

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*”). A long series of biennial seminars in Grossarl followed, the first of which were organized by a group of institutes at the Technical University Vienna. 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 is continued in 1999 with a new venue, Bad Hofgastein, and a new title, “*Current Developments of Microelectronics*”.

The main goal of the Society for Microelectronics 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 infra-structure. In addition to support for 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 cleanroom centers at the Technical University Vienna and at the University Linz, respectively, where internationally competitive technological equipment has been made available to researchers and students.

With the change of the seminar venue from Grossarl to Bad Hofgastein the scope of the seminar shifted: Great efforts had been made particularly in recent years to invite guest speakers from industry or foreign universities, but due to the rather restrictive limitations of the former seminar facilities in Grossarl, the audience consisted practically exclusively of university researchers, and the presentations were designed as university research reports. The 1999 seminar in Bad Hofgastein, in contrast, appeals to a more application-oriented audience. Most of the oral presentations are 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.

We hope that the proceedings will promote the impact of our seminar and that they may contribute to an even better international cooperation of the Austrian microelectronics researchers.

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