

ECPE received the Award Competence Network 2010



ECPE received from the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology the award Competence Network 2010. The competition „Strategy-making and strategic Communication“ was targeting at more than 100 innovative and powerful Networks in Germany. ECPE was highest awarded for the contribution „Power Electronics – Key Technology for efficient and sustainable Energy Use“. The prize is worth 15.000 Euros. The Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Economics, Hans-Joachim Otto, handed over the award in the frame of the annual meeting of the initiative Competence Networks Germany held on March 02 in Berlin.

We are very pleased and honoured receiving this award which will boost our efforts to promote power electronics as key technology for energy efficiency and sustainability. **PCIM Booth 12/569**

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PCIM at its Best

Once again this year Professor Rufer has the great pleasure in welcoming you to our annual event. Indisputably established as the leading event of its kind, it offers unrivalled synergy between conference and exhibition. The increase in the number and quality of the submitted papers is a mark of the success of the new Best Paper and Young Engineer Awards, and I am convinced that you will enjoy and appreciate this year's event. In last year's welcome address, I spoke about the economic situation; whilst we are now seeing recovery in many fields, the global picture is still uncertain. Nevertheless, there remain a considerable number of major economic and technological challenges, which will only be met through development and investment. For example, energy efficiency and the reliability of systems and components are increasingly driving development.

Two key topics this year provide power electronics developers with clear direction. The first is the increasing focus on the development of electric and hybrid cars. With batteries being the key element of electric cars, the Power Electronics field is faced with a

number of challenges. These include how to increase power density and develop efficient cooling systems, through global system efficiencies and inevitably high reliability. The second area is the generation of electric power, from traditional to renewable sources. As an opportunity for the world to come together and reflect on the problem, the Copenhagen conference was a major event, despite its failure to reach a significant agreement. Global warming is a real problem and will not disappear. Its indirect consequences will include, I hope, some societal support for the development of public transportation, low emission systems, and renewable energy solutions and policies at individual, global/public and political levels. In many areas of Power Electronics application, particularly those relating to energy supply and use, therefore, the sector is just coming into its own. Existing companies with new ideas, but also new companies offering innovative products are the principal players at our PCIM event.

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