



Transnational News

Summary of the Joint MTT/ED Initiative for Aiding Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union (1993-2002)

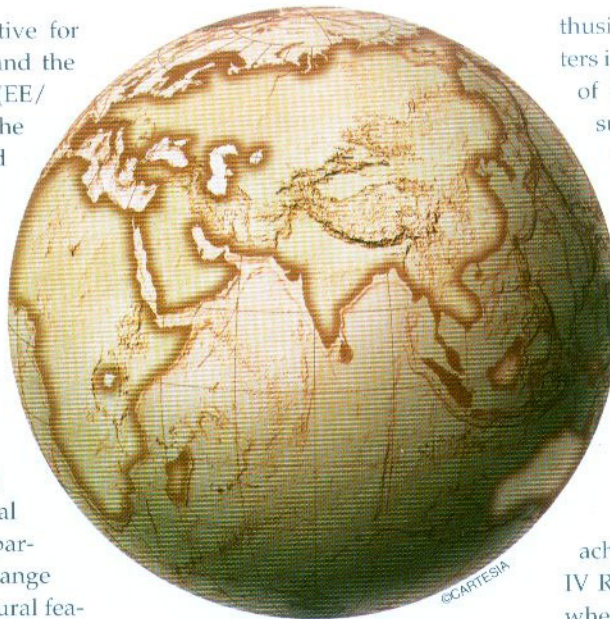
■ Józef Modelski

The Joint MTT/ED Initiative for Aiding Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union (EE/FSU) started in 1993 when the MTT-S AdCom established an ad hoc committee for aiding EE/FSU. The first ideas for the initiative were generated as a result of the end of the Cold War. It needed an organizational effort to get into contact with engineers (especially in the FSU area), identify their interests, and help to form membership and chapters so that these members of the electrical engineering community could participate in the world-wide exchange of technical information—a natural feature of the IEEE.

The initiative has been realized in two phases:

- Phase I—Membership Promotion and Chapter Formation (1993-1996)
- Phase II—Consolidations and Further Expansion of Chapters (1997-2002).

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The ad hoc committee in Phase I was chaired by Rolf Jansen (Division IV Director) and in Phase II by me. The ad hoc committee, with excellent cooperation from ED-S officers Mike Adler (Division I Director) and Bill Van Der Vort (ED-S Executive Director), started to go through learning phases, organizational difficulties, cultural experiences, etc. But it was all a lot of fun, particularly the pleasant cooperation with the very en-

thusiastic organizers of the new chapters in selected areas. An important part of the initiative has been financially supporting newly established chapters and subsidizing membership and subscriptions for local professionals with low income. Each year, the IEEE and society membership, as well as publication subscriptions, have been subsidized by the MTT and ED Societies for approximately 14 members of each newly formed chapter (except Kharkov). Later, the AP-S also joined this initiative.

Phase I of the initiative was achieved with the first Divisions I and IV Region 8 Chapters Meeting in 1996, where 11 new MTT/ED (or MTT/ED/AP) chapters were established.

Phase II was realized in 1997-2002 by:

- providing Eastern European library programs and greater Society support to the chapters
- supporting local workshops and conferences (each year about 10-12 events were financially supported from the MTT-S Transnational Committee budget)
- supporting student membership (establishing student branches, arranging free conference attendance)

for students and young scientists, etc.)

- providing training for chapter representatives
- improving communication among Region 8 chapters, as well as between chapters and society representatives
- prompting electronic communication and improving services
- creating cooperation between new and Western European chapters (e.g., joint workshops, etc.).

Chapters

A key objective for the MTT-S and ED-S was to create new chapters. Until now, 14 new chapters have been formed (see Figure 1 and Table 1).

Chapter development in Phase II provided a wide range of activities and partnerships with the other societies. The most active chapters created a real IEEE community in the FSU countries. We can distinguish some of them:

- In February 2002, the IEEE Belarus Section was established (with six chapters) that grew out from the first MTT/ED Minsk Chapter (congratulations to Sergei Malyshev, first chair of this Chapter and now chair of the section).
- In the final phase of formation is the IEEE Siberia Section, which grew out from the first MTT/ED Novosibirsk Chapter (congratula-

tions to Boris Kapilevich, first chair of this Chapter and now organizer of the section).

