

## Chair's Welcome Message

Dear colleague,

It gives us, on behalf of the Organising Committee, great pleasure to welcome you to the 2013 Loughborough Antennas & Propagation Conference (LAPC 2013).

LAPC is now a popular and well established conference with a global reputation and continues to attract delegates from around the world. In addition to the quality of papers, this popularity is partly due to the unique atmosphere we create. Past delegates often comment on the cosy and friendly environment, which is ideal for informal discussions on current research, building new networks and just catching up with old friends.

This year, we have invited a number of guest speakers from outside academia to give a distinctly industrial flavour to the proceedings. In fact, eight of our fourteen speakers are based in industry and we hope you enjoy this different perspective on research and make the most of this opportunity for building more collaborative links between academics and industries. For the first time in its nine year history, Space Antennas has been included as an invited session, which is complimented by the pre-Banquet talk on the European Space Agency.

Also new for this year are the 'Research in Progress' posters. These are envisaged as a tool for discussing on going or fledgling research that hasn't yet produced publishable results. We hope they will provide the authors with invaluable feedback and perhaps even directions for new lines of investigations.

Following the huge success of last year's best student and non-student paper contests, we have again chosen five candidates for both categories. These authors will be giving their two minute presentations at the end of the invited session on Monday morning. You will be able to view their work up close in the proceeding poster session.

We now have a presence on LinkedIn and Facebook, aimed primarily to grow the LAPC following online but to also keep our community up to date with the latest news and developments. If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to join us online and partake in the discussions.

We also extend a warm welcome to our full complement of twenty one exhibitors. Whether it is software or hardware, we are confident you find their exhibitions interesting and useful.

Please remember to fill in the online questionnaire to be in with a chance to win £50 Amazon vouchers.

We hope you will have an enjoyable and productive conference.

Best regards

Prof. Dr.-Ing Dirk Heberling, RWTH Aachen University, Germany

Prof. Steven Gao, University of Kent, UK