



August 31 - September 4, 2008
 The Westin Resort & Spa
 Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
www.mancef-coms2008.org

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Welcome

Welcome to the closing edition of the e-newsletter for [COMS2008](#), the 13th annual conference on Commercialization of Micro and Nano Systems. This year COMS was held in beautiful Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, August 31 - September 4, 2008. By all accounts this year's conference was a huge success. Highlights include;

COMS2008 Awards ceremony:

Program Awards

Best Paper

Kalil Najafi
 Micro Energy Harvesters

Best Presentation

Clive Davenport
 Connecting the Micro Nano World



Best Emerging Technology Application

Kevin Bagnall
 On-Chip 3D MEMS Micro Robot



Best Innovative Business Presentation

Erol Harvey/ Grant Kearney
 Collaborate or Die!



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Best Educational Paper

Dean Aslam
Hands-on Micro and Nano Learning Modules



Coventor Scholarships

Henry Wong
University California Irvine
Micro-chips to perform low-cost,



Suan Hui Pu

Imperial College London, UK.
Novel Zipping Varactors with Large Tuning Ranges



Norizan Mohamad

Swinburne University of Technology
Spring-supported capacitive MEMS microphone design

MANCEF Appreciation Awards

Jane Nial

VP Asia Pacific,
Deputy Secretary, Business Development
Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development
State Government of Victoria,
Australia

Dr. James Wylde

Treasurer
CSM Analytical

nanotechweb.org

Conference Supporters:



Golf Tournament Awards

1st Place

Steven Dwyer

2nd Place

Carl Mann

3rd Place

Neil Hargreaves

Student Travel Award Winners

Kevin Bagnall

Tony Robson

Congratulations to all our award winners!

The presentations at COMS didn't disappoint. It was encouraging to hear of Mexico's endeavours in small technologies and we wish Francisco and the Mexican small technologies community every success.

Our plenary speakers gave us an overview of some of the grander themes. Tim Harper gave us a great overview of Nanotechnology – 10 years on. It would appear at this point in time that nanotechnologies are proving to be more evolutionary than disruptive or revolutionary. However we have a long way to go. If I interpreted Tim's finding correctly over 50% of nanotechnology applications to date are "wet" ie liquid based.

Kristin Alford from Bridge 8 in Australia blogged the conference in real time on a series of websites. A COMS first. Kristin's efforts demonstrated to us just how easily we can communicate around the world – webcasts of presentations, photos and next step - video clips via mobile phone cameras all uploaded to the web. There are also some glorious pics of yours truly.

See: http://www.bridge8.com.au/sgg/m1_1.htm Just scroll down and follow the arrows to the next page until you locate COMS2008. You can also see Kristin's visit to SANDIA National Laboratories as well. <http://blog.nanovic.com.au/> and again scroll down to the entries on COMS2008.

As you scroll down these sites you will also pick up on several other activities

occurring in Australia. I mention this purely to highlight examples of regional activities typical of those that so many of our MANCEF members are involved in around the world.

Kristin also gave us the best quote of the conference when speaking to Bob Mehalso following his presentation on Nanotecture's battery technology based on a new class of nanoporous materials: "Basically your presentation was a lot about nothing!" Excellent. Bob promptly asked if he could use it in future presentations. I have already used it twice in overview presentations – make that three times including this President's Message.

Dean Aslam gave us a LEGO based micro and nano education kit for school children including a working macro scale "LEGO" accelerometer. I wonder when we will see it at LEGO World.

We always like to receive feedback from our delegates as to the value they derive from attending our events such as COMS. Grant Kearney, CEO of the InnovationXchange (IXC), Australia, has just written the following CEO Introduction to the IXC's publication "First to Know": "I have recently returned from Mexico where I had the pleasure of participating in COMS2008. COMS (Commercialisation of Micro and Nano Systems Conference) is the world's most important meeting place for all those bringing emerging small technologies from concept to the marketplace.

At the conference I was able to meet with a wide range of people from around the globe all concerned with bringing benefit to future generations through the application of new and emerging micro technologies. In particular I was pleased to hold discussions with representatives from Canada, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands on the deployment of IXC Intermediaries into these countries and I expect that within the next twelve months we will see Australia's unique InnovationXchange model adopted in several of these markets."

Grant and Erol Harvey (CEO, MiniFAB) won a COMS conference award for their presentation "Collaborate or Die". Dean Aslam likewise won an award for his educational endeavours.

This year we were treated to a Conference Awards Dinner with a difference at a ranch outside Puerto Vallarta. There are many highly entertaining photos of our delegates sitting astride a donkey in circulation.

Everyone unanimously agreed that it was great COMS. Next stop [COMS2009](#) Copenhagen. I have heard that many have already made reservations. We are anticipating that Copenhagen will be the largest COMS ever. I am looking forward to a very exciting program from a highly innovative region of the world.

About COMS

COMS (**C**ommercialization **O**f **M**icro-**N**ano **S**ystems) is not just about the science (like so many other Micro/Nano conferences) but how to harness research and theory and turn them into commercial products. It's a hands on, practical meeting that will assist in bringing these technologies to market. COMS addresses the commercialization obstacles encountered in research, technology transfer, manufacturing processes, facilities, infrastructure, investment, applications and markets, as well as covering regulatory issues, social implications, education and workforce development. COMS is a networking showcase of insight, knowledge, experience and inspiration! <http://www.mancef-coms2008.org/>



The COMS2008 joint organizing committee