- In the final phase of formation is the IEEE North-West Russia Section, which grew out from the first MTT/ED St. Petersburg chapter.

Many of the new chapters are extremely active and are quickly maturing. Besides Novosibirsk, I would like to also mention:

- the MTT/AP/ED/AES/GRS/LEO/NPS East Ukraine (Kharkov) Chapter—the second largest one and the most active in organizing well-known conferences
- the MTT/AP/ED/CPMT/SSC West Ukraine (Lviv) Chapter—winner of “The Chapter of the Year 2001” contest in Region 8 in the category of “Small and Middle Size Chapters.”

Conferences, Workshops, Schools

Each year, chapters have organized or sponsored many conferences, workshops, and meetings. Some local conferences, thanks to chapters sponsorship, have become well-known international events—well organized, with professionally edited proceedings in English, which results in a higher number of foreign attendees. The main regular conferences in FSU are being held:

- MSMW, the International Symposium on Microwaves, Millimeter

and Sub-millimeter Waves, held once in three years in Kharkov, co-organized by the IEEE East Ukraine Chapter

- MEMIA, the International Conference on Microwave Electronics: Measurements, Identification, Applications, organized biennially by the Novosibirsk Chapter
- MMET, the International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Electromagnetic Theory, held biennially, co-organized by the IEEE East Ukraine Chapter in collaboration with IRE and Ukrainian URSI Commission
- DIPED, the International Workshop on Direct and Inverse Problems in Electromagnetic and Acoustic Wave Theory, organized annually in Lviv or Tbilisi by the IEEE West Ukraine and Georgia Chapters
- CriMiCo, the Crimean Microwave Conference, co-organized annually by the IEEE Central Ukraine Joint Chapter and APS Moscow Chapter
- KORUS, the Korea-Russia International Symposium on Science and Technology, co-organized annually by the Novosibirsk, Tomsk, and ED-S Korea Chapters
- Belarussian-Lithuanian Workshop on Microwave Measurements,

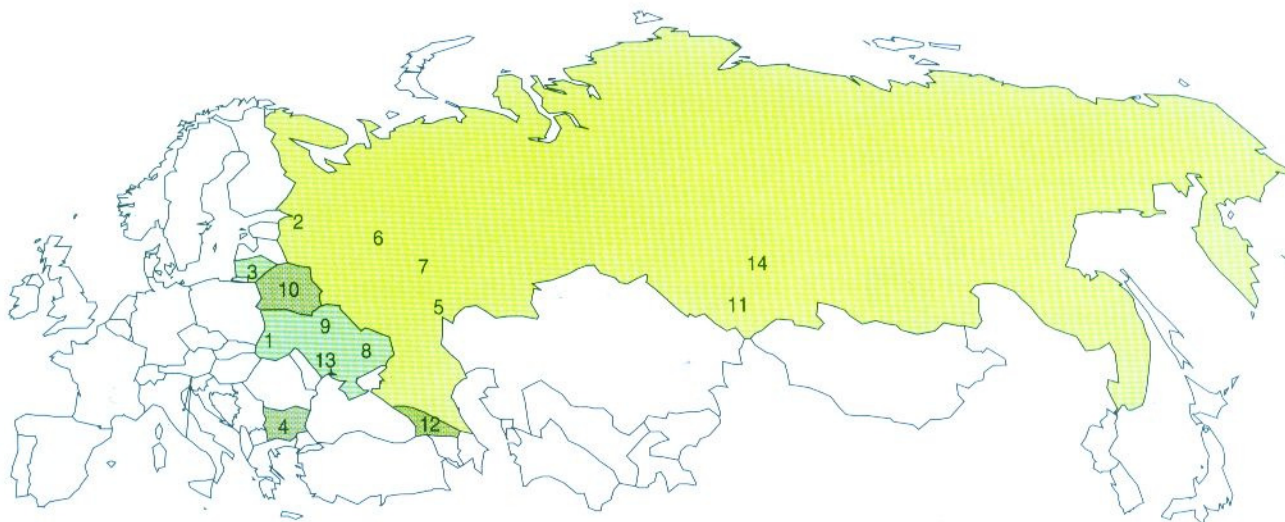


Figure 1. New MTT/ED Chapters.

co-organized annually by the Minsk and Vilnius Chapters.

Most of these events are on the permanent MTT-S list of technical cosponsorship.

