IMS 2012, Montreal...Ready for the Experience...?

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As summer of 2012 draws closer, anticipation is building among RF and Microwave engineers about the upcoming International Microwave Symposium (IMS2012 - June 17-22, 2012) in Montreal, a city known for its charm, history and cultural diversity. Participants will also get to experience the multilingual and ethnic diversity of Montreal together with wonderful Canadian hospitality. I should know…I experienced the warmth and welcoming nature of Canadian people during my days as a graduate student in Canada. Having served as the Technical Program Chair (TPC) for IMS2011 in Baltimore, I have other compelling reasons to look forward to IMS2012 - to participate and interact with industry leaders, to learn from experts, to attend planning meetings for future years, and to network with my professional colleagues and friends. This year I hope and expect to have a little more time as an attendee to focus on and really enjoy multiple activities at IMS2012.

I must congratulate IMS2011 TPC Chair Raafat Mansour and his team for their hard work and organizing an excellent Technical Program with expanded scope and international participation. For past few years, innovation and renewal of IMS has been a key goal of each IMS TPC Chair. For example, Madhu Gupta, the IMS2010 TPC Chair introduced a key innovation by defining a new topic for paper submission titled “Emerging Technologies”. The intent was to attract new technical topics that have not been previously been represented at IMS. As a result, IMS2011 expanded the scope of IMS with two additional topics - ‘RFID Technologies’ and ‘Industrial Applications of High Power Microwaves’. IMS2012 has added two more topics based on IMS2011 experience – ‘Wireless Power Transmission’ and ‘RF Devices for Wireless Health Care Applications and Bio-sensing’. IMS2012 continued with the initiative and will have additional technical sessions on all these topics plus some interesting sessions on emerging topics like ‘Terahertz Imaging’, ‘Emerging Systems and Applications”, ‘Novel Technologies and Components’ among other excellent topics.

The renewal and innovation in each successive IMS have continued. IMS2011 adopted innovations from IMS2010 and added interactivity, inclusiveness,

participation and globalization of the Symposium, IMS2012 has built up further on these initiatives by reducing the length of abstracts while continuing with double-blind review process, and increasing the international appeal with enhanced student participation. The results are indeed impressive!! A record number of paper submissions beating all previous records, a major increase in papers from countries like China, Canada, Sweden, France, among many other countries. Most significantly, student papers have increased by more than 75% compared to last year, while IMS2011 already had set a record for student participation. Also, the student design competitions have increased from 7 to 11 compared to last year. It is very gratifying to see these strategic initiatives pay-off in a big way at IMS2012, and to see the breadth and depth of student participation who represent the future of Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S).

I also look forward to experiencing Montreal, the vibrant international metropolis known as the 'Paris of North America'. The social calendar will be full with IMS2012 welcome reception, Women in Microwaves (WIM) reception, Ham Radio Social, GOLD (Graduates of Last Decade) reception, Awards banquet and the closing reception. Can't wait to see you all in Montreal at IMS2012…

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