EEUG News

The newsletter for the Educational Electronic Computer Aided Design users

News from the ECAD Educational User Group Committee

In this newsletter:

Introduction

Welcome to this issue of the EEUG Newsletter. As we move into 2005, the start of the new year will bring a number of changes in the work of the EEUG. The main activities will be two newsletters (January and June), along with the autumn workshop in September. Following proposals and discussions, we have chosen the workshop theme for this year and a 1st call for contributions is included in this newsletter. Our hope is again to improve on the workshop format and as always, to 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. The major changes will be the requirements for new committee members. Both Richard Walters (Treasurer) and myself (Chair) are due to step down in March. However, we will stay on in the roles until the workshop whilst replacement members are sought. Additionally, Stephen Dickinson (co-chair) is due to step down at the September workshop. The need for new committee members is immediate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the committee for their efforts and strong support for the EEUG.

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

Ian Grout.

Workshop 2004 Review

The workshop 2004 was held on 7th-8th September 2004 at Loughborough University It provided a useful forum to discuss aspects relating to the teaching and research activities in the field of ECAD and was run with welcome support by LTSN Engineering.

The evening presentation was provided by Steve Collis from Mentor Graphics. A thorough and interesting presentation on the directions for ECAD tools as presented and we

would like to thank Steve for his input to the workshop.

Five oral presentations and an informal discussion formed the workshop morning session.

Robert Self from the University of Essex provided a demonstration over lunch. The RAL roadshow provided an update of the Europractice software support and product portfolio.

In the afternoon, Sarah Williamson provided an update of the LTSN Engineering activities and Han Highland identified the latest activities of the EDEC consortium. John McLean provided the annual Europractice software support update.

Thanks to all those who contributed and attended the workshop. Additional thanks to Steve Collis of Mentor Graphics and LTSN Engineering for their invaluable input to the workshop.

AGM 2004 Review

The 2004 AGM was held on the 8th September 2004 during the workshop. At the AGM, as was the case last year, we lacked the numbers (17) for the meeting to be quorate. However, this was discussed and it was agreed to continue with the AGM and to send out a summary via email to the EEUG membership for agreement (or not) in relation to any decisions made. The AGM presentation and summary are available on the EEUG website (http://www.eeug.org.uk). Please take time to read these and provide any feedback to the chair (Ian Grout) via email by the end of March 2005. Unless the majority view is against the decisions made, then these will be seen as passed by the AGM. We would also be interested in your views on this approach.

Treasurer's Report

The past year has shown a small overall loss, but one which is not particularly concerning, provided we don't continue in this vein. The 2003 workshop is completely signed off, with the final incomes and expenses having been paid out earlier this year. The 2004 workshop is now mostly signed off. The workshop suffered from a smaller attendance than anticipated, and smaller than had been booked with LTSN. In addition, we failed to secure any sponsorship for the 2004 event. The one benefit of having a small committee at the present time is that committee expenses remain small even given the increasing cost of travel. Plans are now under way for the 2005 workshop, with an initial deposit of £100 having being recently paid. Since adding numbers is much easier than removing, we have only booked a minimal number of places at the current time, this should minimise our liabilities with regard to the 2005 workshop. Our current position and a summary of the last year's activities are given below:

Balance

Current account:	£565.87
Deposit account:	£1,369.47

Income:

Workshop 03:	£230.00
Workshop 04:	£1,220.00
Interest:	£1.38
Total	**£1,451.38**

Outgoings:

Committee:	£405.25
Website:	£114.00
Workshop 03:	£60.00

Workshop 04:	£1,427.15
Workshop 05:	£100.00
Total	£2,106.40
Balance over year	£655.02 debit

Committee Members

- Chair: Ian Grout (University of Limerick, Ireland) – due to retire March 2005

- Vice-Chair: Stephen Dickinson (Lancaster University) – due to retire September 2005

- Secretary: vacant position

- Treasurer: Richard Walters (London Metropolitan University) – due to retire March 2005

