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John Makaran was born in London, Canada in 1964. He received his B.E.Sc. in Electrical Engineering (1987), M.E.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering (1990), and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering (2002) from the University of Western Ontario. From 1990 to 1992 he held the position of Advanced Electrical Engineer in Engineering Research at 3M Canada Ltd. in London, Ontario. From 1992 to 1993, he held the position of Senior Electronics Engineer in machine controls at Husky Injection Molding Systems in Bolton, Ontario. From 1993 to 2006, he worked at Siemens VDO Automotive Inc. in London, Canada in various roles including Manager of Electronics as well as Specialist Engineer. Presently, he is the Chair of Manufacturing Sciences at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario.

He has authored several conference and journal papers, technical reports, and has authored or co-authored 24 patents, mostly in the area of brush motor and brushless motor controls with several additional patents pending. He was responsible for the electronics design on the world's first brushless motor used for automotive engine cooling applications for which he received an innovation award from Siemens Canada Ltd. in 1997. In his work with Siemens VDO he led and was part of multinational project teams in North America, Asia, and Europe.

Additionally, he has taught at both Fanshawe College and the University of Western Ontario where he created courses in Industrial Controls (1992) and Mechatronics Systems Design (1995-1998), in addition to teaching courses in Electric Machines. His research interests include power electronics and motor drives, EMC, mechatronic systems simulation, and industrial systems design.