

Welcome from the President

On behalf of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the IEEE 69th Vehicular Technology Conference in Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia.

Barcelona has a very long history and has been a cross roads for many cultures, which makes it a fitting venue for the Vehicular Technology Society's flagship conference as it celebrates sixty years of connecting the mobile world. Each year we survey attendees at the conference, including questions on future venues, and Barcelona scored very highly. However, a conference cannot be held without committed support from many volunteers, and we have been very fortunate to have a very experienced team lead by Ramon Agustí and José Luis Ripoll, backed by strong support from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and Fundació Vodafone. TPC Co-chairs Oriol Sallent and Javier Gozávez and their team, who have worked very hard to select a top quality technical programme, and the entire organising committee has worked to ensure that you will all get to experience an enjoyable and stimulating conference in this distinct part of Spain. The Hilton Diagonal Mar is a new hotel within a redeveloped part of the city, but the metro is a very short walk away, and I would encourage you to spend some time exploring the city and the surrounding region.

One of the most pleasing aspects of this conference is that in spite of the 'credit crunch' getting in to full swing as the call for papers was being circulated, both submissions and attendance at the conference are in line with expectations. One of the results of the credit crunch is that in many areas research is refocusing on more efficient and less wasteful technologies. Mobility technologies, which are at the heart of the VTS field of interest, are key to reducing the modern world's impact on the environment. VTS activities in hybrid vehicles and railway systems are perhaps the most obvious examples of this, but advanced communications and wireless technologies have a huge role to play. 'Green radio' will be a theme at the 70th VTC in Anchorage, but systems approaches to reduce infrastructure, promote remote working, and minimise overall energy use also show great promise. I invite you to think of these challenges as you see the research presented at the conference, and to get involved with the initiatives within VTS to help shape your profession's future. Find out more at www.vtsociety.org

Finally I would like to thank all of you for travelling to and participating in the conference. I wish you an enjoyable and stimulating visit.

James Irvine, *President*
IEEE Vehicular Technology Society