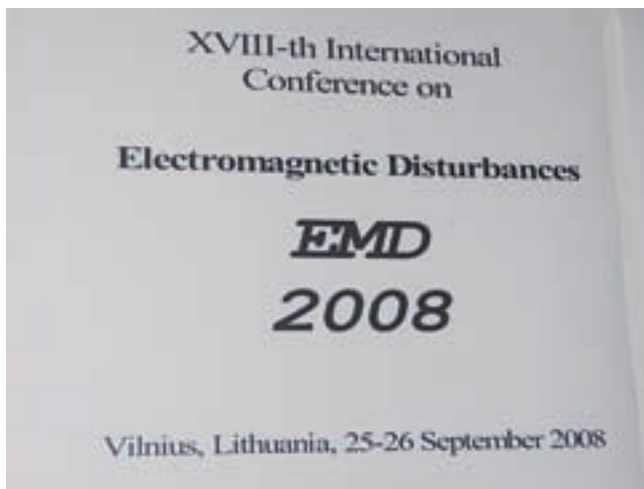


EMC Society Baltic Outreach - Vilnius, Lithuania

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Prolog: Just before I left for Lithuania, I happened to see the movie "The Hunt for Red October" in which Sean Connery starred as the Russian (actually, Lithuanian) sub commander. At the end of the movie, after all the action was over, he stated that they had come a long way just to hide a sub in a river, which

was not unlike the one near Vilnius where his grandfather taught him to fish. The comment was also made that this hiding place was over a 100 miles from the nearest naval base, the last place that satellites would ever look. I was especially anxious then to visit Vilnius after hearing those comments.



The welcome poster to the EMD'2008 International Conference held in Vilnius, Lithuania 25–26 September 2008.



The Vilnius Airport.



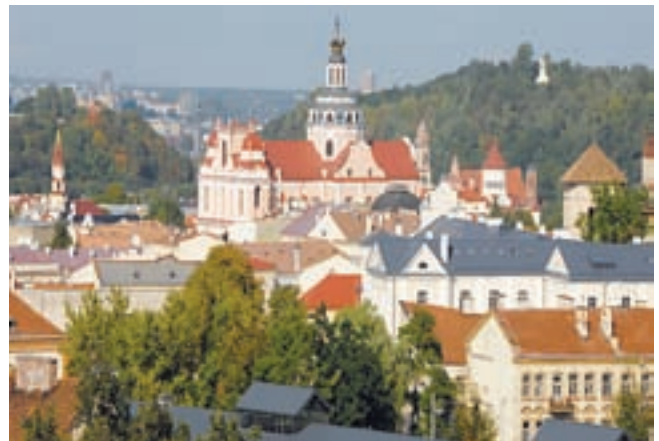
The Vilnius Airport terminal.



The Conference host hotel.



The modern area of Vilnius.



The historic area of Vilnius.



The scenic Vilnius River.



The Vilnius River bridge.



Professor Maceika (left) and EMC Society delegate Professor John Norgard.

The 18th International Conference on Electromagnetic Disturbances EMD'2008 was held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 25–26 September 2008. The conference was organized by the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, the Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania), and the Bialystok Technical University (Poland). The conference was co-sponsored by the EMC Society. Approximately 90 people attended the two-day conference.

Prof. Kazamieras Maceika (from the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in Lithuania) was the Conference Chair. The meeting location has been alternating between Lithuania and Poland from the very beginning of the conference. Therefore, the conference next year will be held in Poland.

The conference was held at the remodeled Panorama Hotel overlooking downtown Vilnius, a large city of approximately 800 thousand people. Vilnius is situated in the middle of a forested country side of rolling hills. The city is a mixture of the old and the new, with a combination of modern high-rise and historic buildings. The hotel was conveniently located near the main train station in Vilnius, which was also an easy drive from their modern airport. The hotel was on the edge of the historic “Old Town Vilnius” on the river Vilnia. The river valley has been the center of industrial activity since feudal times.

The conference had three main sessions covering:

- i) Lightning and Overvoltage Protection
- ii) EMC Standards and Testing
- iii) EMD in Wire and Radio Communications

The lighting sessions included lightning hazards, lighting current waveforms, lightning transients, lightning surges, lightning faults, and lightning protection. The EMC standards and testing sessions included electromagnetic environments, reverberation chambers for EMC testing, human ESD, human protection, multi-conductor lines, EMI, and gas discharges. The EMD wire and radio communication sessions included



EMD'2008 Conference Sponsors.



EMD'2008 Conference attendees.



Conference participants appreciated the technical sessions.



The Conference Chair, Dr. Kazimieras Maceika.



Scene of the Gala Banquet venue.



The entrance to the French Belmontas Water Mill.



