



Press Information/News Release

**The first center for power electronics in Europe is founded**

**The “Engineering Center for Power Electronics (ECPE) sets itself ambitious targets for promoting power electronics**

Nuremberg, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2003 – ECPE e.V. (Engineering Center for Power Electronics) will be unveiling its organisation, aims and future co-operation with research institutes and universities at the PCIM 2003 trade fair (Nuremberg, 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2003). The ECPE is Europe’s only organisation of its type. In the field of power electronics, the association has set itself the target of promoting the exchange of experience between industry and science, intensifying research and providing particularly strong support for training and further training. The aim is to boost Europe’s innovative strength and its leading role in future key areas such as energy production, energy distribution, the use of energy and – covering all of these – energy conservation, thereby extending Europe’s competitiveness with respect to North America and Asia. Membership of the association is open to all European companies.

The ECPE will therefore initiate and control various basic research projects and targeted preliminary developments from its own funds and in close co-operation between industry and scientific institutes and higher education centers. The first projects are to be defined and started by the autumn of 2003. The ECPE is paying particular attention here to traffic, drive, and power supply technology. For these areas of technology, the ECPE will allocate main areas of competence to individual institutes and higher education centers and in so doing will help them become centers of competence of international standing in their respective specialist areas.

From this sustained building-up and extension of the research landscape, combined with the dedication of leading industrial participants in the field of power electronics, the ECPE also promises to increase the attractiveness of power electronics for newly qualified engineers. As a flanking measure, it also plans to offer new training and further training programs for students and engineers, and in so doing take account of the changing demands of future technologies.

## **Organisation**

The ECPE is a registered association. The ECPE will control its power electronics network throughout Europe from its offices at the Nuremberg ETC (Energy Technology Center).

The eight founding members are Conti Temic, Epcos, Infineon Technologies, NBM Minibea, Semikron International, SEW-Eurodrive, Siemens and STMicroelectronics. The Chairman is Prof. Dr. Leo Lorenz (Infineon Technologies) and his two deputies are Dr. Heinrich Heilbronner (Semikron) and Dr. Richard Veith (Epcos). The project is also supported by the public sector, for example with funds from the "High-Tech-Offensive Zukunft Bayern" ("High-Tech-Offensive for the future of Bavaria").

The ECPE intends to set up a limited company for the purpose of carrying out research projects. The limited company will contract out research subjects to competence centers, for example a university. The competence centers are selected universities or research facilities and are distributed throughout Europe. The GmbH also has the task of safeguarding the patents granted in the course of the contracted research and marketing in the form of licenses.

### The task of the association "Engineering Center of Power Electronics" e.V.

- Building up and co-ordination the network for research work (ideas, initiation, support and co-operation with further education centers, institutes and scientists both at home and abroad)
- Organisation and offering of training and further training (university and post-university further training, courses, presentations)
- Publicity work

### The task of the "Engineering Center for Power Electronics" GmbH

- Placing and co-ordination research projects in the respective competence centers ("Center of Competence")
- Safeguarding and marketing patent rights
- Acquiring new co-operation partners
- Seminars for experts

### **The benefits for ECPE members**

The ECPE research center and co-operation network that are geared towards industry can support industrial companies in offering innovative and high quality technologies and products in the future too, the development of which will in future not be possible for just a single company – especially in the field of basic research. The main benefits lie in the spreading of risks, the acceleration of the development process, the extension of the company's own expertise and the gaining of innovative strength.

The close co-operation with the departments of power electronics at universities and institutes makes it easier for ECPE members to forge contacts with potential future members. As an association that represents the interests of the power electronics sector, the ECPE can attract more attention among the public than a single company might be able to do. The most important advantage for ECPE members is a direct "line of information" to the respective current research subjects in their field.

### **About ECPE e.V.**

The Nuremberg-based industrial association ECPE (Engineering Center for Power Electronics) founded in April 2003 has set itself the target of promoting power electronics in Europe and tapping the innovative potential in the application areas that are relevant to Europe. These include backing science research and innovative strength, as well as further training both inside and outside universities in all areas of power electronics, along with exchanges of ideas between research institutes, the components industry and users. The members include Europe's leading companies in this area such as Conti Temic, Epcos, Infineon Technologies, NMB Minebea, Semikron International, SEW Eurodrive, Siemens and STMicroelectronics.

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This news release is available at <http://www.ecpe.org>