



## Thessaloniki DL Report

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As an IEEE AP-S Distinguished Lecturer (DL), I gave two presentations in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The first was during the afternoon of Monday, 25 May 2026, in conjunction with DL Prof. Özlem Özgün, to the ED/MTT/AP Joint Chapter of the IEEE Greece Section at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Prof. Zaharias Zaharis, Chair of this Joint Chapter, was our very kind host for this DL event.

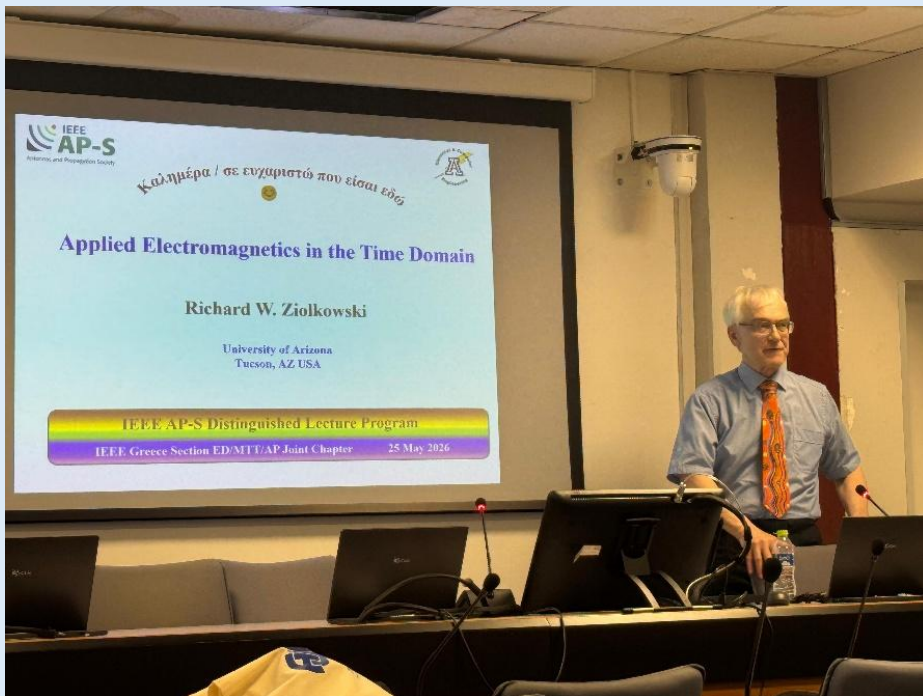


**Prof. Özgün, Ziolkowski, and Zaharis**

The majority of the audience were graduate students and post-doctoral students. A few other professors were present as well.



My presentation, entitled *Applied Electromagnetics in the Time Domain*, was the first time I gave this particular DL choice in-person. The audience asked some brilliant questions. The ensuing discussions were fun. Overall, my presentation was well received 😊



It was a pleasure discussing academic graduate program nuances with Prof. Zaharis. It was an extremely busy time for him with his lectures nearly complete for the semester and final exams about to begin, as well as several major projects that he is managing. His efforts to organize our visit and his time with us were very much appreciated!

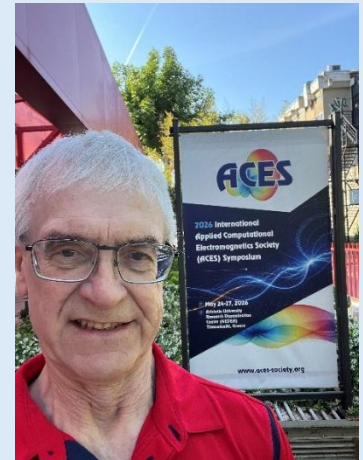


## 2026 International Applied Computational Electromagnetics Society (ACES) Symposium

May 24-27, 2026  
Thessaloniki, Greece

My second DL was presented during the ACES (Applied Computational Electromagnetics Society) conference on Wednesday, 27 May 2026, as Plenary Talk 7. It was entitled *Optimizing Morphology-dependent Electric and Magnetic Multipoles to Achieve 2D and 3D Superdirective Radiators*. I tailored my discussion using results from my DL set to more closely align with the computational electromagnetics (CEM) theme of the conference. It too was well received.

I had not been to an ACES conference this century. I had participated in a few of the original events in this conference series in the late 1980s. ACES began as a NEC (numerical electromagnetics code) users workshop held at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA. NEC originally was an open source (method of moments) simulation tool that Gerry Burke maintained and distributed (via a large computer magnetic memory tape reel) from the Engineering Research Division (ERD) of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to researchers in the electromagnetics community. When users recommended features, Gerry would update NEC and share it. He and I were in the same ERD group. I was helping develop innovations to a nascent 3D FDTD (finite difference time domain) simulation tool (Kane Yee, who was a consultant to LLNL, introduced the staggered-grid FDTD approach in 1966). Several other ERD members who had also been working on CEM problems and I were invited to participate in those late 1980s ACES events to broaden its scope. Encompassing all CEM topics then became the mainstay of all future ACES events.



The ACES Thessaloniki meeting was very interesting because it highlighted the many current CEM advances being made by researchers in the IEEE AP-S and other communities. A particular major underlying theme of many presentations was the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine

learning (ML) techniques to CEM problems. Many participants expect that AI/ML will strongly contribute to the realization of many EM innovations in the near future.

I am very grateful to Prof. John Volakis (FIU, General Co-Chair) and Prof. Atef Elsherbeni (Colorado School of Mines, TPC Chair) for their kind invitation to deliver my DL presentation as part of the Thessaloniki technical program!



**Prof. Ziolkowski, Elsherbeni, Özgün after the final Plenary talk by Prof. Özgün**



**Prof. Ziolkowski and Volakis at the conference banquet**

Dr. CJ Reddy, our current IEEE AP-S President, has been a very active ACES participant this century. Along with Dr. Reddy, 4 AP-S Past-presidents who were at the conference: Profs. Rick Ziolkowski (2005), John Volakis (2004), Weng Chew (2018) and Andy Peterson (2006), gathered at the AP-S booth for this photo:



**IEEE AP-S Past-presidents Ziolkowski, Volakis, Chew, Peterson and current AP-S President Reddy at the AP-S booth at the 2026 ACES symposium in Thessaloniki, Greece.**

Two other AP-S past-presidents, Profs. Roberto Graglia (2015) and Raj Mittra (1976), were also present at the conference, but were not available at the time it was taken.

