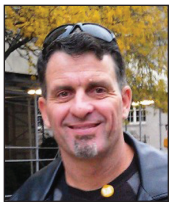

Chapter Chatter

Todd Robinson, Associate Editor

Getting Started

Dave Lorusso *(of Lorusso Compliance Services, LLC)* explains how he got his start in Compliance Engineering.

Theft, shock, fire, felony, and destruction: that's how I became interested in electrical engineering. I was 11 years old. My brother got a walkie-talkie set. I "borrowed" it - just to study it - and realized that by adding a long wire I could hear conversations from miles away! I should have stopped my experiment with that discovery but curiosity got the better of me and I took one walkie-talkie apart. I was amazed at all the colorful parts inside. I saw a slot in a cylindrical-shaped part sealed with wax. I broke through the wax with a screwdriver and - unmindful of FCC regulations - turned the part a bit. Eureka! I could hear even more chatter.

Next I removed the 9 volt battery. Deep in thought, I put the battery terminals against my face...and was startled back into consciousness when the battery terminals hit my tongue. Oh! If 9 volts is good, I thought 120 volts must be better. I grabbed a power cord from my mother's slide projector, wired it up to the walkie-talkie battery terminals, and plugged it in.

All chatter ceased; in fact, the last sound the walkie-talkie made was a high-pitched note. Next - a pop and then - smoke. The next day I went to the library to try to figure out where I'd gone wrong. That's how I got started studying Electrical Engineering. Eleven years later, I began my career in Compliance Engineering.

Austria

On March 24, 2011, the IEEE EMC Chapter Austria, the Institute for Electronics (TU-Graz) and the Seibersdorf Laboratories organized a well-attended "EMC Symposium 2011".

The one-day workshop was held at the University of Technology Graz/Austria and more than 100 attendees, including representatives from universities, research institutes, tests laboratories and industry took the chance to get updated on EMC. The aim of this annual symposium is to promote the exchange of knowledge within the EMC Society.

In addition to the technical program and the exhibition, several companies presented new measurement instruments and EMC products at a special workshop. During this workshop, the attendees were able to perform EMC measurements (e.g. with probes) of their own DUTs.

The technical program included 10 presentations covering a wide range of EMC related topics. The main topic of the morning session was real time spectrum analysis. The session started with Karl-Heinz Weidner from Rohde & Schwarz/Germany presenting new insights on EMC diagnostics with real-time spectrum analysis. The next presentation was by Dennis Handlon from Agilent/USA entitled, "EMC or Signal Analysis - No Restrictions!" Two other very interesting presentations about the benefits of real time spectrum analysis were presented by Wolfgang Winter and Zuzana Wood of EMV, Elektronische Meßgeräte Vertriebs GmbH/Germany and Renaud Simper from Tektronix/France. Jan Eriksson from Detectus AB/Sweden concluded the morning session by presenting how we can locate noisy parts on a PCB by using a surface scanning technique.

After the lunch break, the first presentations were focused on ESD protection. Lorandt Fölkel from Würth/Germany presented ESD protection of LAN and USB

Over 100 people participated in the one day EMC event organized by the Austrian EMC Chapter.

During the special workshop in Austria, the participants were given the opportunity to play with the latest EMC measurement instruments and to take measurements on their own products.