

# EEUG News

The newsletter for the Educational Electronic Computer Aided Design users

Volume 17 N° 1 January 2004 Editor: Robert Self [rpsself@essex.ac.uk](mailto:rpsself@essex.ac.uk)

News from the ECAD Educational User Group Committee

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## Introduction

Welcome to this edition of the EEUG newsletter. The main activities this year will be two newsletters (January and June), along with the autumn workshop in September. The workshop theme was considered at the last AGM and the 1<sup>st</sup> call for contributions is included. Our hope is to improve on the workshop format from previous years and increase the numbers of participants. We would also like to increase the participation of the EEUG community and so we invite everyone to send articles of interest for inclusion in the next newsletter.

We wish you all a prosperous new year and look forward to seeing everyone in September.

## Contributions to the Newsletter

We would like to invite articles from the EEUG community on aspects of teaching and learning, along with suitable research activities, for publication in the newsletter. Articles to be a maximum of ½ page in length. Please forward any articles for the June newsletter by the *end of May* to the

Chair (Ian Grout).

## Workshop 2003 Review

The workshop 2003 was held on 10th-11th September 2003 at Lancaster University. It provided a useful forum to discuss aspects relating to the teaching and research activities in the field of mechatronics.

## Evening presentation

The evening presentation was provided by Peter James from Prodrive. A thorough and interesting presentation on the work undertaken within the company on automotive systems design and applications was given.

## Workshop

5 oral presentations and a presentation by Rob Eley from LTSN Engineering formed the workshop morning session.

Demonstrations over lunch were given by Peter James on the Proteus System, LTSN Engineering and EDEC. The RAL roadshow provided an update into the Europractice software support and product portfolio.

In the afternoon, alongside the AGM, Erik Dagless provided an update of the [EDEC](#) software and John McLean provided the annual Europractice software support update and [Microelectronics Support Centre \(MSC\)](#) updates.

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in the afternoon of the 10th September. It should be noted that the meeting was attended by 14 people. This meant that the meeting was less than the 20 attendees required under the Constitution. The chair suggested that the AGM would proceed with those present and provisional decisions made. These would be put to the EEUG membership by the chair via email for a final decision (*subsequent to this, no objections were made and so the decisions made at the AGM are passed*).

Additional key points to note are:

- The minutes of the last AGM were presented and passed without change.
- A vote of thanks was given to Jonathan Dell and Geoff Lawday on their retirement from the committee after their 3-year term. Additionally, thanks to Alla Cordery who is also stepping down from the committee was given.
- The EEUG activities during the last year were presented, along with the committee activities for the next 12 months.
- The website will be updated in October with (this) workshop review.
- The EEUG accounts were presented by the Treasurer and discussed. These were passed by those present.

- Suggestions for the theme of the next September workshop were provided and discussed.
- Suggestions for a venue for the next workshop were called for.
- Suggestions for an EEUG logo were provided and "logo 3" was the agreement of the meeting.
- The next committee meeting will be held in January 2004. The workshop theme and location will be decided on and a call for contributions issued in January.
- The EEUG constitution will again be looked at over the next year in order to identify any changes that need to be considered at the next AGM.
- A "Pay as You Go" mobile phone shall be purchased for the EEUG to act as a contact number for the workshops.

Thanks to all those who contributed and attended the workshop. Additional thanks to Peter James from Prodrive and Stephen Dickinson from Lancaster University for their invaluable input to the workshop.

### EEUG Logo

The new logo for the EEUG was chosen at the AGM:-



The logo will be used for all future information and correspondence

## **RAL Liaison Meeting**

The next RAL Liaison meeting will be held before the next committee meeting (scheduled for April 2004). If you have any points for discussion at this meeting, can you forward them to Robert Self by the end of February 2004.

## **EEUG Website (<http://www.eeug.org.uk>)**

Two main points to note:

- We have updated the website to include the September 2003 workshop.
- The Autumn Workshop 2004 information will be added as it is developed over the next few months.

## **EEUG Membership**

We are still in the process of updating the EEUG membership list; hopefully this will be completed by the next September Workshop. You might receive an email from us requesting information to incorporate into the membership database. We still need to expand the coverage of EEUG activities within the Higher Education sector. If you know of any colleagues who may wish to be added to the (free) membership and email circulation list, please send details to Ian Grout.

