

**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 39th meeting
Held at the Embedded Systems Institute, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
19 April 2005**

Present at the meeting were:

- Jos Baeten
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman)
- Stefania Gnesi
- Volkmar Lotz
- Dino Mandrioli
- Nico Plat (Secretary)
- Kees Pronk (Treasurer)
- Judi Romijn (left half way through the meeting)
- Jan Tretmans
- Marcel Verhoef

Apologies had been received from: Derek Andrews, Eerke Boiten, Raymond Boute, Ana Cavalcanti, David Crocker, Tim Denvir, Alessandro Fantechi, José Luiz Fiadeiro, Stefan Gruner, Niklas Holsti, Randolph Johnson, Cliff Jones, David von Oheimb, Jan Storbank Pedersen, Andrzej Tarlecki, Jim Woodcock, Yan Zhang.

1 Welcome

John Fitzgerald welcomed all those present at the meeting. He thanked Marcel Verhoef for his work organising the meeting and the Embedded Systems Institute for hosting it.

2 Agree upon agenda

The agenda was agreed upon.

3 Minutes of the meeting held in Ghent, Belgium on 19 November 2004

The minutes of the meeting were approved without modification.

4 Action list

Action 38/1: John Fitzgerald suggested that this could be done during FM'05, or perhaps that it would be something for ForTIA to pick up. Action closed.

Action 38/2: Action closed.

Action 38/3: Done, action closed.

Action 38/4: Done, action closed.

Action 38/5: Done, but only recently. Action closed.

Action 38/6: Done, it was decided to stick to the original colour, or black and white if necessary. Action closed.

Action 38/7: Done, action closed.

5 Financial report regarding the period 1 January 2004 – 31 December 2004

Kees Pronk presented the financial report for 2004. The financial position of FME is good. With respect to the previous year, FME remains dependent on its income from the symposia. Although reserves are at a satisfactory level, there is some concern that expenditure may begin to exceed income. Furthermore, spending on sponsorships and “special projects” (in 2004: ForTIA and the CMS that FME is using) is increasing.

John Fitzgerald thanked Kees for his work as FME's Treasurer during the period discussed.

The meeting approved the Financial Report *nem con*.

6 Report by the Audit Committee

The members of the audit committee (David Crocker and Randolph Johnson) had individually checked the FME accounts and found no irregularities. Both reported to the meeting and will send formal written reports as well.

Action 39/1: David Crocker and Randolph Johnson to send in their written audit reports for the financial year 2004

The meeting discharged the Treasurer from his responsibilities during this period. John thanked the audit committee for their work. Judi Romijn volunteered to serve as member of next year's Audit Committee. Her nomination was approved *nem con*. Randolph Johnson (as this was his first term as member of the Audit Committee) will be asked to serve on this committee again in 2005.

Action 39/2: Nico Plat to ask Randolph Johnson to serve on the FME Audit Committee for 2005

7 Account of activities during the past period

John Fitzgerald presented the annual report of activities over 2004 (enclosed with the minutes). One question raised by John himself was that he wonders whether FME meetings (usually three times a year) are run as members would like.

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

The members present accepted the report. John thanked all active FME members for their work.

8 Board member election

In accordance with Article 10.5 of the FME Statutes, Nico Plat stepped down as Secretary of FME. There were no other candidates to take his position and Nico was re-elected *nem con*.

9 Budget for 2005

Kees Pronk presented the budget proposal for 2005. The budget was accepted by the meeting *nem con*.

10 Plans for the coming period

John Fitzgerald presented the policy plan for 2005 (enclosed with the minutes). John also referred to the FME meeting held in February 2000 in Newcastle upon Tyne, where fundamental issues regarding FME's purpose and mode of operation were discussed. Now, 5 years later, John is wondering if such a discussion should be done again.

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

The Policy Plan for 2005 was accepted by the meeting *nem con*.

11 Status report on FM'05 and FM'06

John Fitzgerald reported on the progress of FM'05. Progress with the organisation is going very well, details can be found in the report accompanying these minutes. Over 30 of high quality papers have been accepted by now, and registration for the Symposium has been opened (roughly 20 people have registered so far). John urged everybody planning to attend the Symposium to register as quickly as possible.

