

EEUG News

The newsletter for the Educational Electronic Computer Aided Design users

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News from the ECAD Educational User Group Committee

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1. Message from the new chair

Welcome from myself and the other new committee members.

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee for their work within the EEUG over the last few years and for the extra effort they put in to providing the new committee with the support in order for us to get started. A more detailed introduction by ourselves is provided later on in the newsletter. In particular, many thanks to both Jon Travis and Tim Forcer for providing us with great help over the last few months. The new committee has met twice since the last workshop and are busy with the preparations for the next workshop on the 3rd and 4th September this year. We look forward to meeting everyone and for the workshop to provide a forum for input from everyone as to the future activities and direction of the EEUG. Building on the success of the previous activities, in particular the programme of Autumn Workshops, we hope that we can move from strength to strength

with the active support from the EEUG community. I would urge everyone to fully participate with the activities of the EEUG and to in particular, provide an active contribution to the next workshop. Many thanks for those who have so far agreed to provide contributions.

Over the last number of years, Higher Education in the UK, and in a wider European framework, has seen major changes. Increasingly, the academic community is undertaking an ever diverse role, and with greater emphasis on research activities and industrial collaboration. These activities are being taken within a national and international context. We should consider the way in which the role of EEUG can reflect the emerging needs of our community. Additionally, the support issues for ECAD users have never been so important. The increasing functionality and complexity of ECAD tools has the effect of requiring further expert support and training. However, this is taken at a time where financial aspects

within teaching and research can make the ability to provide the right support and training a difficult hurdle to overcome. How we can achieve this is up to serious and user-driven debate.

We hope the Autumn Workshop this year will be as successful as previous years. The theme for this workshop is *Research, Application and Future Prospects in Educational ECAD of Field Programmable Arrays*. The use of Field Programmable Arrays is widespread in both academic and industrial applications. The architectures of these devices allow for the implementation and reconfiguration of both digital and analogue circuits. Both digital and analogue programmable hardware are available to the user and have found a range of important applications. We hope to facilitate the dissemination of work by contributors through the provision of oral presentations (which are informal in nature, and should be around 20 minutes long), demonstrations of research and teaching material and poster presentations detailing current research projects. In particular, we would encourage the presentation of postgraduate student research project work within the poster presentations. The Workshop Registration form and the provisional programme are included in the newsletter. If you would like to provide a contribution, details are included in the Call for Contributions and on the website. We are also ready to receive completed registration forms. Further details can be found on the EEUG website (<http://www.eeug.org.uk>)

I look forward to meeting everyone in September and for the ability to introduce myself and the other members of the committee in person.

Ian Grout Ian.Grout@ul.ie

2. Treasurer's Report

Firstly, allow me to introduce myself, I'm Richard Walters and I took over the EEUG treasurer-ship at Easter this year. I also must thank Tim Forcer, the outgoing treasurer for the work he has done, and for keeping the records in such a state that taking on the job has been reasonably straightforward.

As far as finances are concerned, we are not in too bad a way, although the workshop last autumn did not bring in enough money to fully cover our running costs for this year. With the EEUG set up as a non-profit organisation with responsibility for liaising between RAL and the University ECAD community, the funds we possess are used for servicing committee duties and paying for the annual workshop. The only source of income is from attendees at the workshop; as a result we need to ensure that the income from the workshop is sufficient to cover both the costs of the meeting itself, and the running costs of the EEUG for the next year. Whilst a single slight loss is sustainable, obviously year on year losses would cause operational difficulties; as a result it was felt necessary to increase the cost of the workshop by a moderate amount in order to ensure that financial stability was maintained. We have, however, investigated a number of avenues, including the sponsorship of certain elements of workshop, in an effort to keep the increase to as low a level as possible, whilst hopefully presenting an interesting workshop on a challenging and very current topic.

Richard Walters r.walters@unl.ac.uk

RAL/EEUG Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee meeting was held this year on the 3rd May 2002. John McLean of RAL provided a lively and informative presentation on the current state and future aspirations of the microelectronics support centre. The principal concern of RAL is that automatic government funding is no longer available – RAL has to submit research bids. On a positive note RAL has a three-tier ECAD service, which includes a low cost programme that is particularly attractive to universities using programmable logic devices.

RAL requested feedback from the universities - expressing particular concern about technician support for ECAD tools and research funding.

The meeting noted that the number of tools and services provided by RAL has become extensive. It was agreed that the EEUG website would be overtly linked to the RAL site and an overview of RAL services will be given at the September workshop.

