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Preface

In this special issue, consisting of two parts, the Reader will find papers, selected from over 180 ones, presented during the *13th International Conference on Microwaves, Radar and Wireless Communications* MIKON-2000, which was held at the Wrocław Technical University, Wrocław, Poland on 22–24 May 2000.

The MIKON conference has over 30 years history, however only for the fourth time it was being organised as an biannual international event. The first nine conferences were held under the auspices of Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) on the national scale, with only a limited number of foreign invited speakers. Initially known as microwave solid state technology conference MECS, in 1983 it was transformed into MIKON. Those nine national conferences created a solid basis for the transforming MIKON into an international conference in 1994. Now it takes place regularly every two years in May in various Polish cities – the biggest research and cultural centres. The MIKON conference has become known as a regional conference in Central and Eastern Europe. The increasing participation of foreign attendees and their papers has resulted in the situation that last year, for the first time, they outnumbered the Polish contributions.

MIKON has been continuously modified and extended, to cover new areas of microwave research and engineering. Due to the fact that telecommunications and radar technology are the principal driving forces behind microwave research, recently MIKON has been transformed into the conference on microwaves, radar, and wireless communications. The MIKON-2000 Technical Program Committee has accepted 168 contributions in all, from 25 countries, mostly from the region of Eastern and Central Europe. We have also heard 20 invited speakers, the world leading experts. Many of the 27 topical sessions were focus on field traditionally addressed at MIKON, such as passive and active components, measurement techniques, CAD and antennas. However, in MIKON-2000 a greater proportion of papers was devoted to radar technology and polarimetry, as well as to microwave and optical communication systems. The strength of the MIKON-2000 was enhanced by covering almost full range of microwave activities from components, devices, systems, and networks up to applications.

The second part of this special issue comprises 12 papers from the areas of microwave active devices and technology, photonics, microwave-lightwave interaction, microwave measurements and CAD for active and passive devices. I hope this volume will find the Reader's interest and will prove to be for practical usage.

Józef Modelski
Guest Editor