Stefania Gnesi reported on the progress of FM'06. The General Chair is Prof Emil Sekerinski of McMaster University, Canada. PC Chairs are Prof. Tobias Nipkow of the Technische Universität München and Prof. Jayadev Misra of the University of Texas at Austin). A Programme Committee has been recruited and a Call for Papers is in preparation. Prof. Sekerinski will give a presentation of the symposium at the FME meeting to be held in Newcastle as part of FM'05.

In the subsequent discussion, the importance of maintaining the distinctive character and culture of FM symposia was expressed, in particular the breadth of formalisms encompassed and the encouragement of interactions between researchers and practitioners. Stefania Gnesi, as board member with responsibility for symposia, will remain in close e-mail contact with McMaster on this issue.

12 ForTIA

Volkmar Lotz reported on the current state of affairs (report enclosed with these minutes). The ForTIA AGM took place on 6 December in Munich, preceded by an informal meeting on 5 December. Volkmar Lotz has taken up the Chairmanship. Initial plans for ForTIA strategy and activities have been produced, but still need further refinement.

One of the concrete actions that has been taken up by ForTIA immediately has been the organization of I-Day at FM'05, mainly thanks to Marcel Verhoef and David von Oheimb. An interesting program has been put together and confirmed.

Since the ForTIA AGM in December 2004 several meetings by telephone conference have taken place. One more meeting took place prior to the FME AGM in Eindhoven.

Action 39/5: Nico Plat to send minutes of ForTIA meetings to the FME Board

Eleonora Fantechi, the daughter of Alessandro Fantechi, has made several drafts for a ForTIA logo. Each of these drafts looks very good. Members presented were encouraged to comment on the draft logos and express their preferences. Marcel Verhoef will collect the responses and provide feedback to Eleonora via Alessandro.

Action 39/6: Marcel Verhoef to send feedback on proposed ForTIA logos to Alessandro Fantechi

With respect to the ForTIA web site it was proposed to use the same CMS that FME is currently using for its web site.

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

13 FME Education Subgroup

Dino Mandrioli reported on the work of the subgroup in the previous period (notes enclosed with the minutes). The subgroup has been very active, mainly thanks to José Oliveira. A survey on formal methods education in Europe has been made and the results of this survey were presented at the Symposium in Ghent and are also available on the FME web site. However, since then, the subgroup has been very quiet and uncertainty exists about next steps to be taken.

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

14 FME web site

Nico Plat reported on the state of FME's web site (www.fmeurope.org). The CMS is functioning well well and the web site is being updated much more frequently now, thanks to Bernhard Aichernig. Nevertheless, the strategic positioning of the web site remains to be resolved: should it just be focussed on the FME association, or should it provide a wider resource on formal methods? Should it be much more dynamic or be a rather static, small web site? Kees Pronk added to his that the current appearance of the site, and contents (primarily of the home page) is not up to modern standards.

Action 39/9: Bernhard Aichernig to provide a strategic plan for FME's web site

Action 39/10: Kees Pronk to initiate discussion on appearance and contents of FME's web site

15 Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21 July 2005 in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, at FM'05 during the lunch break.

The meeting after that will be held in the week of 29 November – 2 December 2005, co-located with IFM 2005, in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

16 Other Business

No issues were raised.

Summary of actions

Action 39/1: David Crocker and Randolph Johnson to send in their written audit reports for the financial year 2004.

Action 39/2: Nico Plat to ask Randolph Johnson to serve on the FME Audit Committee for 2005.

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 39/5: Nico Plat to send minutes of ForTIA meetings to the FME Board.

Action 39/6: Marcel Verhoef to send feedback on proposed ForTIA logos to Alessandro Fantechi.

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 39/9: Bernhard Aichernig to provide a strategic plan for FME's web site.

Action 39/10: Kees Pronk to initiate discussion on appearance and contents of FME's web site.

Enclosures

- Progress report on FM 2005
- FME report on 2004
- FME plans for 2005
- Report and plans by ForTIA
- Audit reports
- Notes by Dino Mandrioli on the FME Education Subgroup