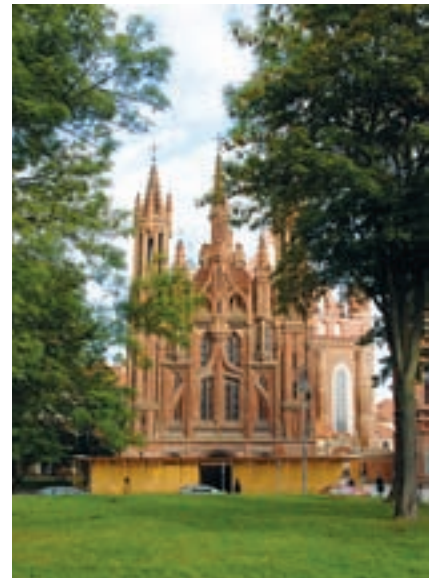
Belmontas tools and instruments.



A view of the Old Town Gate from the outside.



A view of the Old Town Gate from the inside.



An Old Town Church.

EMF evaluation methods, multiple broadband amplifiers, antenna polarization parameters, radio location, planar UWB antennas, worker's health, time-frequency distributions, M&S of linear broadband antenna arrays, inverters, and corona ion-driven wind.

A poster session was held on the afternoon of the first day of the conference. Poster papers included lightning discharges, narrowband signal disturbances, wind power stations, borehole induction motors, high-speed linear induction machines, hybrid high-voltage commutators, variable speed drives, surge protectors, etc.

The conference Gala Banquet was held on Thursday evening at the Belmont Entertainment and Leisure Center, which was established on the site of the French Belmontas Water Mill. At night the whole complex is illuminated by flood lights, which created a charming night scene. We enjoyed fine food and, at the same time, enjoyed the surrounding scenery at an outdoor café by the Vilnius waterfall. The site had an amphitheater in the bend of the river, an outdoor restaurant, large and small concert terraces, and three wooden bridges across the river. The site also had decorative plants and ancient tools and machinery to examine and several historical buildings.

An informative guided tour and excursion of the Vilnius Old Town was conducted on Friday afternoon. The Old Town was composed of many churches and many excellent restaurants, situated around an old fort on the Vilnia River. Vilnius is also the "Amber Capital" of the world.



Vilnius is famous for its amber (50 cm long).

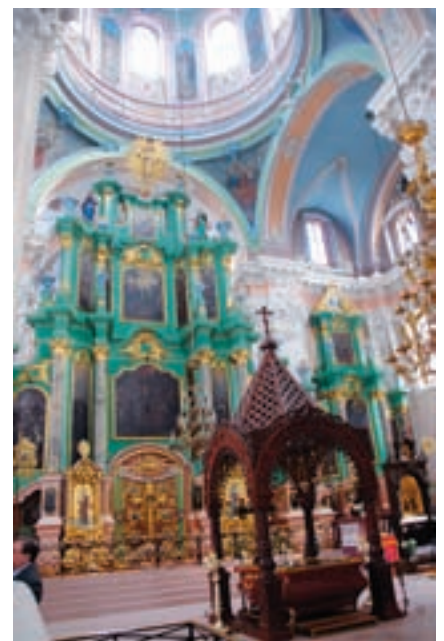
It was confirmed at the 2008 Conference that a new Lithuania EMC Chapter would be formed.

Karol Aniserowicz, from Poland, will help form the chapter, since he has experience from recently forming the Polish Chapter. However, Prof. Andrezej Sowa (from the Bialystok Technical University in Poland) will initially be the person in charge. Prof. Linas Markevicius (from the Kaunas University of Technology in Lithuania) will help form the EMC chapter in Lithuania. Prof. Kazamieras Maceika (from the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in Lithuania) will also help.

Since there are so few EMC engineers in Lithuania, it was decided to initially start with



The exterior of the Old Town Church.



The interior of the Old Town Church.



The Temple.



The Temple Tower.



The Vilnius Fort.



An expansive view from the fort.



A narrow view from the fort.



The beautiful fall colors of the Vilnius countryside.

a joint Lithuania/Poland chapter. Three members will come from the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, three members will come from the Kaunas University of Technology, and six members will come from the Bialystok Technical University. After the EMC chapter gets established and grows, the Lithuania members will branch off and start their own independent chapter.

The chapter plans to have their inaugural meeting early next year. An EMC delegation will be sent to the first meeting. They also plan to request that an EMC Society Distinguished Lecturer come to their second meeting. An EMC delegation would also come to their next EMD'2009 Conference, which will be held in Poland. The three universities involved have been encouraged to apply for the University Grant and the travel grant to come to the IEEE EMC Symposium in Austin this year. The chapter chair will be invited to attend the Symposium and Chapter-Chair retreat.

Postlog: I think the modern city of Vilnius definitely has satellite radar coverage!

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