

ECPE becomes operational

In June 2003 ECPE (Engineering Centre for Power Electronics) has been introduced formally. Now the organisation becomes operational.

The aim of ECPE is to boost Europe's strength and its leading role in key power electronics application areas. Membership is open to all European companies including European subsidiaries of abroad companies (see PEE 4/03, page 8). Apart from the registered association ECPE e.V., a limited company (GmbH) has been founded, which develops research roadmaps in cooperation with the involved industry and university partners, prioritises research topics and conducts research contracts with leading European Competence Centers - university institutes and research centers. The budget arises from a research fund, coming from the ECPE partner companies Conti Temic, Epcos, Infineon Technologies, NMB-Minibea, Semikron International, SEW-Eurodrive, Siemens and

STMicroelectronics. Thomas Harder has recently been appointed as General Manager of ECPE e.V. as well as of ECPE GmbH. He has several years of experience in different fields of power electronics as well as in the initiation and management of large European and national research projects. "Today's and future key application areas of power electronics include energy generation, energy distribution, intelligent use of energy and - covering all of these - energy conservation. The new association intends to extend Europe's competitiveness with respect to North America and Asia. ECPE intends to manage for the first time research topics in an European industrial consortium in the pre-competitive stage with own resources," Harder said.



Above. Thomas Harder has been appointed as General Manager of Nuremberg-based ECPE