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Improving an Information Conduit

Scott L. Spencer
Publisher

I have never been one for New Year's resolutions. My reasoning is that if something needs to be corrected or improved, why wait until January 1st to make a change? Besides, according to the *Journal of Clinical Psychology,* of the 62% of all Americans who usually or occasionally make New Year's resolutions, only 8% are successful in achieving the goal.

A little over a year ago we set out to make some significant improvements to *High Frequency Electronics.* These changes could not be implemented in a single incident; as a single event. Some of them might not even be readily apparent to the reader. For example, improvements focused on circulation development are consistent with our goal to provide every design engineer whose work involves RF and microwave technology the opportunity to receive *HFE* in either print or digital formats. These efforts have resulted in an active and curious audience that is 100% 1-year qualified and verified by BPA Worldwide, a recognized leader in circulation auditing since 1931.

We have added sales personnel for new account development, better European coverage, and cost effective "Showcase" and display advertising. All of which are designed to provide a conduit for information from industry to the reader.

Senior Technical Editor

One very visible change has been the addition of Sr. Technical Editor Tom Perkins. His many years of real-world engineering experience, coupled with his enthusiasm for the science, have had a positive influence on the quality of the articles we present each month. His ongoing involvement with the Microwave Theory and Techniques Society and IEEE Life Members Chapter, including past service as Chapter Chair, Vice Chair and Co-Chair, affords him access to industry and academic leaders who are shaping the future.

We have also been fortunate, largely through Tom's efforts, to assemble a distinguished panel of Editorial Advisors consisting of leaders from both industry and academia. This includes a very impressive group of women, two of whom—Dr. Karen Panetta and Sherry Hess—are recognized in this issue for their activity to promote women's entry into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) majors and their leadership roles in IEEE's Women in Engineering and IEEE Women in Microwaves, respectively.

There have been subtle but noteworthy alterations to the manner in which *High Frequency Electronics* is produced and published. Better use of graphics in our regulars columns like "In the News" are more pleasing to the

eye and make for a more enjoyable read. Based on reader comments the larger "three to a page" *Product Highlights* offers a cleaner, more appealing look. The printed version of *HFE* is published using advanced digital printing technology on the highest quality paper that is produced using sustainable forestry practices. Our on-line edition is posted each month at www.highfrequencyelectronics.com which has seen upward of 14,000 unique visitors each month.

One thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to presenting a balanced mix of editorial in each issue. We will invite and present material covering topics that have a foundation in the electromagnetic principles described by Maxwell's equations. This includes inductance, capacitance, transmission line behavior, waveguide behavior, dispersion, radiation, resonance effects, skin effect, dielectric effects, near-field radiation, and propagation. Material that is useful to engineers for developing high frequency and high-speed systems for applications in wireless and wireless communications, military and civilian defense, navigation, computing, imaging, and more. Our goal is to meet the informational needs of today's engineers who are confronted with the tremendous advances in materials and software, all while crossing the boundaries between digital and analog across the electromagnetic spectrum.

This Month's Issue

This past September considerable reader interest resulted when I reported on the unveiling of National Instruments' innovative new PXIe-5644R vector signal transceiver, the world's first software-designed instrument. A follow-up meeting at EuMW in Amsterdam with National Instruments' Matthew Friedman resulted in his contributed article *The Future of Instrumentation.* In it he provides a perspective regarding the direction and potential for this game-changing approach to test and measurement. Also this month, José Antonio López-Pérez and David Cuadrado-Calle from the Spanish *Centro Astronómico de Yebes* in Madrid, describe the design, construction and characterization of an IF processor for the radio astronomy receivers used in the Yebes 40 meter radio telescope.

As we look ahead to 2013 we anticipate many challenges, but also growing opportunities arising from advances in technology. On behalf of everyone here at *High Frequency Electronics,* let me extend my sincere wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year!