

Collaborative Research in Microwaves in Europe

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In spite of differences due to national boundaries including different language, social and financial systems, Europe has developed an impressive track-record of organising high-level collaborative research programmes across many areas of high technology, including microwaves and RF. Increasingly, these programmes are opening up to non-European participation. This contribution will give an overview of collaborative microwave research activities in Europe. Some of the topics covered will include:

- An outline of the structures for research collaboration operated by the European Commission (EC), including the Framework Programmes, as well as programmes operated by the European Space agency (ESA)
- Examples of major EC co-funded projects with major microwave-related content either on-going or recently-completed (AMICOM, TARGET, ACES, e-CUBES, automotive e-safety e.g. PReVENT, etc)
- The newly-launched European technology platforms, in particular ENIAC, and their potential interest in microwave technology.

Notwithstanding the numerous projects and activities that have been launched, there is now a widespread view within European industry that not enough is being done at European Commission level to support a sufficient critical mass of research on physical layer wireless technology. This may seem all the more surprising given Europe's success at global level in promoting GSM for mobile telephony since the 1990's. Accordingly a new industry-led group was formed early in 2008, called EuRaMIG (European Radio and Microwave Interest Group). This group succeeded in having a high level meeting with key EC officials and has had some early success in getting its message heard. A high level 'position paper' originated by the EuRaMIG group will be outlined.