



IEEE Rochester Section

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August 2019 Newsletter

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Message From the Chair

Dear colleagues,

We had no EXCOM meeting in July.

During June we had a milestone event for the SCR/Thyristor in Clyde NY. It was a very well-organized event by the IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS). Advanced Atomization Technologies, in Clyde NY, were wonderful hosts. PELS organized the event inclusive of delicious food. Some of our section members made the 40-mile trek to Clyde to attend the event.

This is only the second milestone event in our section, the first one being in Corning. Bill Fowlkes is working on paperwork for our next milestone on the Digital Camera.

Sreeram Dhurjaty

GE's SCR/Thyristor Invention Milestone



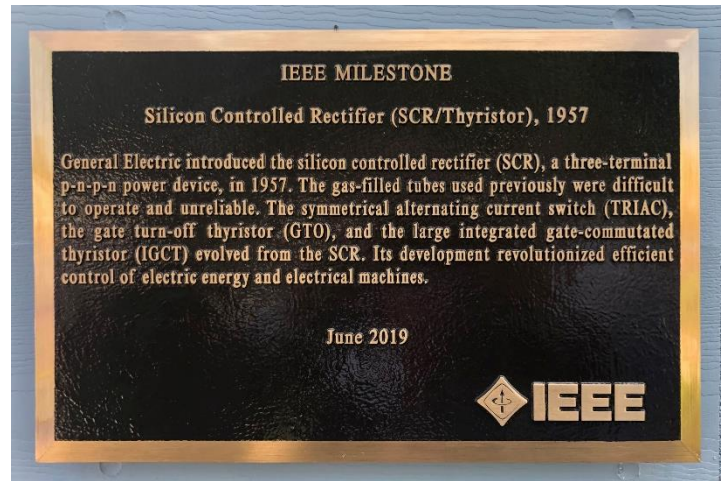
(L to R) Sreeram Dhurjaty, John Kassakian, Ahmed Elasser, James Mazzarella, José Moura, Frede Blaabjerg, and Gerard Hurley, at the SCR/Thyristor Milestone plaque in Clyde, New York.

IEEE president José M. F. Moura announced that the 1957 invention of the SCR/Thyristor is an IEEE milestone on Friday, June 14th, 2019, at the invention site in Clyde, New York. This is the first IEEE Milestone proposed by the IEEE Power Electronics Society. The plaque commemorating this Milestone event was unveiled at the ceremony. The plaque is at the entrance to the Advanced Atomization Technologies facility in Clyde. The SCR/Thyristor was

GE's SCR/Thyristor Invention Milestone (Cont'd.)

rapidly commercialized after its 1957 invention. By 1961 it was commercialized in consumer products, such as the Lutron Capri solid-state incandescent light dimmer. The importance of this invention is evident in its inclusion in Smithsonian National Museum of American History electricity collections.

Professor Kassakian of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and founding president of the IEEE Power Electronics Society, gave the keynote address at the ceremony. He described the history of this invention, including the work at Bell Laboratories in 1955 on p-n-p-n devices, and the SCR/Thyristor invention by the team researchers at General Electric in Clyde in 1957. Production devices were available about two years later. Since then, he said, the SCR/Thyristor revolutionized the control of power conversion systems, where today it still has a central role, especially for high-voltage DC transmission.



SCR/Thyristor IEEE Milestone Commemorative Plaque

IEEE Signal Processing Society Distinguished Industry Speaker Lecture

On Friday, June 28th, Tao Zhang, Ph.D., described his work in "Tackling the Cocktail Party Problem using Joint Attention Decoding and Adaptive Beamforming Optimization" to 37 people at the University of Rochester. He proposed an approach that combines joint auditory attention decoding with multi-channel speech enhancement and presented preliminary results that demonstrated the effectiveness of the algorithm.



August EXCOM Meeting

Our next EXCOM meeting, of all the leaders of the Section, Chapters, and Groups, is on Tuesday, August 6th 11:50 – 13:00. We will review plans for upcoming Rochester meetings within our section, chapters, and groups. If you are looking to become more engaged in IEEE in the Rochester Section, or would like to network with fellow engineers over lunch, please attend this meeting. This meeting is open to all IEEE members, and all are welcome. See <http://sites.ieee.org/rochester/event/rochester-section-excom-meeting-tandoor-of-india/>.

IEEE Rochester Section Events

For current information and registration links for our events, see <http://sites.ieee.org/rochester/>

Event	Vtools #	When	Where
EXCOM Meeting		August 6 th 11:50 – 13:00	Tandoor of India
Western NY Image & Signal Processing Workshop		October 4 th	RIT Campus
UAV STRATUS 2020 Conference		May 18-20, 2020	University of Buffalo stratus-conference.com