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Infrared Remote Sensing and Instrumentation XXV

**Marija Strojnik
Maureen S. Kirk**
Editors

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Introduction

Once again, the conference on Infrared Remote Sensing and Instrumentation XXV took place in San Diego, California, 7–8 August 2017. It forms a part of the Symposium known as SPIE Optics + Photonics. The 26th conference in this series will be held next year, during the week of 19–26 August 2018.

Our conference celebrated its successful 25th anniversary this year. It is a quarter century, or equivalently in human time, one generation! This year, we added two new important committee members, Prof. Dr. Sven Höfling from Julius-Maximilians University, Germany, and Prof. Dr. Guillermo Garcia-Torales from The University of Guadalajara, Mexico. Dr. Höfling helped to expand the scope of the conference to include sources, emitters, and detectors in the mid-IR spectral range, the first session of the conference this year. Dr. Gracias-Torales was responsible for organizing a session on sensors and electro-optic devices, mostly concentrated in the Monday evening poster session. The conference also found it necessary to add a second chair, Dr. Maureen S. Kirk from Texas A & M University, United States. We were fortunate indeed that Maureen joined us this year; she worked hard, coordinating activities from start to finish each day, and herself chairing sessions 3, 6 and 7.

The conference this year experienced an interesting advancement in terms of implementing further technological innovations. This year, SPIE introduced a more efficient technique of sequencing presentations. The speakers uploaded their talks two hours prior to the beginning of their session to the conference-wide network. In the conference room when the previous talk was finished, the title, authors and the presenter's name of the next presentation appear on the computer screen. This allowed the session chair to swiftly introduce and welcome the next speaker. This technological advancement lengthened the time of each presentation by about two minutes. Most of the time all presenters are so enthusiastic about delivering their reports, that they have to be advised to start winding down their talk. We are certain that most speakers have been appreciative of this innovation allowing them such extra time.

While many funding organizations and institutions of higher learning still favor oral presentations over the poster ones, we have always emphasized the sort of the exchange of information that is only possible in a poster session. Since a large number of authors at this conference preferred to present their research as a poster, we were able to observe an increased amount of communication between the authors and the interested participants. Contrast this with the oral presentations, where the authors must adhere to the scheduled time. During posters, the dialog may take the requisite time that it takes to exchange information of mutual interest.

The duration of the conference during the last decade has stabilized at two days. This year, the conference included 39 presentations, with some speakers preferring to present their work more conveniently in a poster format. Thirty-three presenters prepared their reports in time for the inclusion for the publication in these Proceedings.

Over the years, our conference has established itself as an instrumentation conference, bringing back scientists and engineers to report on significant developments within their areas of expertise. This year we had eight sessions dealing with diverse missions and technological development in support of future missions. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have such conscientious contributors.

We wish to express our appreciation to the chairs, authors, presenters, and the audience for providing such an interesting, lively, and stimulating technical exchanges. There were always more questions than the time allotted, and the conversations would extend into the breaks and visits to the exhibition. Technical interchanges will continue also through e-mail, and during the next-year's conference, 19–26 August 2018.

Special thanks to the SPIE staff who work first to organize everything in support of the conference assuring that it runs smoothly, and for preparing the proceedings so that papers are published on the SPIE Digital Library website within a few short weeks after the conference. This makes the papers available to the worldwide audience in a timely fashion.

On behalf of several students, we also wish to express our gratitude to the SPIE for offering the student travel grant program. Without it, they would not have been able to present their important research, marking the beginning of their research career.

Marija Strojnik
Maureen S. Kirk