

Progress Update and a Look Ahead

DEAR TCAS-I Readers, Happy 2013! A year has already elapsed since I began my assignment as Editor-in-Chief for TCAS-I. Living up to the commitment made a year ago I am happy to be able to give you a brief yet positive update on the status of TCAS-I, the progress made during this time and a look ahead to the upcoming year.

But, before I dive into that, I would like to sincerely thank the many people that made this possible, beginning with the many members of TCAS-I's Editorial Board and the Deputy Editor-in-Chief Prof. Shanthi Pavan. They have done an outstanding job, working tirelessly through the workload associated with the increasing papers submissions and keeping up with the improvements we have made. I definitely want to thank the very many anonymous reviewers, which, while missing outside visibility lend their time and expertise to insure that each paper submission is carefully vetted and fairly assessed. I also want to thank our Editorial Assistant, Ms. Anna Laura Simoni and our System Administrator Mr. Alberto Grosso, which support us all daily in a million different chores and can still put up with yours truly. Last but not least, I want to thank my two predecessors, Prof. Wouter Serdijn and Prof. Gianluca Setti, the CAS VP for Publications, Prof. Enrico Macii and the CAS President Prof. Thanos Stouraitis for their advice and support.

I. FIRST, SOME NUMBERS

I will begin by reporting some figures to provide you with context. In 2012 we have had more than 1100 new paper submissions. In comparison, during the prior four years, TCAS-I constantly received approximately 900–1000 new paper submissions on each year. While all regions increased the number of their submissions, a slightly higher increase from Region 10 (Asia/Pacific) has been noted. We are presently trending at a solid 100 new papers submitted each month and expect a new record of submissions this year.

Despite all that, our review process has held fairly well and, in fact, I am happy to report that we have been able to streamline the process and improve our responsiveness while keeping the highest standards of technical quality. We are living up to our promise to provide a first review in about one month from the date of submission: our first review takes now an average of approximately 36 days, versus the average of 46 days of prior recent years. More importantly, we are completing the overall review process faster: when a paper undergoes more revisions as part of the process, a final decision in most cases is now reached within about 3 months from first submission, down from about 5 months in prior recent years.

While we worked hard at improving responsiveness and timeliness we have made an uncompromised commitment to uphold the technical quality of the journal. In fact, while some popular bibliometric figure of merit may be used as an attempt at quantify it, years after my term in TCAS-I is over, I can report that

the thoroughness of the reviews, the multiplicity of well-established experts involved in assessing the submissions, and the carefulness and fairness in drawing conclusions are among the highest I have personally witnessed over the many years I have served TCAS-I/II in different roles. As a tracking figure, I can report that our acceptance rate is stable at around 30% and as a delayed figure, the impact factor has recently been measured at 1.97.

The outstanding challenge, however, is the publication backlog. An accepted paper takes about 4–5 months to be electronically pre-published in IEEEExplore and about 9 months and up to 1 year from final decision to be published in print. In other words, you have only recently begun seeing the first papers processed by this Editorial Board. To address that the CAS Society generously allowed us to increase our 2012 page budget from 2700 pages to 3100 pages. I am sure you have noticed that the latest issues are a bit thicker as we expedite the delivery of all these important results to your attention.

II. SPECIAL ISSUES, SPECIAL PAPERS

We are continuing our special issue on the IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS) as well as the special section on the IEEE Custom Integrated Circuit Conference (CICC) which complements, with more system oriented papers, the Special Issue on the conference published every year in the IEEE JOURNAL ON SOLID-STATE CIRCUITS. You will see them again in the May and the August issues respectively. We are also continuing to publish extended paper versions of the best tutorials presented at ISCAS on the prior year.

We are now introducing new invited visionary papers from recognized industry technical leaders in topics within the scope of this Transactions. This year we expect to select at least two such manuscript contributions which will be providing insight to important open problems and technical direction on themes that are of critical engineering importance. The first examples of papers in this new category are presently completing processing and you will be able to read them during the course of this year.

With such equally treated and scrutinized papers, besides their scientific relevance and interest, the intent is to provide suitable pointers to important topics that academia often seeks from industry and values in order to re-focus some their engineering research.

III. AN EVOLVING TEAM

As I began my term, exactly one year ago, I have been very fortunate to be able to retain several of the Associate Editors of the prior Editorial Board. At that time, many of them already had more than one year of experience in this role with TCAS-I. So, besides me knowing them well, having served myself as Deputy Editor in Chief during the prior term, their experience on the job was precious to me as I had an easier time in getting the other, brand new, Associate Editors up to speed while, at the same time, driving the changes I have reported above.

This transition has been very smooth, their contribution has been invaluable and the results are measurable. I am extremely thankful to them for their service, dedication, and, most of all, their valuable time. I then now owe them to complete their long and very honorable service to this journal.

At the same time I am here introducing a number of new Associate Editors, figuratively “changing the guard” in our Editorial Board. They are among the most qualified, energetic and balanced experts in the topics of TCAS. They come from academia as well as from industry and have actually already quietly, and under the radar screen, begun working in background since some time. Please check our internal cover page

for the roster of the renewed Editorial Board. As a side note, our board presently has 27% participation from industry. I have high expectations on this renewed team and I am extremely excited about working with them.

A great year is ahead of us. On behalf of the entire Editorial Board, I wish all of you a happy new year!

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Gabriele Manganaro (S’95–M’99–SM’03) holds a Dr.Eng. degree (1994) and a Ph.D. degree in electronic engineering (1997) from the University of Catania, Italy.

He did research with ST Microelectronics, Catania, Italy, in 1994–96 and was researcher/lecturer at Texas A&M University, College Station, in 1996–97. He was a senior IC designer of data converters at Texas Instruments, Dallas, TX, in 1998–2001 and then Director of Analog Baseband Design at Engim Inc., Acton, MA, in 2001–04. He worked for National Semiconductor holding various positions in data converter design in Salem, NH, and Munich, Germany, including Design Director for High Speed Data Conversion, in 2004–10. Since 2010 he is Engineering Director for High Speed Data Conversion at Analog Devices, Wilmington, MA. He was an invited lecturer in Europe and the United States and served in technical committees of international conferences including the Data Conversion technical sub-committee of the IEEE Solid-State Circuit Conference (2005–2012). He was Guest Editor as well as Associate Editor for IEEE TRANSACTION ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS—PART II: EXPRESS BRIEFS (2006–07) and IEEE TRANSACTION ON

CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS—PART I: REGULAR PAPERS (2008–09) and Deputy Editor in Chief of IEEE TRANSACTION ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS—PART I: REGULAR PAPERS (2010–11). He is now the Editor in Chief for IEEE TRANSACTION ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS—PART I: REGULAR PAPERS (term 2012–13). He (co-)authored 57 scientific papers, the books *Cellular Neural Networks* (Springer, 1999) and *Advanced Data Converters* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and co-edited the book *Advances in Analog and RF IC Design for Wireless Communication Systems* (Academic Press, 2013), received 12 U.S. patents, and was (co-) recipient of scientific awards, including the 1995 CEU Award from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (U.K.), the 1999 IEEE Circuits and Systems Outstanding Young Author Award and the 2007 IEEE European Solid-State Circuits Conference best paper award.

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