This process involved the efforts of approximately 1,000 volunteer reviewers, supervised by 23 vice chairs and 168 topic chairs. The review process was completed close to 20 days ahead of schedule, and a preliminary program was uploaded to the conference website nearly four months before of the conference.

It is interesting to note that the three largest subject tracks in terms of submissions (controls, modeling, and optimization of converters and power converter topologies and electrical machines) represented 48% of all submissions. The inclusion of controls, modeling, optimization, and topologies on this list is understandable; they represent a continuation of the predecessor Power Electronics Specialist Conference. The large interest in electrical machines is, at first glance, a little puzzling. The mystery is heightened when one learns that electrical machines was the fastest growing subject track, up 60% from the previous year.

Prof. Akira Chiba, of the Tokyo Institute of Technology and also a technical program vice chair, provided the answer. There is a long history of higher submissions of electric machines abstracts in even-numbered years. In odd-numbered years, the IEEE International Electric Machines and Drives Conference is held, and many papers that would otherwise be submitted to ECCE are apparently offered there instead.

Even the Sunday tutorials are claimed to be bigger and better. “We listened to the local industries by approaching local IEEE IAS and PELS Chapters in the Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington areas,” Dr. Omekanda explains. “They gave us a list of topics of their interests. Following their suggestions and regular ECCE areas of interest, a record number of 20 tutorials out of 40 submissions were selected for the conference. For the first time in ECCE history, the tutorial materials will be available for purchase by conference attendees who will not be able to attend live tutorial sessions on Sunday, September 23, 2018.”

Technically, there are 22 tutorial offerings, not 20. The conference website shows that there are ten options in the morning session and ten options in the afternoon; however, in both the morning and the afternoon, one of the options is to select one or both of two half-length tutorials, which are offered in sequence. The tutorial topics are also available on the website.

All of this development is the result of an excellent volunteer organizing committee. It is heartening to see such growth and improvement in this already successful conference.

by Tom Keim

The IEEE International Telecommunication Energy Conference (INTELEC) will convene for the 40th consecutive year, this time in Torino, Italy, from 7 to 11 October 2018. It is the largest conference wholly sponsored by the IEEE Power Electronics Society. Torino is the Italian name for the city, which in English is called Turin. The conference website in English uses Torino throughout, so this is clearly a conscious choice. Although the conference series started with a focus on electrical power and energy technology for large telephone
systems, the technical focus of the conference has expanded and shifted over the decades to serve the expanding needs of a burgeoning communications and information delivery industry.

This transition is evidenced by the breadth of technical subjects spanned by the call for papers. This ranges from power conversion technologies such as ac–dc and dc–dc converters, energy storage and generation technologies, including emergent and even preemergent technologies, e.g., flow batteries and energy management systems, and site support systems such as cooling technologies.

Don Davidson of Gleneagles Technologies serves as the chair of the conference steering committee, which is involved in selecting future venues and setting strategic objectives for the conference series. In a conversation, he said that the characteristic has an uncommonly intense focus on the needs of the industry that it serves. It seems reasonable that the conference started out with such a focus, given that it was founded with the support of the Bell Telephone Laboratory, in a time when if the Bell System perceived a need for a technology, the Bell System created it. Davidson’s assertion is evidence that the spirit of the conference has remained true to these roots, despite the revolutionary changes in communications and information systems.

In today’s context, the industry comprises “manufacturers, users, and system operators, working together,” according to Davidson. The conference is well focused on all technologies power related, as they apply to the evolving information and communications technologies or ICT. The same thought is precisely captured by the theme of the Torino conference: “40 Years of Inspiration, Research, and Exploration in Power and Energy for ICT.”

The conference format is familiar: tutorials on the first day, plenary and parallel sessions on each subsequent day. The conference also includes an exhibition of power conversion, energy storage, and site monitoring and support solutions for the communications industry. There is a large social component to the conference including receptions, a gala dinner on the night before the final day of sessions, and, most particularly, Tuesday afternoon social and technical half-day tours that ensure attendees can network and get the most out of their visit to the host city.

One distinguishing feature of this conference is the focus on the needs of a narrow subset of the industry at large. It is estimated that between oral and poster sessions, perhaps 140 papers will be presented over the four days. A dedicated attendee could hope to hear or discuss perhaps 40 papers and presentations over the course of the conference. With diligent selectivity about what one attends, that dedicated attendee could...
possibly experience all of the entries on the program that are of highest importance to him or her.

The 2018 conference venue is the Lingotto Convention Centre. This convention site is part of an extensive redevelopment of what was once the largest automobile assembly plant in the world. The building complex even features a test track on its roof, a carry-over feature from the original use of the complex. In addition to the convention center, the redevelopment includes several hotels and a large modern indoor shopping mall. The host city, Torino, is located in Piedmont, the northeastern region of Italy. The city hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics and is famous for its picturesque setting, long history (from Roman times), culture, food, and wine.

More information on the INTELEC 2018 conference, including registration, accommodation, and travel can be accessed on the conference website: www.intelec2018.org.

Continuing its tradition of recognizing technical professionals whose achievements and contributions have made a difference in our Society and the engineering profession while significantly impacting technology itself, the IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS) has announced the winners of its 2018 PELS Awards. The winners were announced by 2018 IEEE PELS Awards Chair Andreas Lindemann of Universitaet Magdeburg, Germany.

The IEEE PELS R. David Middlebrook Achievement Award was given to Grahame Holmes of Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, “for fundamental contributions to the theory and practice of pulsewidth modulation and current regulation of power converters.”

The Richard M. Bass Outstanding Young Power Electronics Engineer Award went to Xiongfei Wang of Aalborg University, Denmark, “for research contributions aiming at stability of power systems with power electronic supply.”

The recipient of the IEEE PELS Harry A. Owen, Jr. Distinguished Service Award was William Gerard Hurley of the National University of Ireland, Galway “for dedicated service to IEEE PELS for over thirty years, particularly in international conferences and seminars and the promotion of power electronics to a worldwide audience through lectures and invited talks.”

Brad Lehman of Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, received the IEEE PELS Award for Achievement in Power Electronics Standards “for outstanding contributions in initiating and leading the IEEE light-emitting diode (LED) lighting standards group (project authorization request 1789) and for IEEE Std 1789-2015, IEEE Recommended Practices for Modulating Current in High-Brightness LEDs for Mitigating Health Risks to Viewers.”

The Modeling and Control Technical Achievement Award was presented to Charles R. Sullivan of Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, “for contributions to the modeling and analysis of magnetic components for power electronics.”

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Congratulations to the 2018 PELS Awards Winners!