Mohamed Sayed, Jon Martens, Ron Ginley, and Nick Ridler

What is ARFTG?

The automatic Radio Frequency Techniques Group (ARFTG) is a technical organization interested in all aspects of RF and microwave test and measurement. ARFTG was originally set up in 1972 to help the end user get the most from the latest generation test and measurement equipment. As the high-frequency measurement field has continued to evolve, so has ARFTG, which now has more than 600 members worldwide. ARFTG’s core mission is one of education, and it achieves this by hosting conferences, workshops, and training courses, covering a wide range of topics in RF, microwave, and mm-wave measurement.

ARFTG sponsors two meetings each year—one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Events that take place at these events are the following.

Spring

During IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) Microwave Week, the following take place:
- a one-day microwave measurement conference for Thursday
- workshops cosponsored with the International Microwave Symposium (IMS)

Fall

The Fall brings a four-day symposium, featuring the following:
- a one-and-a-half day microwave measurement conference
- a one-and-a-half day microwave measurement training course
- workshops on specific topics (e.g., nonlinear measurement, signal integrity, RF power amplifier design, millimeter-wave measurement)
- a NVNA users’ forum

ARFTG’s close association with the top vendors of measurement instrumentation ensures excellent equipment exhibits at ARFTG events. Vendors often choose to launch their new product ranges during these exhibits. The extended breakouts from conference technical sessions enable excellent interactions to take among colleagues, experts, and vendors.

Oral technical sessions at ARFTG conferences are conducted in a single-track workshop style, with papers on topical subjects that are both theoretical and practical, address the user and the manufacturer, and cover both modeling and measurement. More details on all of this can be found at www.arftg.org.

ARFTG at Microwave Week 2011

ARFTG is an integral part of MTT-S Microwave Week in Baltimore, Maryland, and will take place on the last day of that week (Friday, 10 June). The venue will be the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore. So, if you are at all interested in measurements, particularly high-frequency measurements (anything from 1 kHz to 1 THz), plan on attending. You’ll find

Mohamed Sayed (mssayed@sisglobal.net) is the general chair and Jon Martens the technical program chair for the 77th ARFTG Microwave Measurement Symposium. Ron Ginley is the president and Nick Ridler the vice president of ARFTG.

Open forum at the 75th ARFTG conference in Anaheim, California.
the atmosphere informal and friendly. Chances are you will take away with you much more than you came with—perhaps some fresh ideas to help with your current projects and some new technical contacts.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Design and Measurement of Microwave Systems.” As practical microwave products become increasingly complex, the measurement challenges at the design, analysis, and verification levels also become more challenging. We shall have presentations addressing a number of these aspects, including calibration and verification issues, measurement system design methodologies, and fixturing/connectivity implications. Additionally, papers were also solicited in areas including

- nonlinear measurements and modeling (at the subsystem or system level)
- on-wafer linear and nonlinear microwave measurement
- fixtured measurements
- other areas of network and spectral analysis.

Networking is a key feature at all ARFTG conferences.

The most stimulating part of the ARFTG experience is the opportunity to interact one-on-one with colleagues, experts, and vendors in the RF and microwave test and measurement community (Figure 2). The somewhat more open conference schedule and the presence of many knowledgeable people in the high-frequency measurement field make it more possible to get questions answered and to learn new material.

Need to Know More?
ARFTG’s Web site (www.arftg.org) usually has all you need to know about up- and-coming events. This includes our conference during Microwave Week 2011. Alternatively, there are some key contacts within the ARFTG organizing group as follows:

- for exhibits information, contact exhibits@arftg.org
- for sponsorship information, contact Rusty Myers at sponsorship@arftg.org
- for conference technical program information, contact Jon Martens at jmartens@ieee.org
- for all other conference matters, contact Mohamed Sayed at mmsayed@sbcglobal.net.

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**Student Competitions at IMS2011** (continued from page 62)

**Student Paper Competition**

R. Weikle

IMS2011 in Baltimore will continue the tradition of recognizing outstanding contributions to the technical literature by students through the student paper competition. This competition provides engineering students with the opportunity to present original research for which they were the primary contributor. Twenty-four finalists are selected by the Technical Program Review Committee from the several hundred student papers typically submitted each year. This year the paper competition will take place on Tuesday, 7 June during which students will present posters describing their work.

Selected members of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society will serve as technical judges for the student paper competition and award-winning papers will be recognized at the Student Awards Luncheon to be held on Thursday at the IMS.

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R. Weikle (reweikle@virginia.edu) is the Student Paper Competition chair for IMS2011.

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