## **Committee Members**

- Chair: Ian Grout  
(University of Limerick, Ireland)
- Vice-Chair: Stephen Dickinson  
(Lancaster University)
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: Richard Walters  
(University of North London)
- Information Officer: Vacant

- RAL Liaison Officer: Robert Self  
(University of Essex)

## **Membership Questionnaire**

We recently sent out via email a questionnaire to those on the membership list. This questionnaire is aimed at enabling us to obtain an understanding of the EEUG Community ECAD use and requirements. Many thanks to those who responded. We have received a limited number of forms but in order to make the results of the questionnaire meaningful, require more responses. Please make every effort to return the completed forms.

## **Workshop 2004: 1st Call for Contributions**

*“Applying ECAD - hardware choices for teaching exercises”*

## **Autumn Workshop 2004 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2004 Loughborough University, UK**

Within the engineering disciplines, the role of ECAD is critical to the teaching and learning experience. As electronic systems become ever more complex, the need for the user to deal with the need for circuit and system level simulation and the potential for simulation results to become distant from the real operation has to be adeptly dealt with. The need for approaches and strategies for encouraging validation, while ensuring that REAL operation isn't ignored, is key to this. In addition, as ECAD toolsets themselves become more complex to deal with the types of circuit/system encountered, the potential danger that the learning experience becomes a vendor specific tool training exercise, must be dealt with. Transferable ECAD skills (the need to turn out graduates with experience of commercial tools versus

the learning time and effort required to inculcate those skills with complex modern suites of software) is a problem for the educators.

The EEUG Autumn Workshop 2004 is to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at Loughborough University. Contributions are sought from those involved in (or have planned involvement in) ECAD teaching and research activities, in particular (but not exclusively):

- Developing courseware incorporating ECAD.
- Hardware/Software co-design.
- PCB/IC/MCM/MEMs teaching experiences.
- University based ECAD development.
- Experiences in accessing Europractice.
- Activities in National and European based Educational research project.

Three types of contribution are sought:

- Oral presentations, which are informal in nature, and should be 20 minutes in duration.
- Demonstrations of research and teaching material.
- Poster presentations detailing current research projects. In particular, we would encourage the presentation of postgraduate student research project work.

Offers of contribution (title and brief synopsis (maximum 1 page)) should be sent by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004 (with full papers by 30<sup>th</sup> July 2004), to:

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Luimnigh), Limerick, Ireland

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## Upcoming events

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to upcoming conferences and events that might be of interest to the EEUG community. Please forward any information for the June newsletter by the *end of May* to the Chair (Ian Grout).

- EFI Seminar on 'ICT for Collaborative Work in Engineering Education', Milton Keynes, UK, 5 - 7 May 2004.  
**<http://ict.open.ac.uk/sefi/ou04/>**
- 5th Annual Irish Educational Technology Users' Conference  
Institute of Technology Tralee,  
Ireland, 3rd and 4th of June, 2004.  
**<http://www.ilta.net/EdTech2004/>**
- EEUG Autumn Workshop, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>  
September 2004, Loughborough  
University, UK.  
**<http://www.eeug.org>**
- 3rd IFAC Symposium on  
Mechatronic Systems, September  
6-8, 2004, Manly Beach, Sydney,  
Australia.  
**<http://mechatronics2004.newcastle.edu.au/mech2004/>**
- 9th Mechatronics Forum  
International Conference,  
(Mechatronics 2004), August 30 -  
September 1, 2004, Culture &  
Convention Centre, METU,  
Ankara, Turkey.  
**<http://mechatronics2004.newcastle.edu.au/mech2004/>**
- Mechatronics and Robotics 2004,  
Aachen, Germany, 6th – 10th

September 2004.

**<http://www.mechrob.de/>**

- Frontiers in Education Conference 2004, Savannah, Georgia, USA, 20th – 23rd October 2004,

**<http://www.fie-conference.org/04/>**

- LTSN Engineering events calendar.

**<http://www.ltsneng.ac.uk/nef/events/index.asp>**

- IEE Calendar of events.

**<http://www.iee.org/Events/Calendar>**