- Information Officer: vacant position

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

- Elected Member: vacant position

- Elected Member: vacant position

New Committee Members

We have/ will have this year vacancies for the following posts:-

- Chair

- Vice-Chair

- Secretary

- Treasurer

- Information Officer

- Elected Member: vacant position

- Elected Member: vacant position

Marin Burbidge from Lancaster University has kindly agreed to take up the role of the EEUG Secretary and we welcome Martin to the EEUG committee. Further discussions as to other potential committee members are in progress, but if you, or you know of anyone who, would like to help out in the committee, please contact any of the current committee members.

EEUG Website

EEUG Website URL: - http://www.eeug.org.uk

This year, we have the opportunity to update the EEUG website. If you have any suggestions as to the layout and content of the updated website, please email your please email any of the committee members with your suggestions by the end of April 2005. The aim will be to have the updated website on-line by June 2005.

Funding Applications

In order to promote the activities of the EEUG and attract new members, we will be looking to find ways in which to support the EEUG in terms of group promotion. If you have any suggestions as to how this may be undertaken, in particular funding mechanisms available please email any of the committee members with your suggestions.

Upcoming Events

- Design, Automation and Test in Europe Conference (DATE), 7th – 11th March 2005, Messe Munich, Germany **http://www.date-conference.com/**

- 5th International Conference on Advanced A/D and D/A Conversion Techniques and their Applications (ADDA 2005), University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland, 25th – 27th July 2005, **http://conferences.iee.org/adda/**

- 2nd International Symposium on

Remote Engineering and Virtual Instrumentation (REV 2005), University of Brasov, Romania, 30th June – 1st July 2005, **http://www.online-lab.net/rev**

- EEUG Autumn Workshop 2005, Teaching Modern Digital Systems: System on a Chip design, fabrication and test, University of Essex, UK, 7th -8th September 2005, **http://www.eeug.org.uk**

- 6th EAEEIE Annual Conference on Innovation in Education for Electrical and Information Engineering (EIE) Lappeenranta, Finland 6th-8th June 2005, **http://www.eaeeie.org/**

LTSN Engineering

LTSN Engineering is now the "Higher Education Academy Engineering Subject Centre".

The URL:- http://www.ltsneng.ac.uk is still active.

Workshop 2005

Call for Contributions

"Teaching Modern Digital Systems: System on a Chip design, fabrication and test"

Digital systems design has undergone a revolution over the last decade with the introduction of hardware description languages (HDLs) and the latest generation field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs). Where once complex digital systems could only be discussed within the classroom environment, the ability to incorporate the cost-effective physical design and prototyping of complex "System in a Chip" (SoC) designs is a realistic option. The advances, if considered carefully, can be used to significantly enhance the

teaching and learning of digital systems design from basic processor cores through to high-speed communications networks. The EEUG Autumn Workshop 2005 is to be held on the 7th-8th September 2005 at the University of Essex. Contributions are sought from those involved in (or have planned involvement in) teaching and research activities, in the following (but not exclusive) areas:-

- Developing courseware for SoC design, fabrication and test (SoC or System in a Package (SiP)).

- Hardware Description Languages (HDLs).

- Education activities incorporating programmable logic devices.

- Hardware/software co-design.

- Synthesis.

- Reliability and safety issues.

- Modeling and simulation.

- Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Test (CAT).

- Teaching and learning experiences.

- Activities in National and European based Educational research projects.

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 30th June 2005 (with full papers by 31st August 2005), to:

Dr I A Grout, (Chair, EEUG)

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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 2005 newsletter by the *end of May 2005* to the Chair (Ian Grout).

Call for Old Newsletters

We would like to place all past newsletters in PDF format on the EEUG website. We have a number of these already available (the issues are linked on the website). If you have any copies, either in paper or PDF formats, we would appreciate it if you could forward these to any member of the committee and we will arrange for them to be accessible.