

**Prof.dr. Wil Schilders**  
**June 23, 2023**

**VALEDICTORY LECTURE**

# **Mission possible - Mathematics for a better world**

**TU/e**

**EINDHOVEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

**DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

## **INVITATION**

Prof.dr. W.H.A. (Wil) Schilders was appointed part-time professor of Scientific Computing for Industry at the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) on December 1, 1999. He will deliver his valedictory lecture on June 23, 2023.

The Executive Board of Eindhoven University of Technology cordially invites you to attend the valedictory lecture of Prof.dr. Wil Schilders on **Friday, June 23, 2023, at 4.00 PM**. The public lecture will be delivered in the Blauwe Zaal of the Auditorium. You do not need to register.

The title of the lecture is

**'Mission possible - Mathematics for a better world'**

After the lecture, drinks will be served in the Senaatszaal.

All full professors are invited to join the cortège. If you want to join the cortège, please register in advance with the GA staff secretary which organizes all academic ceremonies, telephone +31 (0)40 247 25 15, e-mail: [GA.staffsecretary@tue.nl](mailto:GA.staffsecretary@tue.nl).



**Prof.dr. Silvia Lenaerts**

Rector Magnificus (appointed as of May 11)

After June 23, 2023, the text of the valedictory lecture will be available online at [www.tue.nl/lectures](http://www.tue.nl/lectures).

Wil Schilders (1956) received his MSc degree (1978) from the Catholic University of Nijmegen and PhD degree (1980) from Trinity College Dublin, both in Mathematics, then worked at Philips Research (1980-2006) and NXP Semiconductors (2006-2010). At the end of 1999 he was appointed at TU/e and gradually extended this position from 2010 onward. In 2010, he also became the director of the Dutch Platform for Mathematics (PWN). He has been active in international organizations, being the president of ECMI (2010-2011) and EU-MATHS-IN (2015-2020) as well as chair of the European Model Reduction Network (2014-2018). From October 1, 2023, he will be president of the worldwide organisation ICIAM. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> Mittelsten-Scheid guest professor at Bergische Universität Wuppertal (2020-2021) and is currently a Hans Fischer senior fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study of TU Munich. In 2022, he was elected fellow of the European Academy of Sciences, became a fellow of SIAM and received the NWO-ENW Stairway to Impact award. Recently, he organised SIAM CSE 2023, the largest mathematics conference ever in The Netherlands.

### **About the lecture**

In his lecture, professor Schilders will look back on his academic and industrial career, and especially his mission to promote mathematics as a discipline that has invisible contributions to visible successes, particularly concerning societal and industrial challenges. Mathematics is everywhere, but often one only sees the tip of the mathematical iceberg. Looking forward, with the emergence of high performance computing, data science and artificial intelligence, these are exciting times for mathematicians, necessitating the development of entirely new methods and preparing a rapidly growing population of talented young students and researchers to work on the challenges of our times. The world is becoming extremely complex; mastering this complexity can only be done with the help of mathematicians in close collaboration with colleagues from other sciences. The aforementioned mission is absolutely possible, and the lecture will discuss various ways on how to achieve it.

**Visiting address** Auditorium, Building 1, Groene Loper, Eindhoven

**Navigation address** De Zaaie, Eindhoven, [www.tue.nl/map](http://www.tue.nl/map)