1. Record Nr. UNINA9910873604203321

Titolo	Mobile and Personal Satellite Communications 2 : Proceedings of the Second European Workshop on Mobile/Personal Satcoms (EMPS '96) / / edited by Francesco Vatalaro, Fulvio Ananasso
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : Springer London : , : Imprint : Springer, , 1996
ISBN	9781447115168 1447115163
Edizione	[1st ed. 1996.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XII, 582 p. 55 illus.)
Disciplina	384.51
Soggetti	Telecommunication Computer networks Technological innovations Communications Engineering, Networks Computer Communication Networks Innovation and Technology Management
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Approaching the Shannon Limit: Theorist's Dream and Practitioner's Challenge -- 1 System Architectures I -- The L-Band Land Mobile (LLM) Payload: Key Technologies and Test Results -- Antenna Pattern Reconfiguration in the Future Direct Broadcasting Satellite at 22 GHz -- New Highly Miniaturised Multibeam RF Beamforming Networks for Phased Array Antennas Using MMIC and Multilayer Technologies -- ITALSAT F2 and its EMS Payload for Mobile Communications -- Is Terrain Scattering a Significant Contributor to Interference by Personal Communications Satellites ? -- 2 Networks and Mobility Management I -- Providing Appropriate Service Quality to Fixed and Mobile Users in a Non-Geo Satellite-Fixed Cell System -- Inter-Network Signalling Load Analysis for GSM-Satellite Integration -- Mobility Issues for a GEO Multi-Spot Satellite System with OBP Capabilities -- 3 Propagation Channel Characterization and Modelling -- Carrier To Multipath Characterization and Prediction for Mobile Satellite Systems -- Measurement of Propagation Loss into Cars on Satellite Paths at L-Band

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Sommario/riassunto

This book of proceedings contains papers for the Second European Workshop on Mobile/Personal Satcoms (EMPS '96), held in Rome, Italy, and hosted by the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. The EMPS '96 workshop follows the edition of two years ago, and is intended as an occasion for exchange of information and opinions among experts in the fast-growing field of mobile satellite communications. With respect to the first successful edition we only made one main modification. We issued a formal call for papers, instead oflimiting the selection process to invited papers as was in the past: 60 papers were received from 18 countries. Each paper has been reviewed by at least two referees, and then 41 papers were selected by the Workshop Steering Committee (WSC). An invited introductory lecture opens the workshop and is given by Dr. Andrew J. Viterbi, who is also honorary chairman of EMPS '96. Satellite Personal Communications Networks (SPCNs) are now expected

to grow very fast, even beyond the most optimistic forecast: their unique feature to establish ex abrupto a world-wide communication fabric is certainly the winning card. Market analyses now indicate that LEO networks already planned to be operational around 1998 even risk being overwhelmed by users request, so that their extensions are already being considered. And, additionally, multimedia SPCNs are also being introduced at higher frequencies to provide broadband services.