

2008 IEEE Radar Conference

Opening Ceremony

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As many of you possibly know, my career began as system analyst in Selenia, specifically working on radars.

One personal achievement which comes from the years I spent on the matter, and of which I am very proud, is my life senior membership in the IEEE.

Moreover, in the first 70s I was appointed as the first Italian member of the Radar Systems Panel and, when I leaved, I passed the torch to Giancarlo Grasso who, in turn, was replaced by Alfonso Farina.

In this way we set up an Italian *fil rouge* inside the international radar community which is still alive today.

I am also very proud to have here today in Rome with us, amongst the others, Merril Skolnik, Eli Brookner and Bob Hill, who are true “radar veterans” as Giancarlo, Alfonso and myself.

For all these reasons, I am so happy to be here today, at the opening ceremony of this 2008 Radar Conference, the first held outside the US.

Radar is really one of the most fascinating inventions, based on a simple physical principle which, however, required a lot of engineering and technological developments in order to be exploited.

It is not by chance if nobody can be credited with “inventing” radar, since it was the kind of idea going around for a long time, but being also too advanced for present technology until the early 20th century.

Radar is also a really good example of the dual use of technology.

In fact, while radar development was pushed mainly because of wartime concerns, the idea first came about as an anti-collision system, after the Titanic disaster, in 1912.

On the other hand, it was in the midst of World War II that a most significant peacetime application of radar, *i.e.* the study of weather, was discovered.

Today, radars are at the very core of many platforms and systems, both civil and military: ships, aircrafts, helicopters, satellites, vessel traffic management and air traffic control systems, early warning and border control systems...

Based on a longstanding and sound tradition, during last years the Italian industry gained an indisputable leadership in developing innovative and highly competitive radar systems as, for instance, the Synthetic Aperture Radars onboard the Cosmo-SkyMed satellites for Earth observation or the European Multifunction Phased Array Radar EMPAR clearly demonstrate.

I would like to conclude my introduction, just with a final consideration regarding to this point.

Our Group, specifically through Selex Sistemi Integrati, has acquired the capability to design and develop large integrated systems and turn-key solutions, which will be more and more required by our clients in the future.

But this capability will fully turn into a competitive advantage for the Group only if we will be able to provide, at the same time, valuable equipments and products as a qualified part of our systems and solutions.

In this sense, radars represent one of the most relevant challenge, both under the technological and strategic point of view, as I said before.

Having this goal clear in our minds, I would like to wish to all of you a fruitful and profitable conference.

Thank you.