Welcome to the Eleventh International Conference on VLSI Design (VLSI Design ’98). This year, as in previous years, we have an exciting technical program that includes a combination of invited papers, contributed papers, panel, embedded tutorials, and regular tutorials.

Leading this year’s technical program are a keynote talk and five invited plenary talks. The keynote will address future opportunities in DSP for the “networked society”. Plenary presentations cover important and emerging areas such as wireless computing, low-power design, reconfigurable computing, signal processing, and system design.

We received a total of 123 contributed paper submissions (72 to the U.S. Program Chair and 51 to the Indian Program Chair). From this, we have selected 57 papers for regular presentations and 30 for short presentations. The submitted papers were reviewed by members of the Program Committee as well as external experts in different areas. Each paper submitted to the U.S. chair was sent to six reviewers and each paper received six reviews. Each paper submitted to the Indian chair was sent to five reviewers and on average, four reviewers responded. In addition, each submitted paper was cross reviewed. That is, a paper submitted to the U.S. chair was sent to a reviewer in India and vice-versa. All papers submitted in India received reviews in the U.S. whereas 77% of the papers submitted in the U.S. received reviews in India. We would like to thank the program committee members and reviewers for the outstanding job of reviewing the papers in a short period of time.

A rank ordered list consisting of papers submitted to both Program Chairs was used in the selection of papers for the technical program. The program committee meeting was first held in India at IIT Madras, and then in the U.S. at Rutgers University. The rank ordered list provided a first cut on the program, but each accepted and rejected paper was discussed in detail and the comments from all reviewers were considered.

In addition to these papers, we have six invited embedded tutorials. Each tutorial will be the first paper in the respective session and will provide a critical overview of specific areas relevant to that session. These tutorials will help the participants understand the material in the sessions.

A panel session on the second day will address some of the key considerations for future systems-on-chip. This will include design methodologies, testing and CAD tools for a variety of domains such as DSP, processor design, and mixed-signal design. It should be a stimulating event of interest to all attendees.

The final two days of the program are dedicated to six full-day tutorials. These tutorials are given by experts in the field and are meant for someone entering a field. Tutorials at the Conference have been a valuable educational experience for participants in the past. Yervant Zorian, the Tutorials Chair, received a large
number of proposals. Inputs from the program committee members both in India and abroad were used in making the selection.

This year, nine contributed papers are being considered for the best paper award and best student paper award. Two honorable mention awards will also be given. Mike Bushnell from Rutgers University is the chair of the Awards Committee and has formed an international committee of experts to evaluate these papers. We thank him for coordinating this effort.

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