

Field Report: Tallahassee 2017

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General impression of my stay abroad

The time at the Research Center for Advanced Power Systems (CAPS) was very exciting and full of new experiences. Within the first few days of my stay I already felt well integrated in an international team with great overall knowledge. CAPS is a state of the art research institute of the Florida State University. The facility is a multidisciplinary research center organized to perform basic and applied research to advance the field of electric power systems technology and enjoys an excellent reputation. I had the privilege to work at CAPS for five months. During my stay I have learned a lot with many challenging experiences throughout my project and I was deeply impressed by the professionalism and knowledge of research workers at CAPS.

My work was about the determination and simulation of the common-mode (CM) behavior of a power electronic building block, which was a part of an impedance measurement unit. After the first meetings my goals were clearly defined and I immediately started with the research phase to gather knowledge about CM voltage and current, their influence on a system and how to determine those quantities. Furthermore, I learned about Medium Voltage Direct Current (MVDC) systems and the new concept of all-electric ships. I also learned how to use a vector network analyzer and built up a great knowledge about scattering parameters.

During my stay I had a few meetings and presentations and the feedback I got afterwards always help me with the further progress of my project. I always felt well integrated and sometimes my working colleagues and I went for lunch as a group, which encouraged the feeling of being a part of a team.

Quality of the host institute

The facility is a state of the art environment, which has the computational hardware infrastructure to perform real-time simulations. This system is capable of performing real-time simulations and supports Controller Hardware-in-the-Loop testbeds. The staff at CAPS gathers a huge expertise in the field of advanced power systems and was always helpful in a friendly and sociable way. It also attracted attention that the workers know, how to work with international students. The working climate was always good and perfect to focus on ones work and keep motivated.

Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

The Florida State University| Center for Advanced Power System
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Tallahassee, FL 32310
Dr. Mischa Steurer

The Florida State University| Center for Global Engagement
110.S Woodward Ave.
Tallahassee, FL 32310
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Recommendation

My overall impression was very positive through and through. I gained a lot of knowledge and I enjoyed my time at CAPS. Therefore, I definitely would recommend anybody to use the opportunity to make an exchange semester at the Florida State University, since it is a unique chance and experience to get to know a different culture and new people as well as a new working experience.

I also would recommend to start the search for an accommodation as early as possible, to ensure a good housing. Furthermore, it should be mentioned for those who doubt that they could effort the stay, that the Marshall Plan stipendium is enough, to ensure a great stay.