

The EOS/ESD Association

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1982 to help address a critical need, the EOS/ESD Association is a professional voluntary association dedicated to advancing the theory and practice of electrostatic discharge (ESD) avoidance. The Association has grown from fewer than 100 members to nearly 2,000 members throughout the world. From an initial emphasis on the effects of ESD on electronic components, the Association is expanding its horizons to other areas such as explosives, textiles, and fully assembled electronic products. Its activities not only focus on ESD, but also include the broader effects of electromagnetic threats (electromagnetic interference, electromagnetic pulses, lightning) on various components, sub-systems and systems.

To meet the needs of a continually changing environment, the Association is chartered to expand ESD education and awareness through standards development, local chapters, publications, tutorials, symposia, and education grants. It promotes the exchange of technical information and encourages a high standard of professionalism among its membership.

The central focus of the Association's activity is *education*. The Association sponsors various activities to provide ESD practitioners with the knowledge and tools needed to meet the challenges of EOS and ESD in their companies. The Association sponsors the annual EOS/ESD Symposium, co-sponsors regional tutorials with local chapters, conducts a national tutorial and educational seminar in conjunction with the Symposium, and publishes and distributes numerous materials on ESD.

The Association also offers education grants to promote research and education in EOS and ESD. Recipients have included institutions such as the Technical University of Munchen (Germany) for ESD research, and the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for studies of the effects of ESD on SOI devices. The Association also made a grant to the University of Lowell (Lowell, MA) in support of an undergraduate engineering course in "Static Electricity in the Manufacturing Environment."

EOS/ESD SYMPOSIUM

Recognized as the primary podium for technical papers and presentations on the subjects of ESD and electrical overstress, the annual EOS/ESD Symposium attracts attendees and papers from throughout the world. First held in 1979, the Symposium continues to grow in stature and in contributions to the understanding of EOS and ESD phenomena. Technical sessions cover basic and advanced topics, providing varied opportunities for expanding one's knowledge. Workshops and author's corners provide interaction between attendees, authors, and workshop participants. Technical exhibits give attendees the opportunity to view the latest in ESD control products and services.

Separate tutorials and seminars have expanded the scope of the event's focus. The ongoing effort of the Symposium planners results in an event that has much to offer in an area that is continually changing.

REGIONAL ESD TUTORIALS

ESD education at the local level has been successfully implemented through cooperative

sponsorship of regional ESD tutorials by the Association and its local chapters. By instituting a program of "ESD education in your own back yard," the local chapters and the Association have provided convenient and cost-effective information to hundreds of persons who would not have been able to obtain it any other way. In 1993, the Association expanded the concept further by sponsoring a regional tutorial in Denver, a geographic area that did not have a local chapter.

The regional tutorials reach beyond just the Association membership. More than two-thirds of the attendees are not members of the Association.

NETWORKING WITH LOCAL CHAPTERS

When the Association was formed in 1982, there were few thoughts about the possibilities of local chapters. Today, however, there are several active, affiliated chapters, including the Northeast, Southern California, Midwest Arizona, North Central, and Texas chapters. There are several more local chapters being developed and organized.

As they bring ESD awareness and knowledge to their local areas, these chapters supplement and expand the Association's effort and become strong allies in the overall mission. The local chapters provide opportunities for more frequent activities and programs at the local level, including monthly meetings, facility tours, networking, and regional ESD tutorials.

STANDARDS

As electronics manufacturers work to reduce ESD losses, they seek industry standards and specifications to guide them. The

Continued on page 266

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EOS/ESD ASSOCIATION . . . Continued
from page 142

Association has become a focal point for the development of ESD standards and is an ANSI recognized standards development organization. With the recent release of several new documents, Association standards (full, draft, and advisory) now number more than ten. These voluntary standards cover the test methodologies for evaluating ESD control materials, products, and the ESD sensitivity of components.

More than 100 volunteers work on fifty standards projects, including a cooperative effort with the Electronic Industries Association, and formal communications and cooperation with U.S. military agencies and governmental units and with European standards development bodies. Representing electronics manufacturers, ESD product vendors, military agencies, government bodies, universities, test labs, and other interested parties, these volunteers work to define effective standards and guidelines applicable to the electronics industry.

THE FUTURE

In just a few short years, the ESD Association has implemented a variety of programs to serve its membership and the ESD community. The Association's goal is to strengthen and broaden these programs and services. Part of this effort includes adding more local chapters and broadening its efforts in areas other than electronics. In addition, the Association continues to plan for new services such as a potential professional certification program.

Additional information on the Association and its services and programs can be obtained by contacting the ESD Association, 200 Liberty Plaza, Rome, NY 13440. Phone (315) 339-6937, FAX (315) 339-6793.