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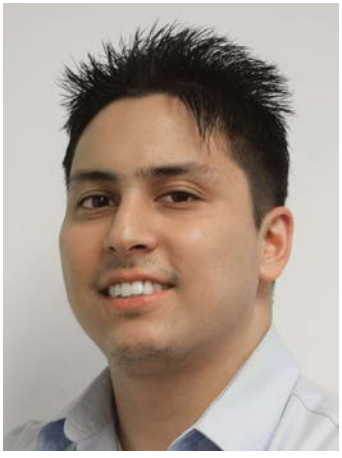
EDI CON Achieves First-Pass Success



EDI CON USA 2016 was held in Boston, Mass., from Sept. 20 to 22, marking the first time the event took place here in the U.S. The show had lots to offer in terms of both the exhibition as well as the wide variety of technical sessions. Many companies used this event as an opportunity to showcase their newest products, while the technical sessions covered a vast array of topics.

Among the technical sessions that I took in was one on 5G modulation-scheme candidates, presented by Kay-Uwe Sander from Rohde & Schwarz. The modulation-scheme candidates he mentioned were orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), filter bank multi-carrier (FBMC) with offset-QAM, universal filtered multi-carrier (UFMC), generalized frequency division multiplexing (GFDM), and filtered-OFDM (F-OFDM). While I won't get into all the details here, this is definitely a topic under much investigation. With all of the talk surrounding 5G, we can surely expect to hear more about modulation schemes in the future.

Another technical session I decided to see was Dan Swanson's presentation, "Intuitive Microwave Filter Design with EM Simulation." In this session, Swanson described a design flow for both cavity and microstrip filters, demonstrating how to effectively use electromagnetic (EM) simulation. I thought this was a good presentation that could benefit anyone who is involved with microwave filter design.

Another point of interest was solid-state RF energy. Klaus Werner from the RF Energy Alliance spoke on this topic, discussing the future challenges and opportunities associated with solid-state RF energy. Magnetron-based microwave ovens have been in people's home for so long, which is why it is difficult to imagine anything different. However, people like Werner believe that solid-state RF energy will eventually overtake magnetrons. Werner has high expectations for solid-state RF energy, as he believes the technology will soon reach a number of markets.

The exhibition floor was an opportunity for many companies to showcase their latest and greatest. A number of new products were displayed, some of which have already been featured by Microwaves & RF. In addition, I was able to see a nice demo from Mitsubishi Electric. The company proved that its gallium-nitride (GaN) technology can deliver 70 W of output power at Ku-band (13.75 to 14.5 GHz).

Lastly, those who missed EDI CON this year will have another opportunity. The event will once again return to Boston in 2017.