ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The pursuit of this research endeavour would not have reached its fruition but for the able guidance of Dr. A. Ebenezer Jeyakumar, Principal (Retd.), Government College of Engineering, Salem and Director (Academics), Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College, Coimbatore. The Supervisors’ expertise and insight are the keys for the success of the research scholar in completing this thesis.

The author expresses his gratitude to his Joint supervisor Dr. R. Joseph Xavier, Principal, Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology, Coimbatore for dedicating his valuable time in providing with useful suggestions and continuous support. The author records his deep sense of gratitude for the motivation and invaluable suggestions offered at all stages of the thesis work.

The author expresses his thanks to Dr. N. Devarajan, Department of EEE, Government College of Technology, Coimbatore and Dr. A. Shanmugam, Principal, Bannariammman Institute of Technology, Sathyamangalam, Coimbatore, who are the members of doctoral committee, for contributing their valuable time in providing with helpful ideas.

The author is indebted to Dr. S. Paramasivam, ESAB Engineering Services Limited, Chennai and Mrs. and Mr. B. Gopinath and their family members for their continuous help and support. On a personal level, the author owes a special gratitude to his wife Mrs. Parvin, Children Tawfeeq and Ateeq, family members for their boundless love, moral support and encouragement throughout the span of this research.

S. I. MANJUR BASHA