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EE'S SIGHTS FROM APEC 2019

By Mike Hockett, Editor-in-Chief

During March 17-21, the Anaheim Convention Center hosted the 34th annual IEEE Applied Power Electronics Conference and Exposition, or better known as APEC 2019.

Considered the premier event in applied power electronics, it was my first time attending, and it provided an excellent follow-up to *Evaluation Engineering*'s March Special Report on Power Supplies & Loads. The APEC expo floor was filled with vendors' latest solutions in power supply, power conversion, switching, power electronics components, charging, and almost anything else you could think of involved in power electronics. The event's attendee/registrant numbers hadn't been posted by the time we went to print, but there were 265 pre-registered exhibitors, and the 2018 event had more than 4,500 total attendees. Along with myself, there were 34 pre-registered trade press members for APEC 2019.

Besides the expo, APEC provided plenty of theoretical and application-oriented learning opportunities through a broad offering of educational sessions, including professional education seminars, technical paper presentations, application-based industry sessions, and RAP sessions.

APEC is made possible through the work of its all-volunteer organizing committee, and its three sponsoring organizations: Power Sources Manufacturers Association (PSMA), IEEE's Power Electronics Society (PELS), and Industry Applications Society (IAS).

I attended APEC for the days of March 19-20, spending most of my time there taking in the expo. Below is a sampling of what I saw there. It was a great event, and I learned a lot. APEC 2020 will be held March 15-19 at the N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA, during March 15-19 of next year.

▲ APEC was hosted at the Anaheim Convention Center amid gorgeous weather.

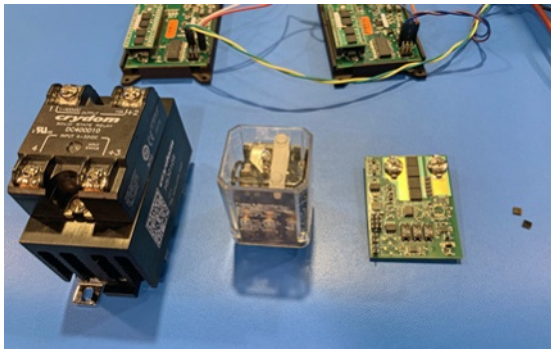
◀ Some expo floor industry sessions had beyond-capacity attendance, such as this one by SBE Inc. chief technology officer Michael Brubaker, titled, "Optimal DC Link Topologies for Best Utilization of Switch Modules."

▲ Navitas' expo booth included this driving simulation, complete with real-time leaderboard.

▲ Microchip's booth, located right in front of one of the two main APEC entrances/exits, was constantly busy.

▼ A look at DEWESoft's software dashboard, showing data from electrical vehicle real-drive tests.

▲ A selection of Vitrek products on display at APEC.

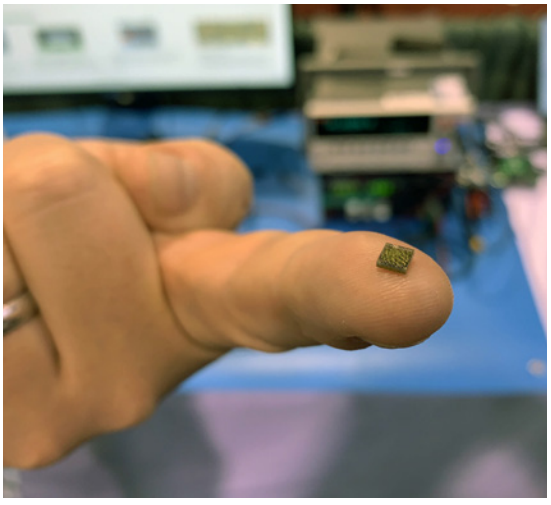


▲ A side-by-side comparison of a solid-state switch, a mechanical relay switch, a printed circuit board switch, and Menlo Micro's Ideal Switch.

◀ At APEC, BrightWorks unveiled its new Silverback series of single-output LED drivers, which come in 160W, 240W, 320W, 480W, and 600W options.

▲ APEC attendees eagerly await the show's midday raffle drawing on March 19.

▲ Ametek Programmable Power's APEC booth showed off its Sorensen SGX Programmable Precision High Power DC Power Supply with touchscreen display.



▲ Menlo Micro co-founder and SVP of products Chris Giovanniello holds up one of his company's new ideal switches, which contains 48 micro relay switches—each less than the width of a human hair.

▼ One of Microchip's latest offerings in Silicon Carbide technology.

APEC 2020 will be held March 15-19 next year in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center