



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The balloting for Chair Elect is complete. Congratulations to the winner, Steve Grout, who will work with Past Chair Charlie Rosenthal and me until his term as Chair in 2003. One hundred members participated in the election, roughly 5% of the membership. I am very concerned about this low turnout, and am open to suggestions on how we can develop a more supportive membership. Please take a minute or two to let me know how we can make the DATC a more effective organization.

The 38th Design Automation Conference (DAC) will be upon us 18-22 June 2001. I will attend, as will several other Executive Committee members. We will have an Executive Committee meeting, and I will publish minutes of it on our Web site, as well as a condensed version here. If you have items you'd like discussed at this meeting, please either e-mail me or contact me at DAC to present your points. I will be staying at Bally's.

The Eighth IEEE/DATC Electronic Design Processes (EDP) Workshop was held 8-10 April 2001 at the Monterey Beach Hotel in Monterey, CA. The workshop provided a forum for a cross section of the design community to discuss state-of-the-art electronic design processes and CAD methodologies. As the requirements and complexities of electronic design increase, past ad hoc approaches to design processes are proving inadequate. The workshop focused on the facilitation and improvement of the overall design process rather than on the functions of the individual tools themselves. The EDP subcommittee that coordinated the workshop is one of our most consistently active ones. You can find further information, including the minutes of the workshop, at <http://www.eda.org/edps/EDP2001>.

Massimo Vanzi, our European representative, attended the Design Automation and Test in Europe (DATE) Conference, held 13-16 March 2001 in Munich, Germany. He had a few observations, which I'll pass on to you.

Massimo noticed the comparison in productivity between flat-classic, system-on-chip, and the future configurable-architecture design methodologies. He also noted a slide where Peter Bauer summarized and emphasized what he called the three gaps: besides the standard *design technology gap* (evident for years), he added the *productivity gap* and the *predictability gap*. He mentioned focus, project management excellence, project team organization, know-how, and experi-

ence as important issues in achieving good results.

On the tool front, Massimo noticed a lot of competition in register-transfer-level to layout flows (with key companies like Cadence, Synopsys, Avant!, Magma, Monterey, and Mentor, plus niche players). He wondered if there is enough market to keep all of them going and up to speed with R&D.

Massimo also noted a lot of activity at the system design level, with many very small companies presenting new and old ideas. He believes we will keep seeing, for some time, small companies selling niche-and-point tools for specific applications supporting specific languages and methodologies.

As a last point, Massimo was interested in configurable architectures and configurable cores. Companies like ARCCores, Sonics, Tensilica, and Improv sell glue-IP, which appears to be very appealing from a methodology viewpoint.

Thank you Massimo Vanzi, for a very informative report.

I have reviewed and approved Technical Meeting Request Forms (TMRF) for DATE and ICCAD. Both are very excellent conferences. I have also begun updating our Web pages, but there's still a lot more to do.

That's all I have to report for this period. I welcome input from our readers.

Joe Damore

CALENDAR

13th Int'l Conf. on Parallel & Distributed Computing & Systems,
Anaheim, Calif.

21-24 August 2001.

Contact Carrie Manchuk, calgary@iasted.com.

See <http://www.iasted.com/conferences/2001/anaheim/pdcs.htm>.

PaCT 2001, 6th Int'l Conf. on Parallel Computing Technologies,
Novosibirsk, Russia.

3-7 September 2001.

Contact Anton Selikhov, selikhov@ssd.sssc.ru.

See <http://www.pact.sssc.ru/conference/pact2001/>.

IEEE Int'l Test Conf. (ITC 01), Baltimore.

30 Oct.-1 Nov. 01.

See <http://www.itctestweek.org> for information.

10th Asian Test Symp. (ATS 01), Kyoto, Japan.

19-21 November 2001.

See <http://ats01.dsgn.im.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp> for information.

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