



**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 40th meeting
held at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
21 July 2005**

Present at the meeting were:

- Bernhard Aichernig [UNU/IIST]
- Juan Bicarregui [Rutherford Appleton Laboratory]
- Dines Bjørner [Technical University of Denmark]
- Raymond Boute [University of Ghent]
- Ana Cavalcanti [University of York]
- David Carrington [University of Queensland]
- Jin Song Dong [University of Singapore]
- Alessandro Fantechi [University of Florence]
- W.M. Farmer [McMaster University]
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman) [University of Newcastle upon Tyne]
- Stefania Gnesi [ISTI]
- Neil Henderson [University of Newcastle upon Tyne]
- Randolph Johnson [US National Security Agency]
- Cliff Jones [University of Newcastle upon Tyne]
- Shmuel Katz [Technion]
- Peter Gorm Larsen [Systematic Software Engineering]
- M. Lawford [McMaster University]
- Volkmar Lotz [SAP]
- Tom Maibaum [McMaster University]
- José Oliveira [University of Minho]
- Nico Plat (Secretary) [West Consulting B.V.]
- Kees Pronk (Treasurer) [Delft University of Technology]
- Bernhard Schätz [TU München]
- Emil Sekerinski [McMaster University]
- Claire Smith [University of Newcastle upon Tyne]
- Andrzej Tarlecki [Warsaw University]
- Marcel Verhoef [Chess IT]
- Jim Woodcock [University of York]
- Pamela Zave [AT&T Laboratories]

Apologies had been received from: Derek Andrews, Eerke Boiten, José Luiz Fiadeiro, Stefan Gruner, Dino Mandrioli and Jan Storbank Pedersen.

1 Welcome

John Fitzgerald welcomed all those present at the meeting.

2 Agree upon agenda

The agenda was agreed upon.

3 Minutes of the meeting held in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, on 19 April 2005

The minutes of the meeting were approved without modification.

4 Action list

Action 39/1: Done, action closed.

Action 39/2: Done, Randolph has accepted. Action closed.

Action 39/3: This concerns the diminishing attendance at FME business meetings. John Fitzgerald has composed a message asking members to comment on the potential scientific content of meetings, in the hope for suggestions that may raise participation. The message has not been sent to the members yet. Action continues.

Action 39/4: John Fitzgerald stressed that the phrase “fundamental” was perhaps a bit too portentous in this context. The action involves organising a workshop during which members and the Board can reflect on FME and its direction. Action continues.

Action 39/5: Done, action closed.

Action 39/6: Marcel Verhoef reported that, at the ForTIA AGM held on 20 July 2005, a logo had been chosen. He thanked Alessandro Fantechi and especially Alessandro’s daughter who designed the logo. Action closed.

Action 39/7: The subject had been discussed at the ForTIA AGM but no conclusion had been reached. Action continues.

Action 39/8: Limited progress. Action continues. See Item 8 below.

Action 39/9: Done, but does need further discussion. Action closed.

Action 39/10: Done, action closed.

5 Report on FM’05

John Fitzgerald reported on FM’05. The event is running smoothly and is successful in terms of the number of attendees: there are 256 registered participants from 33 countries. Participation was spread evenly across the week with 140-150 participants each day. The programme consists of: a main symposium with 31 high quality papers and three invited talks; an Industry Day in parallel with the first day of the symposium; a substantial exhibition from technology vendors; and 19 workshops and tutorials.

Industry Day was a particular success, with attendances more than doubling over previous I-Days. Extended abstracts of the six invited speakers’ presentations had been included in the conference proceedings.

A question was raised as to why the programme ended at lunchtime on Friday. One negative comment had been received that this led to parallel sessions and potential conflicts for delegates wishing to hear two concurrent presentations. It was explained that the decision to finish early was motivated by the observation that, at previous symposia, many delegates chose to leave then anyway, leading to sparse attendances at the closing sessions. Several positive comments had been received from delegates who had taken advantage of the increased range of travel opportunities afforded by the earlier finish.

A question was raised as to why the History Panel had been cancelled. It was explained that the History panel had to be cancelled after two of the four panel members had been forced to withdraw; one through illness and one for personal reasons, both shortly before the symposium. Unsuccessful efforts had been made to find suitable substitutes. In the end the Programme, Organising and Panel chairs all agreed that the panel session could not run.

6 Report on FM'06

General Chair Prof Emil Sekerinski of McMaster University reported on progress towards FM'06.. His report is enclosed with these minutes.

7 ForTIA

Volkmar Lotz reported on the current state of affairs (report enclosed with these minutes). The ForTIA AGM took place on 20 July 2005 in Newcastle. I-Day has been a great success with 75 attendees and interesting presentations. Preparations for I-Day at FM'06 have already started. It is proposed that ForTIA should clarify its organisation and regulations now that it is operating successfully as a subgroup of FME. Volkmar Lotz will present draft regulations for the subgroup for approval by the FME Board.

8 FME Education Subgroup

This agenda item was already addressed as part of the action list (action 39/8). José Oliveira had found no time to work on it. He did report that the goal of the group was still to provide a formal methods curriculum for undergraduates and that the database with an inventory of formal methods courses had recently been enlarged.

9 FME web site

This item was only briefly discussed, due to lack of time. Bernhard Aichernig proposed to start an experiment with a "Wiki" under FME's website, e.g. <http://wiki.fmeurope.org>¹ are a popular form of today's websites that allow editing by anybody. Bernhard's idea was positively received and it was therefore decided to go ahead with this idea.

Action 40/1: Nico Plat to set up open source Wiki-software under www.fmeurope.org

Action 40/2: Bernhard Aichernig to further promote and provide structure for FME's Wiki

There was some discussion of the potential longer-term goal of providing a medium for on-line publications giving reports on applications of formal methods. It was felt that this requires more careful consideration and the matter was deferred for future meetings.

Action 40/3: Bernhard Aichernig to coordinate discussion on on-line publications by FME

10 Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting will most likely be held in the last week of November, co-located with IFM 2005, in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

11 Other Business

John Fitzgerald announced that he and Stefania Gnesi will soon send out a call for bids to organise FM'08.

Action 40/4: John Fitzgerald and Stefania Gnesi to send out a call for bids for FM'08

¹ Please note that this is not yet a working link!

Summary of actions

Action 39/3: John Fitzgerald to enquire amongst FME member if they are satisfied with the way FME meetings are run.

Action 39/4: John Fitzgerald to initiate discussion regarding fundamental issues with respect to the existence of FME.

Action 39/7: Marcel Verhoef to propose the use of FME's CMS for the ForTIA web site as well to the ForTIA board.

Action 39/8: José Oliveira to provide a plan for further activities of the FME Education Subgroup.

Action 40/1: Nico Plat to set up open source Wiki-software under fmeurope.org.

Action 40/2: Bernhard Aichernig to further promote and provide structure for FME's Wiki.

Action 40/3: Bernhard Aichernig to coordinate discussion on on-line publications by FME.

Action 40/4: John Fitzgerald and Stefania Gnesi to send out a call for bids for FM'08.

Enclosures

- Presentation on ongoing preparation for FM'06
- Progress report by ForTIA