweden, next door to Copenhagen. Lund University was founded in 1666.

For more information, see: <http://www.iea.lth.se/norpie2006/>

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