It is necessary to note that many newly established chapters have strongly supported student activities. The main focus of chapter support of student activity includes special courses, seminars, conferences, and summer schools. Some of the chapters emphasize that the best practice is to organize the Summer or Winter Schools or support the participation of students in such events.

Divisions I and IV Region 8 Chapters Meetings

The annual Divisions I and IV Region 8 Chapters meetings grew up from the Joint MTT/ED initiative for aiding the EE/FSU and were especially important and productive events. Phase II of the initiative started from the first Divisions I and IV Region 8 Chapters Meeting in 1996.

The main purposes of these meetings were:

- provide training for chapter representatives in holding technical meetings

- improve communication and cooperation among Region 8 chapter representatives and between chapters and society representatives
- provide opportunities for chapters to highlight best practices and issues

The following five meetings were held:

- 1996, Prague, Czech Republic, 8 September, in conjunction with the EuMC
- 1997, Ludwigsburg, Germany, 21 September, in conjunction with the European Solid State Device Research Conference (ESSDERC)
- 1998, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 4 October, in conjunction with the EuMW
- 1999, Leuven, Belgium, 12 September, in conjunction with ESSDERC
- 2000, Paris, France, 1 October, in conjunction with EuMW.

All meetings were very well attended by chapter chairs, presidents of the Divisions I and IV Societies, and Region 8 officers. Divisions I and IV meetings were very successful, and in 2000 mission of this service has been accomplished.

Summary

There are no doubts that the MTT/ED Eastern Europe Membership Initiative was very useful and a productive action toward consolidation and formation of real IEEE community in the FSU and EE. The years (and the money) we have invested in this initiative have paid off. In 1993 we had a dozen or so MTT-S members and no chapters in FSU countries. In this region today, we have:

- over 300 MTT-S members and 14 chapters
- an increasing percentage of the young generation (student branches have been already established in few areas, e.g., Novosibirsk, Kharkov, Lviv, and Vilnius)
- very well prepared and organized conferences and workshops (in English) and professionally edited proceedings (which also results in a higher number of foreign attendees)
- a huge number of regular technical meetings, lectures and other activities.

I am sure that all of the new chapters will survive and have good perspectives. I also hope that the formation of

Table 1. New MTT/ED Chapters.		
Chapter	Area	Date
1. MTT/ED/AP now MTT/AP/ED/CPMT/SSC	West Ukraine, Lviv	January 1995
2. MTT/ED now MTT/AP/ED	Russia, St. Petersburg	April 1995
3. MTT/ED/AP	Lithuania, Vilnius	May 1995
4. MTT/ED now MTT/AP/ED/CPMT	Bulgaria, Sofia	June 1995
5. MTT/ED now MTT/AP/ED/CPMT	Russia, Saratov-Penza	July 1995
6. MTT/ED	Russia, Moscow	August 1995
7. MTT/ED/AP now MTT/AP/ED/CPMT/SSC	Russia, Nizhny Novgorod	March 1996
8. MT/AES/AP/ED now MTT/AP/ED/AES/GRS/NPS/EMB	East Ukraine, Kharkov	April 1996
9. MTT/ED now MTT/COM/ED/SSC	Central Ukraine, Kiev	May 1996
10. MTT/ED	Belarus, Minsk	May 1996
11. MTT/ED now MMTT/ED/COM/CPMT/SSC	Russia, Novosibirsk	May 1996
12. MTT/ED	Republic of Georgia, Tbilisi	March 1997
13. MTT/C/CAS/IM	Ukraine, Vinnitsa	July 1999
14. MTT/AP/ED/COM/EMC	Russia, Tomsk	January 2000

new sections will be getting on well. All these achievements have created a strong base for further IEEE consolidation and expansion in this region.

Acknowledgment

From the very beginning, the initiative had a great support and help from many prominent IEEE officers. Particularly, I would like to underline the roles of Bill Van Der Vort, Rolf Jansen, and Mike Adler. As a direct result of their expert leadership and efforts, we have been able to implement Divisions I and IV Region 8 Chapters meetings that proved very useful for chapters' growth and development. I would like to express our appreciation for all they have done.

