

# Travel Report from DATE 2005

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This year, *Design, Test and Automation in Europe (DATE)* conference was organized in Munich, the capital of Bavaria, from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March. DATE is the most prestigious conference in the area of design automation in Europe. The conference is always complemented with the *Exhibition*, where companies across the Europe can seek for cooperation with each other and research institutes. The total number of participants in both the exhibition and the conference was more than 3.000. DATE is known among the companies working in electronic design automation (EDA) and testing for automotive, consumer electronics, aerospace, medical equipment, and other industries. Researchers from the companies also presented their outstanding contributions to the area during special sessions in a framework of the *Designers' Forum*. Only the best papers and the best contributions can be presented at DATE, which is also known for a low acceptance rate (less than 25%) and a great number of paper submissions (more than 800 this year).

My colleagues and I presented a full paper in the track of *Electronic Design Automation (EDA)* during a special automotive day. Our paper "*Design Optimization of Time- and Cost-Constrained Fault-Tolerant Distributed Embedded Systems*" was nominated for the **Best Paper Award** in the EDA. Despite tense competition, we won the Award and were later notified as the winners. This prize should indicate a strong position of Swedish research and industry in the area of electronic design automation.

The invited keynote speakers were covering different aspects of electronic system design. Dr. Jeong-Taek Kong from Samsung Electronics introduced the area of nanotechnologies and pointed out on challenges that Samsung is facing. He named two main challenges as "design for low power" and "design for fault tolerance". The second keynote speech was given by Harald Heinecke, Manager System Design Architectures from BMW. He emphasized the importance of designing reliable vehicles and creating architectural paradigms that can reduce costs and increase functionality for satisfying customers. Harald mentioned that at most 90% of all last innovations in cars were due to electronic components. The framework being developed within the AUTOSAR project can solve the problem of complexity and lowering costs.

I found the conference very exciting and was trying to communicate with researchers and companies' representatives. However, none of my discussions resulted in any cooperation or joined projects, at least not yet.

Munich is quite an interesting place to visit. Even though Munich is a city population wise, it has a feeling of an old town. The downtown accommodates many museums including the Deutsches Museum, which was the most interesting from my point of view. It is possible to taste Bavarian food at almost every place; particularly, sausages were the most special.