EEUG Website

We have recently updated and reformatted the website. Up-to-date information on the autumn workshop can be found on the site

<http://www.eeug.org.uk>

The Committee

The committee members are:

Chair: Ian Grout (University of Limerick, Ireland)

Vice-Chair: Martin White (University of Sussex)

Secretary: Alla Cordery (Oxford Brookes University)

Treasurer: Richard Walters (University of North London)

Information Officer: Geoff Lawday (Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College)

RAL Liaison Officer: Jonathan Dell (The University of York)

Ian Grout

Ian Grout is a lecturer within the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering at the University of Limerick (Ireland), joining UL in October 1998. His research interest areas include Microelectronic circuit design, Control systems applications, Design for Test and Microelectronic Circuit Test Technology. He currently teaches full-custom microelectronic circuit and test engineering, along with Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems. Prior to joining the University of Limerick in October 1998, he was a lecturer in the Department of Engineering at Lancaster University (UK). He is currently the Chair of the EEUG.

http://www.ece.ul.ie/homepage/ian_grout/index.htm

Martin White

Martin White is a Senior Lecturer within the School of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Sussex. He is also Subject Chair in Information Technology and Computer Systems. He joined the school in 1995. His research interests include: computer graphics, virtual and augmented reality, the design of accelerator hardware and software for these

applications, and application of VR and AR to cultural heritage. He currently teaches high-level integrated circuit design (VHDL) and virtual reality systems. He is currently the Vice Chair of the EEUG

M.White@sussex.ac.uk

Alla Cordery

Alla Cordery is a Head of the Department of Electronic Engineering at Oxford Brookes University. Following a 13-year career in the semiconductor industry, she has moved to academia and has been a lecturer at Oxford Brookes for the past 12 years. Her most recent research interests are in the area of flip-chip technology, thin diamond-like films, as well as new Learning and Teaching methods. She still has close links with industry and an active interest in new electronic technologies and manufacturing methods. She is currently the Secretary of the EEUG.

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/engineering/staff/cordery.html>

Richard Walters

Richard is currently a senior lecturer in Audio Electronics at the University of North London, where he has been for the past four years. Prior to that he spent ten years at Lancaster University firstly, studying to degree then doctoral level, and finally working as a research assistant. His particular areas of interest are audio systems design, and high-level engineering design. He is currently the Treasurer of the EEUG.

r.walters@unl.ac.uk

Geoff Lawday

Geoff is the Tektronix Reader in

Measurement at BCUC; he lectures on embedded systems, digital design and computer networks along with courses for industry on signal integrity engineering and Bluetooth technology, for which he has given a number of Net-seminars. This autumn he will give a series of WindRiver/Tektronix sponsored lectures, in a number of European countries, on the design and debug of modern high-speed embedded systems. His PhD was awarded by Brunel University for his work in signal analysis, which is his main research area. He is the Information Officer for the EEUG.

geoff.lawday@bcuc.ac.uk

Jonathan Dell

Jonathan Dell is a lecturer within the Department of Electronics at York University, which he joined in 1988. His research interests include digital microelectronic circuit design and microprocessor based systems; industrial instrumentation systems; image processing applied to industrial process tomography; low energy scanning electron microscopy and the computer simulation of electron solid interaction using Monte Carlo techniques. He currently teaches courses in digital engineering, which include a substantial design exercise based on the Xilinx FPGA and Foundation CAD software. He is currently RAL Liaison officer for the EEUG.

jad@ohm.york.ac.uk

EEUG Workshop 3rd- 4th September 2002

Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College- Registration Form

Please complete all sections below and return to:

Dr. Richard Walters, EEUG Treasurer,
SCTMS, University of North London, 166-220 Holloway Road, London, N6 8DB, UK

Email: r.walters@unl.ac.uk

Surname: _____ Style: (Dr/Mr/Miss etc) _____

Forename: _____ Sex: Male / Female

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ Country: _____

Postcode: _____ Email: _____

Attendance Details: (Please tick as appropriate)

I will be attending on both 3 rd and 4 th September and will require overnight accommodation (Total cost £85.00 : includes evening meal, accommodation, breakfast, lunch and refreshments).	
I will be attending only on 4 th September (Total cost £45.00: includes lunch and refreshments).	

Payment Details:

Enclosed Cheque (made payable to the "EEUG")		Company Invoice	
Invoice/ Cheque Number: _____			

Please indicate any special dietary or other requirements in the space below, e.g. Vegetarian meals, wheelchair access, etc.

Cancellation Policy:

The EEUG reserves the right to charge an administration fee of 25% for cancellation after 31st August, and 100% for un-notified non-attendance.

WORKSHOP 2002: PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The provisional programme for the workshop is shown below. We have a number of confirmed contributions, but still require more to make the workshop a success.

Tuesday 3rd September

4.30pm – 7.00pm: Registration

7.00pm – 8.15pm: Dinner (supported by Xilinx)

8.30pm – 9.30pm: Evening presentation: Xilinx “*Xilinx Road Map*”

Wednesday 4th September

7.30am – 8.30am: Breakfast

8.45am – 9.25am: Registration

9.25am – 9.30am: Chairperson’s welcome

9.30am – 10.45am: Presentations

10.45am – 11.30am: Coffee and RAL Roadshow, demonstrations and poster displays

11.30am – 12.45pm: Presentations

12.45pm – 2.15pm: Lunch and RAL Roadshow, demonstrations and poster displays

2.15pm – 2.40pm: EEUG AGM

2.40pm – 3.00pm: EDEC Consortium Update (Peter Hicks, UMIST)

3.00pm – 3.30pm: RAL Microelectronics Support Centre Update

3.30pm: Tea and close

Confirmed presenters (oral sessions):

- Erik Dalgless (University of Bristol)
- Andrew Downton (University of Essex)

Confirmed demonstrations/poster displays:

- Tim Forcer (University of Southampton)
- Adrian Bratt (Anadigm UK)
- EDEC consortium