

Editorial

Under the auspices of bilateral intergovernmental agreements on co-operation in economics, industry and applied science and technology, the International Technology Group of the Department of Trade organizes a series of technological seminars in areas of mutual interest. The present seminar on microelectronics applied in the telecommunications industry was one such event in our programme with Hungary.

Seminars are held in both the United Kingdom and the partner countries, which include all the East European countries. The objectives of the seminars are an exchange of technological information and development of personal contacts through which opportunities for further co-operation in both industrial and academic areas may be investigated.

At the present seminar, held at the James Gracie Conference Centre of the University of Aston in Birmingham, eighteen technical papers were presented, eight by Hungarian authors and ten by the host country. These papers were intended to present an overview of the state of the art of developments and applications of microelectronics in telecommunications, the specific areas of photolithography, reliability and design, and the subject of training and education in microelectronics.

In view of the broad subject area covered by the seminar it was not always possible to pursue subjects in depth during the discussion periods. However, such seminars are always held in a university campus or conference centre, where the technical sessions are conducted in an informal manner and all delegates have opportunities outside the seminar room for individual discussions.

Where there is sufficient demand on both sides, it is possible to organise additional seminars in specific areas of mutual interest.

Of the eight papers presented by the Hungarian delegates the first, presented by Mr I Nemeskeri, Director General of the Industrial Research Institute for Electronics, Budapest and leader of the Hungarian delegation to the seminar, was a general review of the research and development activities in Hungary in the field of microelectronics. The other seven technical papers, published here, present an insight into various aspects of current developments in microelectronics in Hungarian research institutes and a review of courses in microelectronics followed in the Department of Electronic Technology of the Technical University of Budapest.

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