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High Frequency Technology is a Worldwide Business

Gary Breed
Editorial Director



This issue represents our magazine's presence at the European Microwave Week conferences and trade show in Paris. This event—the largest gathering of RF/microwave engineers in Europe—is very important to us. It helps us appreciate the European viewpoint on the technology we cover in our pages.

I will spend plenty of time getting an update on European research work via the technical conference papers, and I will also make sure to see what new products are on display in the exhibit hall. Publisher Scott Spencer will be making sure all the exhibiting companies (and visitors from other companies) get the latest story about our activities.

Why is an international event important to a U.S.-based publication? Because the people involved in the latest high frequency technology developments are located all around the globe. China is the fastest-growing wireless market, India is deploying broadband technologies at an ambitious rate, Europe has a tradition of strong industry-university cooperation, and developing nations continue to use wireless for rapid expansion of their national telecommunications systems.

EuMW in particular offers a look at new ideas and products in the region of the world that is a close #2 behind the U.S. in terms of market size and technology leadership. When compared to the U.S., Europe has significant differences in the way business and education operate. Seeing things from that viewpoint is educational for those of us whose work may be focused on other parts of the world.

The manufacture of high frequency products is done in many places. Central Asia, East Asia, Central America, Europe and North America are the leaders, of course, but there is growing interest in high-tech manufacturing in such places as the Arabian Gulf region. Modern travel, shipping access and communications have removed many of the barriers for operations in new areas. Currently, the primary issues to deal with when setting

up a new manufacturing operation are local transportation and skilled labor capabilities.

Although the readers of *High Frequency Electronics*' printed edition are mainly in North America, our international circulation is boosted by downloads of our Online Edition, where large groups of readers are in Europe, India and China. Also, the engineers who download past articles from our archives represent almost all nations with connections to technology industry and education.

I take a special interest in the papers at EuMW for two reasons: 1) The strong industry-university cooperation gives the conference a more practical slant, since papers often have both a research and product development perspective; and 2) Many of our authors are from European countries, including the writers of some of the most pop-

ular articles we've published.

Some of these engineer/authors were invited to write for us after seeing their papers, while others are readers (and fans) of *High Frequency Electronics*. I've known a few of them for more than 25 years, and they have given me the ultimate compliment by preferring to write for each magazine I've edited over the years. Hopefully, I'll have the chance to see these special authors at EuMW!

International EE Students

A final reason for maintaining a strong interest in and awareness of the international engineering community is that the majority of graduate students in many U.S. university engineering programs are from other countries.

This phenomenon points out the quality and the openness of the U.S. higher education system.

Having our educational leadership validated by the "votes" of tuition-paying students is gratifying. The willingness to accept them is a tradition begun at the birth of our nation. However, the lack of American students raises questions about the future of U.S. leadership in education and technology.

Perhaps these international students are simply an indicator that many nations in the world are striving to achieve a higher level of technical innovation. I certainly hope that it does not indicate a significant decline in the U.S. "brain trust," and that recent efforts to improve science and math education in grades K-12 will eventually result in more U.S. students fascinated with technology—and ready to pursue careers in this interesting and influential industry.

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