From the Editor

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One Article, Two Articles, Three Articles...

Well, here we are with the second issue of *IEEE Circuits and Systems Magazine* designed and laid out at IEEE Publications in Piscataway, New Jersey.

We hope you enjoyed the first issue, which came out about three months ago. We now face the challenging task of getting the third and fourth issues out during this coming four-month period, so that by the end of the calendar year we shall be caught up and back on schedule. If you did not have time to examine the previous issue, you may find the reasons and details of our delayed publication startup this year in that issue.

The alert reader may have noted that our previous issue, the first of the year, used only 36 pages, of a possible 40 which were permitted us by the Society. The reason was that a second article, which we would have liked to include, would have taken us well over 40 pages. So we decided to store up a few unused pages for use in the later issues of the year. The situation is the same in this issue, where we set a target of 36 pages, as well.

With the remaining two issues, we have the option of going with two issues at 44 pages each, or trying to hold the third issue at 36 pages and then having the final issue be 52 pages. At the present moment, we are thinking of doing the latter. This means that we anticipate the third issue having approximately 36 pages, with the fourth being 52 pages. This should make it possible, finally, for us to move into two or more articles per issue for the last issue of 2003. Of course we cannot tell right now exactly how this will play out, because we do not know with much precision how a given article will lay out in the magazine, until it is actually laid out at IEEE. Advance estimates are of some use, but have a considerable variance associated with them. But these are our hopes and plans for the remaining issues of the year. We know that some readers are likely wondering why we just do not use shorter articles. The answer is that we have a pipeline of articles under preparation for the magazine. Once the article is prepared and reviewed, it is very inefficient to go back and do the whole process again. With more recent articles, however, it should be possible to obtain them in shorter form, so that the number of articles can increase that way.

Another hope we have, of course, is that the Society will be able to afford more pages for the magazine in 2004. At this writing, your editor does not know whether the Society officers have planned an increase. Time will tell.

The number and length of the articles will of course be a principal decision of the new editor-in-chief, whose name should be announced this Fall sometime, after the Society officers have made their selection.

In the meantime, we continue to progress in developing the interface between our office here at the University of Notre Dame and the IEEE Publishing staff in New Jersey. We learned a lot from putting together the first issue of 2003, and we have tried to build on that base in the second issue. As we have commented in the past, the main issue one faces in this electronic publishing process, from our point of view, is files for the paper: files for the text, files for the figures, files for the diagrams and graphs, files for the photos, and so forth. Authors tend to produce these in a great variety of ways, whereas the persons who lay out the publications wish to receive them in specific ways. Layout people must adjust the size of graphics, change the fonts, integrate the colors, and so forth. This cannot be done easily in certain file formats, and often it becomes necessary to completely re-do the graphics in order to achieve the goal. Right now we do a great deal of that sort of work in our office here at Notre Dame. It is a time-consuming and therefore costly process. Another issue is software that was used to create the files. That is a long story, which we have gone over before, but suffice it to say that the more equations appear in the articles the more work is engendered either at the editor level or the publisher level.

Have a good equinox!