

# IMS2019 General Chairs' Welcome

*Mark Gouker and Lawrence Kushner*



**B**oston and the local steering committee are ready to welcome the microwave world to 2019 International Microwave Week. This year's event takes place from Sunday, 2 June, through Friday, 7 June, and features the RFIC Symposium, the International Microwave Symposium (IMS), the 5G Summit, and the ARFTG Microwave Measurements Conference. The technical presentations and industry exhibits will be

held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC). The social events and networking opportunities will take place throughout the revitalized Seaport District. This neighborhood is adjacent to the BCEC and has undergone a remarkable transformation since the IMS2009: it is now home to many museums, shops, restaurants, and nightclubs. International Microwave Week 2019 will be memorable for years to come.

Boston has a rich microwave heritage that continues to today. The Radiation Laboratory run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) during the 1940s made seminal contributions to the emerging microwave engineering field. Much of this knowledge was transferred to surrounding industry and universities in the 1950s. Today, the local steering committee takes particular pride in

balancing the traditions of the IMS with innovative twists, and it focused on creating the best experience for the technical and industry exhibition attendees.

## New This Year

This year's symposium continues this philosophy with new features that include

- a significantly enhanced mobile app to accelerate the momentum to make this the primary interface to International Microwave Week
- increased focus on start-ups and young professionals through the introduction of a Start-up Pavilion within the Industry Exhibition along with an IP 101 information session, a start-up panel session, and the next top start-up contest, plus a lounge specifically for young professionals to meet

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and exchange ideas and experiences

- sixty-second presentations, where interactive forum authors can prerecord an overview of their papers, allowing attendees to get a preview of the paper's content and target the papers of most interest to their work
- interactive panel sessions with real-time audience participation via the Slido app
- reduced costs for student attendees who volunteer one day of service to the symposium, which qualifies them for a \$250 Superpass (which allows admittance to all RFIC, IMS, 5G Summit, and ARFTG events, as well as reduced student rates for workshops: \$50 for half-day and \$100 for full-day workshops)
- Sweet Treats Tuesday to welcome the attendees to the industry exhibit, during which dessert items will be provided at the lunch break, encouraging everyone to visit the exhibit floor to enjoy a treat and meet the industry exhibitors.

### International Microwave Week

The overall format of International Microwave Week remains the same. The RFIC Symposium begins on Sunday with workshops and concludes Tuesday morning. The 5G Summit, again cosponsored by the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society and the IEEE Communications Society, picks up on Tuesday afternoon and concludes Tuesday evening with a panel session. IMS2019 will run from Sunday through Friday, with the Industry Exhibition open from Tuesday through Thursday. The ARFTG Microwave Measurements Conference will also begin on Sunday, with jointly sponsored workshops on Sunday and Monday and technical sessions on Thursday and Friday. In all, there will be more than 9,000 attendees from around the world participating in the technical sessions, workshops, and Industry Exhibition. More than 800 exhibitor booths will showcase the latest

developments in microwave hardware, software, components, and systems.

IMS2019 will begin with workshops and short courses on Sunday and Monday. The opening plenary session will be held Monday evening and feature "The Mind-Body Problem for Intelligent RF," a presentation by Dr. William Chappell, director of the Microsystems Technology Office at DARPA. This will be followed by the welcome reception at the Seaport World Trade Center. IMS2019 technical sessions will run from Tuesday through Thursday. The closing session on Thursday afternoon will feature a keynote address by Prof. Dina Katabi from MIT on breakthrough systems that combine microwave communications, artificial intelligence and computer networks. The Awards Banquet will be held on the traditional Wednesday evening and feature a presentation from Dr. Ryan Chen, CEO of Optimus Ride, that will provide insights into the coming self-driving automobile revolution. The symposium will conclude with additional workshops on Friday.

The Industry Exhibition is another centerpiece of International Microwave Week and will take place from Tuesday through Thursday. In addition to the Sweet Treats Tuesday, the industry-hosted reception will be held Wednesday late afternoon. The exhibition floor will be home to the MicroApps Theater, the Societies' Pavilion, and the new Start-up Pavilion. The IMS2019 schedule again will include exhibition-only time on Wednesday afternoon to ensure that all attendees have an opportunity to interact with and learn about the latest products from the microwave industry.

### Social and Networking Opportunities

Evenings throughout the week will be filled with social and networking opportunities, both organized and informal, so that you can catch up with colleagues from across the globe. The 2019 RFIC and IMS plenary sessions and welcome receptions will be held on Sunday and Monday evening, respectively. Tuesday evening will feature the Young Professionals social

event and the amateur radio social. The Women in Microwaves reception and the awards banquet will be held Wednesday evening and the postclosing session celebration on Thursday evening. In addition, there are dozens of restaurants and nightspots within walking distance of the BCEC and the IMS2019 hotels for informal and more private gatherings.

### Enjoying Boston

Finally, no overview of IMS2019 in Boston would be complete without an invitation to spend a few days in the area before or after Microwave Week. Whether you stay in your hotel in the Seaport District or move into a hotel in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood to be more central to the sights, there is an amazing variety of things to see and do. Boston has a number of world-class museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Institute of Contemporary Art, and the Museum of Science. There are many attractions centered on the American Revolutionary period, such as the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, the Paul Revere House, the Old State House, and the Freedom Trail.

Boston is also well known for its universities, and visiting the many campuses, each with its unique personality, is a great experience. If you visit MIT, be sure to include a trip to the MIT Museum, known as the best research and innovation museum in Boston. Also, no trip to Boston would be complete without a visit to Harvard University and its Museum of Natural History. Here, the world-famous glass flowers—the Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants—will delight and amaze you. For sports fans, visit the Boston Sports Museums in the TD Garden, take a tour of Fenway Park, or watch the Red Sox versus Tampa Bay Rays game. Mostly, take time to get to know some of Boston's neighborhoods. From Harvard Square to the Seaport District, the city's varied personalities and charm will leave a lasting impression.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Boston for IMS2019!

