

Preface

In spring 1977, the first Austrian microelectronics technology seminar took place in Grossarl, Salzburg, under the title “*Technologie in der Mikroelektronik*” (“*Technology in Microelectronics*”), primarily intended as a workshop for Austrian university researchers in this field. A long series of biennial seminars in Grossarl followed, the first of which were organized by a group of institutes at the Vienna University of Technology. Later, after the Society for Microelectronics (*Gesellschaft für Mikroelektronik*; GMe) had been founded in the mid-1980s, the GMe coordinated the seminars. This sequence of seminars continued in 1999 at a new venue, Bad Hofgastein, and with a new title, “*Current Developments of Microelectronics*”. With the change of the seminar venue from Grossarl to Bad Hofgastein the scope of the seminar shifted: Great efforts had been made particularly during the 1990s to invite guest speakers from industry or foreign universities, however, the audience consisted practically exclusively of university researchers. Beginning with the 1999 seminar in Bad Hofgastein, the seminar was designed to appeal to a more application-oriented audience. This trend continued in 2001 when the organizers decided to hold the seminar at a more central place, i.e., at the Vienna University of Technology, thereby facilitating the participation of representatives of foreign and Austrian industry and government. To reflect more clearly the new target of the seminar, its title was changed to “*GMe Forum*”. Most of the oral presentations are now review papers presented by top-level speakers from international industry and research facilities. The institutions supported by the GMe also present their results, partly as oral presentations but mostly as posters.

The main goal of the Society for Microelectronics (GMe) is to promote microelectronics research and technology at Austrian universities and to establish links to the Austrian industry. The GMe is essentially financed by the government and supports relevant microelectronics activities at Austrian universities. The relatively small budget of the GMe prohibits the full sponsoring of research projects. Nevertheless, the GMe supplements other research funding sources by providing contributions for creating and maintaining laboratory infrastructure. In addition to backing other technological activities in the fields of design, sensors, and optoelectronics, the main goal of the GMe in recent years was the support of the two clean room centers at the Vienna University of Technology and at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, respectively, where internationally competitive technological equipment has been made available to researchers and students.

We hope that the proceedings will promote the impact of the *GMe Forum 2003*, and that they may contribute to an even better international cooperation of the Austrian microelectronics researchers.

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