

Introductory words

With this research report 2001-2002 we are happy to inform you about the healthy state of our ESAT department and about progress in research, teaching and organisation. ESAT succeeds in attracting each year close to 80 new students to electrical engineering. Judging from the large numbers of advertisements of job opportunities, this is however insufficient for the current needs of society. Hence our graduates have no difficulty in finding a good job. Moreover, efforts are being continued and intensified in order to attract more students. Additionally close links with industry are maintained. We stimulate students to take a practical training period in industry or perform a stay abroad under the ERASMUS and SOCRATES scheme. We are happy to interact with national and foreign companies or universities, that are interested in attracting students. A new educational program in electrical engineering has been started in October 1999 and the first students graduated in 2002.

The *research* is very important at our department and provides a continuous stimulus to improve and adapt teaching. The total volume of publications in international journals, conferences and other factual data is impressive. Substantial funding has been received from the research council of our university, FWO Vlaanderen, IWT, DWTC, European programs and many industrial sponsors. We are grateful for the support and show with this report that it has generated significant research results. Since the research activities are run by the 5 divisions of the department, it is described in detail by them. More details can also be found on the web page of the department <http://www.esat.kuleuven.ac.be/>. We are happy to cooperate with researchers who are interested in certain topics.

The department and its research divisions are proud to receive each year several visiting foreign researchers for periods of a few weeks to a year. Including these long-term visitors, but excluding the 250 undergraduate students, the department has a population of about 320 full-time people. Most of these are involved in research and teaching, but there are also important services at the department level. The department administration and accountancy, a common computer infrastructure and network and computer support, a mechanical and electronic workshop, and an electronic component shop are run in the premises of the department. I would like to thank here all those members of our department for the efforts and energy they have invested in order to achieve all these research and teaching results and service.

R. Belmans
Department Chairman (1999-2003)