

Message from the Workshop Chair Dependable Computing Systems

Welcome to the Euromicro Second Workshop on Dependable Computing Systems. Ensuring predictable levels of reliability, availability and safety for critical applications remains an important challenge for both researchers and practitioners. Well understood engineering techniques can be applied to the management of faults in hardware. However, compensating for design faults, whether in hardware or software, continues to be problematic. It is not possible to guarantee ultra-high levels of dependability in complex applications, even where the latest state-of-the-art techniques are applied. Some form of analogue or mechanical back-up in such applications will continue to be required for the foreseeable future.

We are honoured to welcome Bev Littlewood as keynote speaker who will focus on the use of diversity to make software dependable. Papers and short presentations have been accepted from researchers in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the UK. I am confident you will agree that this is an interesting programme, representing a sample cross section of current European research activity in the field.

I am particularly pleased that the academic contributions are complimented with an industrial experience report from Industrial Control Services. It is very important for researchers to maintain awareness of current practice in real critical installations. I am grateful to Kevin Toon and George Turnbull, Group Technical Director at ICS, for their support of the workshop.

I would like to thank the members of the Programme Committee and reviewers for their contribution to the workshop. Reviewing contributions on top of already busy schedules is much appreciated. I would also like to thank the staff at the Euromicro office, IEEE Computer Society Press and the local organisers for making this workshop possible. In particular, I would like to thank Andy Tyrrell, Karl Grosspietsch and Stuart Bennett for their help and advice.

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