

**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 26th meeting
held at Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany, 17 June 2000, 10:00 – 16:00 hrs.**

Present at the meeting were:

- ? Andrew Butterfield
- ? Dines Bjørner
- ? Tim Denvir
- ? Andreas Fett
- ? John Fitzgerald
- ? Peter Lucas (chairman)
- ? Markus Montigel
- ? José Oliveira
- ? Nico Plat (minutes)
- ? Wolfgang Reisig

Apologies had been received from: Robin Bloomfield, Stefan Gruner, René Jacquart, Cliff Jones, Steve King, Derick Kourie, Peter Gorm Larsen, Jan Storbak Pedersen, Kees Pronk, Jan Tretmans and Marcel Verhoef.

1 Welcome

Peter Lucas welcomed all those present at the meeting and he thanked Wolfgang Reisig and his secretary for all the work involved in hosting the meeting.

2 Agree upon agenda

The agenda distributed at the meeting was agreed upon.

3 Minutes of the meeting held in Newcastle on 17 and 18 February 2000

The minutes were approved without modifications. The notes accompanying the minutes describing the events at the strategy meeting on 18 February were made by Nico Plat and José Oliveira. Some remarks were made on these notes:

- ? Steve King was present at the meeting on 18 February but not at the one on 17 February.
- ? The sentence “-NB: e-mail René about KARMA” was mistakenly added to the notes and should have been removed (this was a personal note of José Oliveira).
- ? “Pert Nets” should be “Petri Nets”.
- ? “Action 25/17: Peter Lucas to form subgroup” should be “Action 25/17: Cliff Jones to form subgroup”.

4 Action list

Action 25/1 and 25/2: Done. Nico had received 52 suggestions which will all be sent a letter in the next week.

Action 25/3: Done. The web site www.fmeurope.org is now in place.

Action 25/4: Done. The Irish web site is now redirected to www.fmeurope.org.

Action 24/5: Done.

Action 25/6: Done.

Action 25/7: Unknown, hence continued.

Action 25/8: Done. No reactions from the exhibitors were received.

Action 25/9: Done.

Action 25/10: Done. José will make the list publicly available so that suggestions can be added for the call for participation.

Action 26/1: All to send suggestions for addressees of the FME'2001 call for participation to José Oliveira.

Action 25/11: Done. José suggested having a physical PC meeting on 10 November 2000.

Limited resources will be made available for PC members to attend.

Action 25/12: Done. See agenda item 8: “Report on FME'2002”.

Action 25/13: Done. See agenda item 8: “Report on FME'2002”.

Action 25/14: Done. See agenda item 9: "Preparation of the AGM".

Action 25/15: Done. Peter had submitted a written report, see also agenda item 10: "Report by the subgroup on Marketing".

Action 25/16: Done. See agenda item 11: "Report by the subgroup on Education".

Action 25/17: Continued, this action was by mistake assigned to Peter Lucas, this should have been Cliff Jones (see item 3 of these minutes).

5 FME web site

A plan for further setting up a central FME web server was distributed at the meeting. First steps have been taken to set up the initial web site and the plan consists of an identification of activities to be carried out in order to further professionalise the web site and also to keep it up to date. Help is needed in many areas, e.g. keeping the tools and applications database up to date. Peter Lucas volunteered to ask Bernhard Aichernig to take up the maintenance of the FME tools and applications database.

Action 26/1: Peter Lucas to invite Bernhard Aichernig to maintain the FME tools and applications database.

The ambition for the middle to long term is to make the web site the primary point of reference as far as formal methods are considered. This also means that the design of the web site should be done by professional web designers. Nico Plat had received a quotation by the Portuguese company Sidereus for € 7500. The membership present thought that it would be wise to solicit for other price quotations as well. Andrew Butterfield agreed to draft an Invitation To Tender for the potential three companies and send the draft ITT to Tim Denvir to check.

Action 26/2: Andrew Butterfield to draft an ITT for the design of the FME web site and send it to Tim Denvir to check.

6 Report on FM'99

René Jacquart had sent a written report on the current situation w.r.t. FM'99. The books on FM'99 can unfortunately not yet be closed because a total income of approximately FF 213000 (€ 32.500) has not yet been received. This is partly due to unpaid attendance fees and also to 2 major grants from DGA and Conseil Regional that have not yet been paid. FM'99 will be on the agenda of the next meeting again.

7 Report on FME'2001

José Oliveira reported that the call for papers had been widely distributed. He will make the address list available on the FME'2001 web site and everybody was asked to check the list and provide suggestions for additional names so that the call can be redistributed.

Action 26/3: José to publish the Cfp address list on the FME'2001 web site.

Action 26/4: All to check José's address overview on the web and to send suggestions for addressees of the FME'2001 Call for Papers/Call for Participation to José.

Action 26/5: José Oliveira to resubmit the call for papers in the next month.

José also reported that a physical PC meeting would take place on 10 November in Portugal and proposed that limited funding (with a ceiling per attendee) would be made available for a number of the PC members to attend this meeting.

José also asked for suggestions for names of invited speakers (three in total) so that their names can be announced on the FME'2001 poster.

Action 26/6: All send suggestions for invited speakers to José.

