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With a mission to use renewable energy and technology to improve

the lives of people in remote communities in a sustainable way, the IEEE Smart Village demonstrated a working solar power kit for remote

off-grid villages around the world. Cofounder Ray Larsen is the recipient of the 2015 IEEE Richard M. Emberson Award.

by Vladimir A. Katic

Highlights of the 18th International Symposium on Power Electronics in Novi Sad, Serbia

This year, at the 18th International Symposium on Power Electronics (Ee2015) in Novi Sad, the Serbian organizers were celebrating 42 years of convening in this part of the world. The first meeting took place in Belgrade in 1973. This long tradition shows that the Serbian Power Electronics Society is active and has disseminated valuable information to the world (Figure 1). Ee2015 was held 28–30 October.

The public today is aware of the term *clean energy* and its impact on the environment. Besides the demand for more energy, the emphasis today is on clean, environmentally friendly energy sources with adequate power quality that can be treated with high energy efficiency. Consequently, a number of different international and national conferences today are covering this field. We are proud that, after 42 years of convening, we were again able to present the latest achievements of researchers, university professors, engineers, manufacturers, students, and other experts from this and other regions of the world.

The topics for Ee2015 included automotive and industrial electrical drives, power electronics switches, power

electronics converters, electrical machines, electric drives, control and measurement in power engineering,



FIG 1 The poster of the Ee2015 in Novi Sad, Serbia, showing the conference venue.

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MPEL.2015.2487659
Date of publication: 18 December 2015

power electronics in communications, and electric power quality and renewable energy sources.

The Ee2015 symposium was organized by the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad; Institute Nikola Tesla, Belgrade; the Serbian Power Electronics Society; and Novi Sad Fair. It was supported and technically cosponsored by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts; the IEEE Serbia and Montenegro

Section; the IEEE Joint Chapter of the Power Electronics, Industry Applications and Industrial Electronics Societies; the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia; the Pro-

vincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development of AP Vojvodina; and the Engineering Chamber of Serbia.

The symposium papers came from 269 authors and co-authors representing 20 countries



FIG 2 Ee2015 symposium participants in the conference hall.

The symposium featured nine high-quality keynote and invited papers presented by highly respected lecturers from industry and academia.

(Figure 2): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Iraq, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. All of the papers passed through a reviewing process by the Interna-

tional Program Committee and technical adjustment by the secretariat. Out of 102 submitted papers, 78 (76%) were accepted, while 75 (73%) were presented in the official technical program.

The symposium featured nine high-quality keynote and invited papers presented by highly respected lecturers from industry and academia. They presented the most advanced solutions and trends in power conversion, the flying capacitor converters, the latest achievements in electric automotive

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Ee2015 continued with the best practice of hot topics, introduction of advanced industry technologies, and special (panel) sessions. The industrial presentation “HIL in Power Electronics” addressed the issues of the most advanced real-time digital simulation systems, presenting worldwide experiences in this area. The special session “Strategy for Science Development in Serbia and Role of Power Electronics 2016–2020” was organized in the form of a panel,

**Ee2015 was held
in Novi Sad, Serbia,
28–30 October 2015.**

with presentations and a roundtable discussion.

In parallel with the events, the IEEE Power Electronics Society Region 8 Chapter Chairs Meeting, the 18th Serbian national conference Energetska Elektronika, and the Serbian Power Electronics Society Assembly were also held.

The first Ee meeting was held in Belgrade in 1973, with 47 papers from all over what was then Yugoslavia. Later, the conferences were held in Belgrade in 1975 with 50 papers, Zagreb in 1978 with 94 papers, Sarajevo in 1981 with 95 papers, Ljubljana in 1984 with 104 papers, Subotica in 1986 with 126 papers, and Belgrade again in 1988 with 109 papers. After a long break due to the unfortunate events in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ee

was revived and continued in Novi Sad in 1995, with 79 papers, as a scientific symposium and with a new venue—the International Fair on Electronics and Informatics. The next symposiums were held in Novi Sad in 1997 and 1999, with 98 and 82 papers, respectively. Significant participation from foreign authors resulted in upgrade of the symposium into an international one, which gathered 107 papers in 2001, 101 papers in 2003, 94 papers in 2005, 101 papers in 2007, and 105 papers in 2009. Since 2011, the symposium has been included in the new wider-scope event “Energy Days” in the Master Conference Center of Novi Sad Fair. It attracted 102 papers in 2011 and 68 in 2013. The average number of participants was between 150 and 200, of which a significant portion were students and industry experts.

More details can be found on the symposium website, <http://www.dee.uns.ac.rs/>.

by Don Tan

JESTPE Inaugurates the First Annual Prize Paper Awards

As the editor-in-chief of *IEEE Journal of Emerging and Selected Topics in Power Electronics (JESTPE)*, it is my great honor to announce the winners of our inaugural annual prize paper awards.

First Prize

- K. Strunz, E. Abbasi, and D.N. Huu, “DC Microgrid for Wind and Solar Power Integration,” *IEEE JESTPE*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 115–126, 2014.

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MPPEL.2015.2485419
Date of publication: 18 December 2015

Second Prize

- K. Rouzbehi, A. Miranian, A. Luna, and P. Rodriguez, “DC Voltage Control and Power Sharing in Multiterminal DC Grids Based on Optimal DC Power Flow and Voltage-Droop Strategy,” *IEEE JESTPE*, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 1171–1180, 2014.
- V. Yaramasu, B. Wu, M. Rivera, and J. Rodriguez, “A New Power Conversion System for Megawatt PMSG Wind Turbines Using Four-Level Converters and a Simple Control Scheme Based on Two-Step Model

Predictive Strategy—Part I: Modeling and Theoretical Analysis” and “A New Power Conversion System for Megawatt PMSG Wind Turbines Using Four-Level Converters and a Simple Control Scheme Based on Two-Step Model Predictive Strategy—Part II: Simulation and Experimental Analysis,” *IEEE JESTPE*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 3–13 and pp. 14–25, 2014.

- D.M. Giuliano, M.E. D’Asaro, J. Zwart, and D.J. Perreault, “Miniaturized Low-Voltage Power Converters With Fast Dynamic Response,”