

Welcome Opening

It is our great pleasure and honour to welcome you to the 6th Mediterranean Conference and Exhibition on Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Energy Conversion (Med Power 2008). It is the sixth in a series of conferences, that have established a major scientific platform in the region and continues the tradition started by three IET (former IEE) Sections, i.e. IET Cyprus, IET Hellas and IET Israel, in Nicosia, Cyprus in 1998. This year the conference is organised in Greece by the three founding IET Sections, the Electric Energy Systems Laboratory of the National Technical University of Athens and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. It is held at the Makedonia Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki on 2 – 5 November 2008.

In the recent years, the international shift towards competitive electricity markets, the increasing penetration of Renewable Energy Sources and Dispersed Generation, the pressing needs for higher security, reliability and power quality impose demanding requirements for power system planning, operation and control. The objective of the Conference is to provide a major forum for state-of-the-art presentations by international experts, to give the opportunity to all engineers and scientists working in the area of power systems to exchange information and experience and to promote international collaboration for the solution of the above problems. After the Plenary Opening Session, the Programme begins with four Plenary Panel Sessions that focus on the recent developments in the electric power system operation and electricity business in South Eastern Europe and, more particularly, in Greece and Cyprus. An overall number of 144 papers will be presented at the Conference in 24 paper Sessions providing high level R&D and practical experiences from more than 30 different countries. The papers included in the proceedings cover a wide range of Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Energy Conversion aspects and were accepted following a thorough review process of their abstracts by the Scientific Programme Committee. Additionally, three Key Note Speeches in plenary sessions and two Introductory Guest Speeches in two specialised paper sessions will be given. The programme also includes two dedicated sessions that are a Plenary Session concerning TEMPUS programmes in South Eastern Europe and a Workshop on power engineering dissertations. Finally, an exhibition is organised in parallel with the conference that presents latest developments in electrical energy equipment, devices, software and services.

This Conference is the result of the strenuous efforts and contributions of many individuals. On behalf of the Executive Organising Committee, we wish to extend to each of them our appreciation and our warmest personal thanks. In particular, we wish to thank the members of the International Advisory Committee, the Scientific Programme Committee, the Keynote and Introductory Guest Speakers, the Plenary Session Panellists, the Authors of the papers and the Session Chairpersons. Especially, we would like to thank our sponsors participating in the exhibition for their generous contributions that helped significantly the organisation of the Conference. Our warmest personal thanks are due to the Local Organising Committee in Thessaloniki and in particular to Prof. A. Bakirtzis and Prof. G. Papagiannis. Special thanks are also due to our Secretariat and in particular to E. Avlonitou, M. Klotsa and E. Gasparaki for their efficient work. Finally, we would like to thank you all for your interest in Med Power 2008 and wish you a fruitful Conference and an enjoyable stay in Thessaloniki.

Athens, November 2008

Prof. Evangelos Dialynas

Prof. Nikos Hatziargyriou

Conference Chairmen