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## Message of the IEEE CASS VP Conferences

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ISCAS is the flagship conference of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (CASS). This year it will be held in hybrid format in Austin, Texas.

ISCAS became the main yearly conference of the IRE (then IEEE) Circuit Theory group, precursor of the Circuits and Systems Society (CASS), in 1968 organized that year in Miami, Florida. The first three editions were held in the United States and in 1971 ISCAS took for the first time an international dimension traveling to London. While in its first three decades ISCAS was held only once in three or four years outside the US, by 2000 it became a requirement to rotate among continents.

Today, ISCAS covers a very large spectrum of topics from new devices, circuits and systems, and offers all geographical regions of the IEEE the opportunity to organize it. While the main conferences of our sister societies, ISSCC of the Solid-State Circuits Society (SSCS) and IEDM of the Electron-Device Society (EDS) are held in San Francisco every year favoring participation by local engineers, ISCAS offers the opportunity of participation to engineers from many different countries.

As a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, working on Circuit Simulation in the CAD group directed by Don Pederson in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the ultimate goal was to have a paper accepted at ISCAS. My first ISCAS paper in 1982 and first participation in 1983 were memorable events. ISCAS supports student participation being required by CASS to allocate 15k US\$ every year in its budget for this purpose.

These early experiences led to my interest in getting involved in the organization of ISCAS. I was local arrangements chair for ISCAS-2010 in Paris; by then I understood the importance of the gala dinner: participants may still remember after 10 years an edition of a conference where the main social event was held in a unique place with cuisine and entertainment to match. The 1050 who were present at the Chateau Ferrieres gala dinner, I am sure they still remember it. Starting with that same year CASS members received a discount on their registration.

The interest to organize the flagship conference by different CASS country sections cannot be overstated; in 2014 there were nine bidders wishing to organize ISCAS-2018! The ISCAS steering committee had to spend an entire day to judge the different bids. Since then the selection procedure was changed to a two-step process: bidders submit a brief expression of interest, on the basis of which two or maximum three finalists are selected, which are asked to develop full bids and present them in front of the ISCAS steering committee to select a winner.

The objective of ISCAS has not only been the exchange of technical achievements but also an opportunity to network with people working in the same field, to meet new colleagues and establish new collaborations. This aspect that many of you appreciated over the years was brought to a sudden stop by Covid. The two previous years, ISCAS was either a fully virtual event in 2020 in Spain, or a hybrid conference in 2021 in Korea with about half the

participants from the organizing country being present. This year's ISCAS is still impacted by Covid and will be held in a hybrid format.

The organizers of ISCAS-2022 have dedicated a great effort to ensure that participants who want to be present in person have the opportunity to do so. Organizing a hybrid conference poses a great number of challenges that can result in grave financial consequences. I would like to congratulate the organizing committee for managing to navigate all these difficulties and offer a few hundred people the opportunity to meet in Austin.

I strongly believe that this year will be the last one ISCAS organizers will need to struggle with the dilemma of virtual, hybrid or in-person. ISCAS-2023 will be an in-person event as I think that with the help of scientists societies around the world will have overcome Covid. It is also the objective of IEEE CASS to bring conferences back to the required in-person participation.

In the name of IEEE CASS I welcome all in-person and virtual participants to ISCAS-2022 and at the same time in the name of ISCAS-2023 organizers, I extend an invitation to all prospective authors for next year's event to be sure to plan to travel to Monterey, California.

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