

# Message from the General and Program Chairs

Following the success of last year's venture to Europe, the 8th IEEE International Symposium on Distributed Simulation and Real-Time Applications (DS-RT 2004) is being held in Budapest, Hungary. Once again, this allows us to co-locate with the 2004 European Simulation Symposium organized by the Society for Modeling and Simulation International. Welcome to Budapest and to DS-RT 2004!

DS-RT 2004 takes place at the Park Hotel Flamenco, hosted by BUTE, the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Budapest is in fact a young city under its present name, but the capital stands on the site of one of the oldest settlements in Europe. The first town dates back to the first century BC and the city later grew to become the centre of a region far larger than Hungary. By 1872, the three towns of Obuda (literally, Old Buda), Buda and Pest had already grown into one, and in that year were united administratively. We hope that delegates will have time to investigate the many interesting places to be found in this beautiful city, including the famous Castle Hill District, which is part of World Heritage.

This year has seen a broadening of the scope of DS-RT with an increased number of papers in the area of collaborative virtual environments (CVEs), in addition to the traditional topics of distributed simulation and real-time systems. The high quality of papers received continues to show that DS-RT is a leading event in this interdisciplinary research area, providing a forum in which academic researchers and practitioners in industry or defense can meet.

DS-RT has now matured into a well-established symposium. For those interested in its history, the previous events 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
- DS-RT 2003, Delft, The Netherlands, October 23-25, 2003

We are pleased to announce an exciting program this year, with two excellent keynote speakers. Dr Anthony Steed (University College, London) will discuss the qualities of inter-personal communication that are possible in CVEs in his talk, "Being There Together?" Professor Axel Lehmann (University of the Federal Armed Forces, Munich) will give a presentation on a challenging research issue, "Component-Based Modeling and Simulation — Status and Perspectives." We also have two invited papers, from Emmanuel Frécon (Swedish Institute of Computer Science) and Dieter Kranzlmüller (Johannes Kepler University, Linz). Special thanks go to Emmanuel and Dieter and their respective colleagues for contributing these two very interesting papers in such a short space of time.

Our sessions include papers on networks, Web/Grid enabled distributed simulation, modeling and simulation methodology, collaborative virtual environments, interactive and real-time applications and virtual reality. This year

we have a special session for poster presentations and demonstrations/tools, organized by Abdulmotaleb El Saddik (University of Ottawa). We would also like to thank Simon Taylor (Brunel University), for organizing what we are sure will be a fascinating panel on the new and exciting research area of “Distributed Simulation and the Grid.”

This year, we are also introducing a Best Paper award. After the reviews of all papers were received by the program co-chairs, a Best Paper sub-committee was formed and the following papers were nominated:

“A New Adaptive Middleware for Parallel and Distributed Simulation of Dynamically Interacting Systems”, by L. Bononi, M. Bracuto, G. D’Angelo, and L. Donatiello

“Off-loading Data Distribution Management to Network Processors in HLA-based Distributed Simulations” by A. Santoro and R.M. Fujimoto

“Architecture and Evaluation of Tele-Haptic Environments”, by X. Shen, J. Zhou, A. El Saddik, and N.D. Georganas

“Grid Services and Service Discovery for HLA-based Distributed Simulation” by W. Zong, Y. Wang, W. Cai, and S.J. Turner

The winner of the Best Paper award will be announced at the symposium dinner.

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 and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, in particular György Lipovszki, our local organizer.

We would like to thank our Steering Committee Chair, Azzedine Boukerche, for always being ready with good advice, our Publicity Co-Chairs, Mirela M.S.A. Notare and Helen Karatza, for their work in advertising DS-RT, 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 for returning their reviews in time to meet our deadlines.

We hope the symposium will be fruitful for your research and we wish you a pleasant stay in Budapest.

**Stephen J. Turner (General Chair)**  
**David Roberts and Linda Wilson (Program Co-Chairs)**  
**DS-RT 2004**