

TC-1 (TC-ECCC) News from 2008

TC-1: Technical Committee on Electrical Contacts, Connectors, and Cable (TC-ECCC)

The scope of this Committee is to be the focal point within the IEEE CPMT Society for electrical contacts, electrical connectors, and interconnecting cable. Its membership consists of individuals having an interest in the research, development, manufacture, and utilization of electrical contacts and devices that contain them. The Committee holds regularly scheduled meetings and functions through the Holm Organization and through task forces having specific objectives. The Committee sponsors or supports conferences, publications, educational, standardization, and other activities.

The 2008 – IEEE Holm Conference on Electrical Contacts was held in Orlando Florida, October 27-29. This was the 54th Annual conference in North America where professionals presented and discussed the latest developments in the field of electric contacts. This year, we had 120 international attendees and resulted in a very successful conference.

The technical program has 53 presented papers in 13 sessions, the Ragnar Holm Award Lecture and the Mort Antler Invited Lecture. Papers were presented on electric contacts in switches, relays and connectors, new contact materials and coatings, arc fundamentals, thermal models, finite element analysis and corrosion. More details of the program and abstracts can be found in our web site.

On Monday night (10/27), we also had a successful social event at the Samba Room, nice restaurant close to the waters for friendly discussions while dining. The annual Monday social event is becoming a tradition when the conference attendees get to chat more freely with their conference friends. We had 90 attending the dinner social.

This year, the conference presented 4 awards:

- a. The 2008 Ragnar Holm Scientific Achievement Award to Dr. John Shea, Eaton Corporation, for his many years of research on arc physics and its application to circuit breaker designs. He gave an award lecture “High Current AC Break Arc Contact Erosion”.
- b. The 2008 Mort Antler Lecture Award to Dr. Thomas Schoepf, Eaton Corporation, who was the invited speaker to give an overview to electromechanical and solid state switching. His lecture was titled “Interplay Between Electromechanical and Solid State Switching Technologies for Meeting Cost, Sustainability, and Safety Demands of Various Applications”.
- c. The 2008 Armington Recognition Award to Mr. Henry Czajkowski, Rockwell Automation, for his many years of continuous service on various Holm Committees to promote the conference.
- d. The 2007 IEEE Erle Shobert Prize Paper to Dr. Werner Johler, Tyco Electronics, for his paper “Basic Investigations for Switching of RF Signals” being selected as the best out of 48 papers presented in the 2007 conference in Pittsburgh.

TC-1 also runs a 3 days intensive course on electrical contacts bi-annually. The course has been very successful in teaching engineers the physics and practice of contact designs

and selections. It is a favorite for switch, relay, circuit breaker, contactor, and connector engineers from automotive, power distribution and telecommunication fields. The 2008 course was held in Orlando just before the Holm Conference. This year, 22 engineers attended the 3 day course conducted by Dr. Paul Slade and Dr. Roland Timsit.

The 2009 IEEE Holm Conference will be September 14-16 in Vancouver, Canada. For more information on many special events organized by this committee such as annual IEEE Holm conference, International Conference on Electrical Contacts, conference presentation downloads, intensive course, international conference, CD-ROM library and link to other societies, please visit our web site at www.ewh.ieee.org/soc/cpmt/tc1.

Photo Gallery from 2008 IEEE Holm Conference



Submitted by Chi Leung