

Message from the General and Program Chairs

This is a landmark year! We are celebrating two major accomplishments. First, as a result of the hard work of those involved with DS-RT, we now have symposium status. Second, this is the first year that the DS-RT series has ventured to Europe. The Seventh IEEE International *Symposium* on Distributed Simulation and Real-Time Applications (DS-RT 2003) is held in Delft, The Netherlands. This has given us the opportunity to run jointly with the 2003 European Simulation Symposium organized by the Society for Modeling and Simulation International. We hope that these landmark events make the symposium an event to remember! So welcome to Delft and to DS-RT 2003.

DS-RT 2003 is hosted by the Technical University of Delft in the beautiful city of Delft. The city was founded in the year 1075 and is famous for its blue-and-white pottery that was first made in Delft in the 1600s. The city centre is composed of 17th and 18th Century buildings interspersed with canals. We hope that delegates will have time to investigate the many interesting places that radiate out from the “Oude Kerk”, a Gothic church dating back to the mid-1200s.

Again, this year has seen an increased number of papers submitted to DS-RT, reflecting the continuing importance of distributed simulation and the related fields of virtual reality and real-time systems. The high quality of papers received continues to show that DS-RT is a leading event in this research area, providing a forum in which academic researchers and practitioners in industry or defense can meet.

DS-RT has come a long way since the first workshop in January, 1997. For those interested in its history, the previous workshops in this series were held as follows:

- DiS-RT '97, Eliat, Israel, January 9-10, 1997
- DiS-RT '98, Montreal, Canada, July 19-20, 1998
- DiS-RT '99, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA, October 22-23, 1999
- DS-RT 2000, San Francisco, California, USA, August 24-26, 2000
- DS-RT 2001, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, August 13-15, 2001
- DS-RT 2002, Forth Worth, Texas, USA, October 11-13, 2002

We hope that we have arranged an exciting program this year, with Dr. Stewart Robinson, Warwick Business School, and Professor Paul Sharkey, University of Reading, as our keynote speakers. Our sessions include papers on HLA and Grid issues, real time systems, model composition, quality of service and multimedia, parallel and distributed simulation, methodology and web-based simulation, and a special session on haptic audio visual collaborative virtual environments and applications. We also would like to thank Professor Agostino Bruzzone, MISS DIP University of Genoa, for organizing what we are sure will be a fascinating panel on distributed simulation project management.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed towards the success of this symposium. In addition to our main sponsor, IEEE Computer Society, we would like to acknowledge support from ACM SIGSIM, Brunel University, and the Technical University of Delft, in particular Dr Alexander Verbraeck and the Systems Engineering Group in the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management.

We would like to thank our Publicity Co-Chairs, Mirela M.S.A. Notare and Helen Karatza, for their work in advertising DS-RT, A. El Saddik for organizing the special session on virtual environments, our registration chair, Susan Standing, and our webmaster Luciano Bononi. Thanks are also due to Bob Werner and the editorial staff at IEEE Computer Society Press for their work in producing these proceedings, and the program committee and reviewers who provided detailed reviews in such a short period of time.

We hope you find the symposium stimulating and enjoy your stay in Delft!

Stephen J. Turner (General Chair)
Simon J.E. Taylor (Program Chair)
DS-RT 2003