

Preface

Almost exactly twenty years ago, from 30 March through 2 April 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 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 Grossarl seminars.

The Society for Microelectronics is based on a concept designed by Fritz PASCHKE and by Norbert ROZSENICH and Hermann BODENSEHER as the key representatives of the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research. The main goal of the Society 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 all 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.

This development strongly affected the scope and target of the Grossarl seminars: While the first seminars were a rather sealed-up Austrian only affair, with an occasional foreign guest speaker, the scope has changed to the style of an international workshop, with the aim to maintain contacts to and cooperations with foreign universities and with the industry. The number of invited guest speakers was therefore increased, and the number of short contributions by Austrian academic groups was limited. In this year’s program, five of the seven invited speakers are industrial researchers. A panel discussion is planned along with the technical presentations, where aspects of research management at academia *and* industry will be discussed.

This year, the proceedings will be published in English (although most of the presentations are to be held in German). This takes into account the large number of international requests we received for the proceedings of the latest seminar in 1995. We hope that the proceedings thus 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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