Cead Mile Failte (Irish for ‘a hundred thousand welcomes’) to WCRE 2011, the 18th Working Conference on Reverse Engineering, hosted by Lero, in the University of Limerick on the west coast of Ireland. It is with great pleasure we greet you on probably the nicest, and certainly the greenest, campus in Ireland for this annual pinnacle of the software evolution and maintenance community.

In keeping with WCRE's high standards, we have 39 excellent-quality technical papers on the programme in 13 technical sessions, plus a doctoral symposium, a tool-demo session, and an industrial track. A special highlight to note will be the presentation of the Stevens Award to Philip Newcomb at his invited talk on the modernization of the European Air Traffic Management System. This 2011 milestone represents a major breakthrough in the acceptance of reverse and reengineering technologies and automated transformation in a large-scale safety-critical and highly-regulated industry.

We also have a strong social programme. We will visit a local public house (where there will be traditional Irish music and the opportunity to pour your own glass of Guinness!) and have dinner in a Medieval Irish Castle where you will be served Meade (a traditional Irish Honey Liqueur) and serenaded with Irish Ballads and folklore.

But of course, the main reason for your attendance is to discuss advances in Reverse Engineering and related fields. To this end, we would just like to emphasize the core ethos behind WCRE: participation. We are a working conference where the highest value is placed on interaction, feedback, and discussion. Through such interactions, we refine and improve the level of knowledge in the community and the level of research. Core deliverables for WCRE as the generation of new ideas and new directions for researchers. The outstanding reputation that WCRE conferences enjoy strongly suggests that this is the right approach.

Consequently, the focus here is on open discussions. Held at the end of each set of presentations, we all, together, explore on the topic of the session. Our discussion moves well beyond the presented papers as we collaboratively examine the wider research area, identifying new opportunities for research, industrial application, and joint work.

WCRE keeps paper presentations strictly limited to 20 minutes, with only time for 1 or 2 basic clarification questions at the end of each talk. While this might seem quite short, longer presentations, when the audience are largely passive, can place a large concentration burden on the listeners. Indeed, often the core message can be presented in half the time. To quote Mark Twain (although it has also been attributed to Voltaire and Proust): “I am sorry I wrote such a long letter. I didn’t have time to write a short one”

Many researchers and practitioners worldwide who follow developments in reverse engineering and reengineering look to us to lead, to set the agenda, and to anticipate promising lines of inquiry for the future. Hence, we are not just reporting on work and progress in the field. We (as WCRE) are defining it.

So, with a critical mass of quality papers, participants, and participation, this week in Limerick is sure to be dynamic, exciting and full of valuable insights. So please come prepared to give and contribute. In return, we can promise that you will take away more than you brought with you!

Jim Buckley, University of Limerick
Elliot Chikofsky, Reengineering Forum
WCRES 2011 General Chairs