Welcome speech of the President of Croatian Society Electronics in Marine - ELMAR, Zadar

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 48th International Symposium ELMAR-2006 that continues the tradition of ELMAR symposiums in Zadar. We are very honoured that International Symposium ELMAR has 48 years of continuous tradition. ELMAR symposium is the oldest symposium in Croatia, and of the oldest symposiums in this part of Europe.

We are extremely pleased that during 48 years of activity we have had participants and experts from almost the whole world, and that ELMAR symposium became a significant scientific event in the field of electronics in marine, naval architecture, automatisation, navigation, optoelectronics, hydroacoustics, noise and vibrations, radiocommunications, satellite communications, telecommunications, multimedia communications, image and video processing, speech and audio processing and other advanced areas.

We are very proud that ELMAR-2006 symposium takes place under the technical co-sponsorship of IEEE Signal Processing Society, IEEE Region 8, IEEE Croatia Section, The European Association for Signal, Speech and Image Processing - EURASIP, Croatian Academy of Engineering - HATZ, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development of the Republic of Croatia, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing in Zagreb, University of Zadar and University of Dubrovnik.

The scientific program of this year ELMAR symposium is focused on multimedia signal processing and communications. After the reviewing process International Programme / Review Committee has selected 89 submitted papers for the oral presentation. These research papers were written by 190 authors. Participants come from the following 22 countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Japan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA. Overall, 64% of papers are from abroad.

Every year the International Programme Committee also invites several outstanding experts as keynote speakers and plenary speakers from abroad and Croatia to present the state of the art in different research fields. This year we are proud to have Prof. Dr.-Ing. Thomas Sikora from the Technische Universität Berlin, Germany, who will give a plenary talk: "Squeezing Semantics from Media", and Dr. Mubarak Shah from the University of Central Florida, USA, who will give a plenary talk: "Human Action Recognition". We are most grateful to them for coming on ELMAR-2006 symposium.

This year, a Special Session on Optoelectronic Structures & High Bit Rates Transmission over Fiber was organized. We are grateful to Mrs. Sonja Zentner Pilinsky, PhD, who organized this special session and attracted many researchers to submit and present their research results in this important scientific filed.
We are expressing our gratitude to all members of the Organising and Programme Committees who helped in the organisation of ELMAR-2006 symposium, whose help and efforts have been essential for the organisation of ELMAR symposiums every year. We are also sincerely grateful to the reviewers who helped us to attract high quality contributions.

It is our great pleasure to thank all the authors of submitted papers for the effort they have made while preparing their contributions.

The preparation for ELMAR-2006 symposium has taken more than a year and the time and effort of numerous volunteers. On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Croatian Society Electronics in Marine, I want to express our special gratitude to Asst.Prof. Mislav Grgic, ELMAR-2006 Program Chair, for his very hard work and commitment.

The idea of the ELMAR-2006 symposium is to make possible that your attendance can result in important scientific and technical discussions, renewed contacts with colleagues, and strengthening your technical expertise. As every year we have also planned cultural events to offer you a further opportunity to discuss both technical and non-technical subjects with other attendees.

We are specially obliged to thank Tankerska plovidba Zadar, our general sponsor from the beginning of ELMAR symposium. It would be impossible to organise this scientific event without their help.

We would also like to express thanks to all other sponsors and for their support and assistance.

We wish all the attendees successful work during the ELMAR-2006 symposium and a pleasant stay in Zadar.

Professor Branka Zovko-Cihlar, PhD
President of the Croatian Society Electronics in Marine - ELMAR, Zadar