The great success of this initiative and the tremendous response from the members in the FSU and from many levels of the IEEE officers would not have been possible without the hard work of the chairpersons: Boris Kapilevich, Sergei Malyshev, Alex Nosich, Yakov Shifrin, Nikolai Voitovich, Mykhaylo Andriychuk, Boris Levitas, Irina Naidionova, Vladimir Lioubtchenko, Sergei Tretyakov, Yuri Belov, Yuri Poplavko, and Michael Davidovich. I would like to express my deep thanks and gratitude to all of you for your constructive ideas, time, and energy. It was a pleasure to work with you on this project.

Reflections on this issue from one of the key persons from FSU involved in the initiative, Boris Kapilevich, are presented below.

A Message to the IEEE from Professor Boris Kapilevich, Novosibirsk (Russia) Chapter

Dear colleagues and friends,

For more than five years, from May 1996 to October 2001, I served as an elected (and re-elected) chairman of the Novosibirsk Joint IEEE MTT/ED/CPMT/COM/SSC Chapter. All of you have seen the Chapter develop from its initial formation to the present. The Chapter was formed in a very difficult period for local professionals associated with new reforms carried out in the for-

mer Soviet Union. Understanding that the income of most individuals is too small, you provided the required financial support by subsidizing newly established chapters, including subscriptions to IEEE publications.

Your active and benevolent position has helped us to consolidate high-tech specialists and create a real IEEE community. There were only two IEEE members before the formation of a chapter in Novosibirsk. Now, the Chapter consists of more than 60 members. About 40% of all members are self-paying. The Chapter is supported by five professional IEEE Societies: MTT-S, ED-S, CPMT-S, ComSoc, and SSC-S. As a result, the Chapter grew spectacularly during this period and has become the biggest organization of its kind in the Siberia region.

Many IEEE officers and members have provided support for our efforts in membership development and improving professional activity. It is a great pleasure for me to record their valuable contributions to the formation of truly professional groups in the Chapter: Rolf Jansen (the Novosibirsk Chapter's father), Józef Modelski, Abbas Omar, Richard Sparks, Bill Van Der Vort, Laura Riello, Ninoslav Stojadinovic, Ralph Russell, Marsha Tickman, Carole Swaim, Kathy Worthman, Ron Horn, Trevor Clarkson, Anna O'Neill, Linda Barankovich, and Jan Van der Spiegel. Henrich S. Lantsberg, vice-chair, IEEE Russia Section, has provided supervision and assistance in forming all professional groups in the Chapter from the date of its approval till present.

Sincere thanks to all of you from the Chapter's members and myself. Using this opportunity, I would like to record the most remarkable Chapter initiatives of the period: the International Conferences on Actual Problems of Electronics and Instrumentations Engineering (APEIE '96, '98, 2000), the International Conferences on Microwave Electronics: Measurements, Identifications, Applications (MEMIA '97, '99, 2001), the International Korea-Russia Symposia (KORUS '99, 2000, 2001), the Interna-

tional Conference on Modern Information Technologies (MIT 2000), and regular regional conferences dedicated to solid-state circuits, electronics, communications, and components and packaging. Most of these events have been accompanied by publicizing the official conference proceedings, distributed by the IEEE all over the world.

The Chapter was actively involved in the formation of other chapters and student branches located in the Siberia region, such as the Novosibirsk LEOS Chapter, the Tomsk MTT/ED/CPMT/COM Chapter, the ED-S and SSC-S Student Branch in Novosibirsk State Technical University, and the ComSoc Student Branch in Siberia State University of Telecommunications and Informatics. As a result, the total number of IEEE members, including student members, is about 150. There is a real opportunity to form the following chapters here in the near future: Information Theory, Signal Processing, Control Systems, Power Electronics, Joint MTT/COM Chapter in Krasnojarsk, LEOS Student Branch in Siberia State University of Telecommunications and Informatics. Hence, the formation of a Siberia IEEE Section is becoming a reality now.

Following the IEEE bylaws, I have suggested that I should be replaced as chapter chair by another IEEE member for the next term. Wjacheslav Shuvalov (shwp@neic.nsk.su) was elected as the new chair of the Novosibirsk Chapter at the annual chapter's meeting held last 23 October. He is a high-level professional in the area of communications, having long-term experience in both academia and industry.

I have very much appreciated the fruitful cooperation with each of you during my chapter chair's service and believe that you will share with all chapter members our joint achievements in practical realization of the IEEE Globalization Project.

*With best wishes,
Boris Kapilevich
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