From the REV2005 organizers

"It takes two to speak the truth.
One to speak and another to listen"
HENRY THOREAU

The "**2nd International Symposium on Remote Engineering and Virtual Instrumentation"** organized by "Transylvania" University of Brasov in collaboration with Carinthia Tech Institute Villach, Austria and University of Maribor, Slovenia was held in the well-known ARO – Hotel in Brasov – Romania.

Brasov is situated in the central part of Romania and is considered the second largest town in Romania. Located 160 km from Bucharest, Romania's capital, Brasov is surrounded like a halo by the Carpathian Mountains and is situated in the middle of the country at the crossroads of Eastern and Southern Carpathia. Across the mountains to the south and east, are Wallachia and Moldavia and to the west, the Banat region and to the north, the rolling hills of Northern Transylvania.

Brasov's natural tourist potential is closely connected with its geographical scenery since the nearest Eastern and Southern Carpathian Mountains are able to satisfy the taste and desires of all tourists, who are longing to take part either winter or summer sports.

This International Symposium on Remote Engineering and Virtual Instrumentation discussed fundamentals, applications and experiences in the field of remote engineering, virtual instrumentation and online simulations.

The second REV Symposium organized in Romania brought together a great number of worldwide well-known experts working in the field of Remote Engineering and Virtual Instrumentation and covered new and modern areas like: new equipment remote control technologies, software and hardware tools, present and future trends in Virtual Instrumentation, innovative educational tools, etc.

This year, plenary sessions and keynote speakers covered a broad spectrum of fields from Virtual Instrumentation, Business Models, New Sensors Technologies to the Future of the European Integration. The following is a list of key presenters involved in the conference:

- **Ray Almgren** , Vice President of National Instruments, USA:
  "Graphical System Design in Virtual Instrumentation Applications"
- **Anton Anton**, State Secretary for Scientific Research in the MEdR Corresponding Member of RTS Academy, Romania:
  "Romanian Scientific Research in Frame of European Integration"
- **Herbert Ernst**, Medical Program Manager, Pemstar B.V. , Netherlands:
  "Remote access - a vision for mobile medical devices"
- **Tor Ivar Eikaas**, Cyberlab Org.AS, Norway:
  "Business models supporting local and global remote laboratory experimentation networks"
- **Manfred Starflinger**, Hyperwave Account Director, Germany:
  "Hyperwave – Knowledge Management a critical Success Factor in Maintenance"
- **Marius Ghercioiu** , National Instruments, USA:
  "A Graphical Programming Approach to Wireless Sensor Network Nodes"

The conference culminated with a talk given by:

<u>**HSH Prince Radu of Hohenzollern-Veringen**</u> **,** Special Representative of the Romanian Government for Integration, Co-operation and Sustainable Development, who presented one wonderful picture of: **"Romanian Spirituality in European XX-th Century".**

In his keynote address, "Graphical System Design – The Next Decade of Virtual Instrumentation," **Ray Almgren** outlined the National Instruments roadmap for extending the virtual instrumentation platform into the design of embedded, real-time and distributed systems. Virtual instrumentation combines powerful software and modular hardware to create user-defined platforms for design, control and test. With graphical system design, engineers and scientists can broaden this concept to include embedded and control system design.

"The National Instruments virtual instrumentation platform has become a standard for instrumentation system design," Almgren said. "We now see virtual instrumentation extending to the system-level design of embedded, real-time and distributed systems. Through graphical system design, scientists and engineers in industry and academia can take advantage of a graphical approach to algorithm design, simulation, prototyping and deployment of custom designs on embedded systems without expertise in embedded programming."

The REV2005 presents the newest topics in the form of an International Symposium. Every year this conference increases in quality and in number of participants from all over the world. Also we must point out the specific area of the participants: industrialists who present their new technologies, the researchers who develop the background for these technologies and the clients (trainees, SME's, universities, sellers, etc) able to implement and use the technologies.
This year a small industrial fair at the REV2005 was also organized where vendors presented their products and interacted with the participants. Well know companies were represented like: National Instruments USA, ARC Romania, PEMSTAR Holland, Continental Romania, Hyperwave Germany, 2NET Romania, EPI SISTEMS Romania, CVTC Romania, ICCO Romania, etc.

If we consider the short statistics of the REV2005 Conference, we can point out:
- 80 papers (from 22 countries) 44 from Romania and 36 from other countries
- 22 collaborators and 17 sponsors
- more than 10 technical presentations and exhibitors

As a final remark, the aim of the REV Symposium, to promote a continuous dialogue between the main players in the Remote Engineering and Virtual Instrumentation field, was well covered this year and the paper selection for this special issue of the **"*International Journal of Online Engineering*" *(iJOE)*** will point out some of the most important trends in the field.

Prof.Dr. Doru Ursutiu
Prof.Dr. Cornel Samoila
Conference Chairs