Wolfgang Reisig reported on the current state of affairs on the organisation of FME'2001. No new budget was in place yet but Wolfgang had now hired an external conference organiser and he expected that the budget could be finalised within the next few weeks.

Nico suggested that somebody would especially be appointed to organise the (tools) exhibition at the conference. John Fitzgerald suggested Paul Mukherjee (IFAD) as the right person for this job and volunteered to ask Paul.

Action 26/7: John Fitzgerald to ask Paul Mukherjee to be tools exhibition organiser at FME'2001.

8 FME'2002

Dines Bjørner, the OC Chairman for FME'2002, had suggested at the last meeting to co-locate, i.e. to run in parallel, the event together with FLOC, CAD, CAVE and RTA in the last week of July 2002 because it could generate a lot of synergy between these events. This idea is now further taking shape. The event will be held at the university campus in Copenhagen with approximate base costs of € 150 per person.

9 Preparation of the Annual General Meeting

According to the FME statutes, each year two FME members must check the financial situation and report at the annual general meeting either in person or through a written report. Jan Storbank Pedersen and Bernhard Aichernig have been asked and are prepared to perform the task this year. Treasurer Kees Pronk will send them copies of the financial archive to prepare themselves.

Action 26/8: Kees Pronk to send relevant financial material to Jan Storbank Pedersen and Bernhard Aichernig.

Peter Lucas had announced at the last meeting in Newcastle that he wished to resign the Chairmanship at the Annual General Meeting in 2000. John Fitzgerald accepted a nomination from several members of FME and will stand for election as Chairman at the AGM. No other nominations have been received.

10 Report by the subgroup on Marketing

Peter Gorm Larsen had sent a written report in which he wrote that he asked the Portuguese company Sidereus for a quotation of the production costs of such a CD-ROM. This quotation was received just before the meeting so that Peter could not yet comment on it. Peter will now be asked to work out the production plan further and Dines Bjørner offered to help him with this.

Action 26/9: Dines Bjørner to further develop the Marketing CD-ROM production plan together with Peter Gorm Larsen.

11 Report by the subgroup on Education

Peter Lucas reported that there had been a discussion amongst the members of this subgroup and that the idea now was to set up a 'formal methods curriculum' in the form of a number of package descriptions.

12 Report by the subgroup on Scope

There was nothing to report because of the confusion about who is heading this subgroup (should be Cliff Jones instead of Peter Lucas). Nevertheless, Peter Lucas volunteered to enquire what FME members' opinions on the 'Scope' issue are via the FME mailing list.

Action 26/10: Peter Lucas to gather opinions amongst FME members on the 'Scope' issue.

13 Date and place of the Annual General Meeting

José Oliveira offered to host the next meeting in Braga, Portugal, on 11 November 2000, co-locating with the PC meeting for FME'2001 on 10 November.

14 Other business

Two issues were brought up:

? John Fitzgerald had noticed that the FME mailing list was used for a conference announcement recently. This is not the intention of the mailing list (of course FME conferences will be announced using the FME mailing list!) and other channels are available for this purpose. John will send a policy reminder to the FME members.

Action 26/11: John Fitzgerald to instruct FME members on the purpose of the mailing list.

? Nico Plat reported that FME member Stefan Gruner had suggested to rename FME into FMI because membership is not restricted to European members only. This idea was discussed but rejected because:

? FME does not pretend to be *the* formal methods organisation representing all countries world wide.

- ? FME by now has become a brand name with a reputation. It would be unwise to let that go just like that.
- ? The European flavour will most likely have attraction to eastern European countries who no doubt will become more active in formal methods in future years, possibly also becoming members of the European Union.
- ? Other organisations also have the 'E' in their name (e.g. ETAPS) but are not restricted to activities or members in Europe.

Action 26/12: Nico Plat to inform Stefan Gruner on the decision to stick with FME instead of FMI.

Summary of actions

Action 25/7: Kees Pronk and Peter Lucas to inform the EU that the grant provided by them will be renounced.

Action 26/1: Peter Lucas to invite Bernhard Aichernig to maintain the FME tools and applications database.

Action 26/2: Andrew Butterfield to draft an ITT for the design of the FME web site and send it to Tim Denvir to check.

Action 26/3: José to publish the Cfp address list on the FME'2001 web site.

Action 26/4: All to check José's address overview on the web and to send suggestions for addressees of the FME'2001 Call for Papers/Call for Participation to José.

Action 26/5: José Oliveira to resubmit the call for papers in the next month.

Action 26/6: All send suggestions for invited speakers to José.

Action 26/7: John Fitzgerald to ask Paul Mukherjee to be tools exhibition organiser at FME'2001.

Action 26/8: Kees Pronk to send relevant financial material to Jan Storbak Pedersen and Bernhard Aichernig.

Action 26/9: Dines Bjørner to further develop the Marketing CD-ROM production plan together with Peter Gorm Larsen.

Action 26/10: Peter Lucas to gather opinions amongst FME members on the 'Scope' issue.

Action 26/11: John Fitzgerald to instruct FME members on the purpose of the mailing list.

Action 26/12: Nico Plat to inform Stefan Gruner on the decision to stick with FME instead of FMI.