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**ELMAR-2009 SYMPOSIUM
SPECIAL SESSIONS**

Special Session 1: "Computer Vision in Art"

Organizers: *Borut Batagelj, Slovenia; Peter Peer, Slovenia; Karolj Skala, Croatia*

Special Session 2: "Electromagnetic Guiding and Radiating Structures and Devices"

Organizers: *Silvio Hrabar, Croatia*

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Welcome speech of the President of Croatian Society Electronics in Marine - ELMAR, Zadar

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 51st International Symposium ELMAR-2009 that continues the tradition of ELMAR symposiums in Zadar. We are very honoured that International Symposium ELMAR has 51 years of continuous tradition. ELMAR symposium is the oldest symposium in Europe.

We are extremely pleased that during 51 years of activity we have had participants and experts from almost the whole world, and that ELMAR symposium became a significant scientific event in the field of electronics in marine, naval architecture, automation, navigation, optoelectronics, hydroacoustics, noise and vibrations, radiocommunications, satellite communications, telecommunications, multimedia communications, image and video processing, speech and audio processing and other advanced areas.

We are very proud that ELMAR-2009 symposium takes place under the technical co-sponsorship of IEEE Region 8, IEEE Croatia Section, IEEE Croatia Section Chapter of the Signal Processing Society, IEEE Croatia Section Joint Chapter of the AP/MTT Societies, The European Association for Signal, Speech and Image Processing - EURASIP, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing in Zagreb, University of Zadar, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries and Hydrographic Institute of the Republic of Croatia.

The scientific program of this year ELMAR symposium is divided into 15 sessions that cover more than 9 research topics. After the reviewing process International Program / Review Committee has selected 79 submitted papers for oral presentation. These research papers were written by 182 authors. Participants come from the following 20 countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, USA. Overall, 52% of papers are from abroad.

This year two special sessions were organized. We are grateful to the special sessions organizers, who attracted researchers to submit and present their research results in the important scientific fields covered by these special sessions.

Every year the International Programme Committee also invites several outstanding experts as keynote speakers from abroad to present the state-of-the-art in different research fields. This year we are proud to have four keynote talks: Dr. *Hamadoun Touré*, Secretary-General of ITU, Switzerland; Mr. *David Wood*, Head of Emerging Media, EBU, Switzerland will give a plenary talk: "What strategy and research agenda for Europe in 'new media'?"; Professor *Borivoj Modlic*, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Croatia will give a plenary talk: "Digital Dividend - Opportunities for New Mobile Services", and Professor *Gregor Rozinaj*, Slovak University of Technology, Slovakia will give a plenary talk: "The Role of Multimedia in Intelligent Human Machine Interface". We are most grateful to them for coming on ELMAR-2009 symposium.

We are expressing our gratitude to all members of the Organising and Programme Committees who helped in the organisation of ELMAR-2009 symposium, whose help and efforts have been essential for the organisation of ELMAR symposiums every year. We are also sincerely grateful to the reviewers who helped us to attract high quality contributions.

It is our great pleasure to thank all the authors of submitted papers for the effort they have made while preparing their contributions.

The preparation for ELMAR-2009 symposium has taken more than a year and the time and effort of numerous volunteers. On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Croatian Society Electronics in Marine, I want to express our special gratitude to Assoc.Prof. *Mislav Grgić*, ELMAR-2009 Program Chair, for his very hard work and commitment.

The idea of the ELMAR-2009 symposium is to make possible that your attendance can result in important scientific and technical discussions, renewed contacts with colleagues, and strengthening your technical expertise. As every year we have also planned cultural events to offer you a further opportunity to discuss both technical and non-technical subjects with other attendees.

We are specially obliged to thank Tankerska plovidba Zadar, our general sponsor from the beginning of ELMAR symposium. It would be impossible to organise this scientific event without their help.

We would also like to express thanks to all other sponsors and for their support and assistance.

We wish all the attendees successful work during the ELMAR-2009 symposium and a pleasant stay in Zadar.

Professor *Branka Zovko-Cihlar*, PhD
President of the Croatian Society
Electronics in Marine - ELMAR, Zadar