

FORMAL METHODS EUROPE

Minutes of 13th Meeting held at CRI, Birkerød, on 24 August 1995

Present :
Göran Anger
Egon Börger
Andrew Butterfield
Maddalena Cinnella
Eric Delalonde
Tim Denvir
Gottfried Egger
John Fitzgerald
Josep M. Garrell
Hans-Martin Hörcher
Cliff Jones
Peter Larsen
Peter Lucas
Maurice Naftalin
Jan Storbank Pedersen
Nico Plat
Kees Pronk
Jim Woodcock

1. Minutes of 12th meeting

These were accepted.

2. Matters arising

Action 9/4: Tim Denvir has approached the CEPIS secretariat who were to discuss the question of FME being an associate member. Details of CEPIS associate membership and its advantages were promised but never been received after several reminders. This action is therefore cancelled.

Action 10/1: Arrange for change of signatories for the FME bank account. This is in hand and will be completed shortly. Continues KP

Action 10/3: Done: Kees Pronk has supplied a float to the organisers of FME'96.

Action 10/5: Provide a periodic report on FME to the Commission. Peter Lucas, Kees Pronk and Tim Denvir will put this in hand soon. Continues PL, TD, KP

Action 12/2: John Fitzgerald was asked to explore further the possibility of liaison with the Software Reliability and Metrics Club over their summer workshop. This action has been overtaken by progress on the Industrial Seminars. This action is therefore cancelled.

Action 12/3: Done: Peter Larsen has asked Jonathan Bowen for a suitable extract from his WWW list of FM meetings. But more work will be needed under the ESSI project to put this information into a suitable form.

Action 12/4: Done: Tim Denvir has obtained details of further seminars for the Industrial Seminars database.

Action 12.5: Done. Proposals for the second call of ESSI were prepared and successfully submitted.

Action 12.6: Done: Peter Lucas gave more details of the possibilities of holding FME'97 at the university of Graz. No other proposals for a location have been received and so the meeting agreed that Peter should proceed with the arrangements.

Action 12/7: Done: We thank Jan Storbank Pedersen for hosting this meeting of FME at CRI.

Action 12/8: Done. Peter Lucas will ask Marie Claude Gaudel if the next meeting of FME can be held following the FME'96 Committee meeting at Orsay on 20 November 1995 so that progress on FME'96 can be reported, and the following meeting will be held within the FME'96 symposium on about 19 March 1996.

Action 12/9. More suggestions and leads were given for a Finnish representative and Peter Lucas agreed to explore these further. Continues: PL

3. FME'96

Jim Woodcock reported that there were still two weeks before the deadline for submissions and, as expected, very few papers had been received at this point. Mailing, both over 3,000 paper copies and via electronic mailing and newsboards, of the call for papers had been put in hand and the committee and their contacts were urged to submit papers. LNCS were happy to publish the proceedings subject to the usual provisos. All local arrangements were in hand. Jim asked for ideas for sponsors and verbal suggestions were made.

4. FME'97

Peter Lucas reported that there were two alternative sites for FME'97 in Graz. One was in modern buildings with excellent facilities and a fairly large auditorium which is not available in the evenings but which is free of charge during the day, including coffee. The second alternative is the usual type of university classrooms; there would be no facilities on hand for lunch.

The city of Graz might be able to provide a banquet and a bureau can handle registrations for both the symposium and accommodation without cost to the symposium.

It was agreed that Peter should pursue the first alternative.

5. Best Practice and other Proposals

Peter Lucas thanked the coordinators and participants of the three proposals which were submitted to the second call of ESSI. All three have been short-listed and we await contracts. The work is expected to start in January.

There was a discussion on how FME should eventually become independent of EC funding. Suggestions included: seeking some means of obtaining industrial funding; finding other sources of EC funding; setting up national groups; taking formal methods into the process improvement initiatives which are springing up. Goran Anger suggested that a working group should be formed to take these ideas forward, and he was asked to do so. Peter Lucas agreed to put the item on the next agenda. Action 13/1: GA, PL

In order to enable the communications to flow more easily between committee members, John Fitzgerald agreed to extend the mailing list he had set up for the ESSI proposal participants to the whole committee.

Action 13/2: JF

6. Membership

The constitution and process of new members joining and old members retiring from the FME committee was discussed. Peter Lucas outlined the procedures used by IFIP, with principal members and observers. It was agreed that Peter would write to those who haven't attended the last four meetings. Tim Denvir will derive the list of these from the records of minutes etc. Action 13/3: PL & TD

It was noted that members may make other contributions besides attending the meetings. This would be taken into account. Both full members and observers will continue to be eligible for EC travel funding, with principal members having priority if the maximum number (20) is exceeded.

It was proposed that the meetings could start earlier, beginning and ending with a technical presentation when this can be arranged. Peter Lucas agreed to try to arrange this. Action 13/4 PL

It was also agreed that links between FME and the newsletter should be strengthened. FME could contribute material to the newsletter (as has been done at times in the past). Tim Denvir agreed to contact the editors and convey this message, and to remind them of those responsible for various "columns". Action 13/5 TD

Peter Larsen and Goran Anger had some suggestions for a representative for Finland and Cliff had a specific recommendation. Peter Lucas would follow these up. (see action 12/9).

7. FME report to EC

Peter Lucas will initiate this with Kees Pronk, Tim Denvir and contributions from all the committee (see action 10/5).

8. IEEE Formal Methods Planning Group

Nico Plat volunteered to act as liaison with this group. Peter Lucas agreed to write to them again asking if they would be interested in a liaison with FME. Action 13/6 PL

9. Next meetings

It was agreed that it would be most convenient if the next meeting could be held after the FME'97 committee meeting. Peter Lucas agreed to ask Marie Claude Gaudel if this could be arranged. Action 13/7

Thus, the next meeting is expected to held in Orsay on 20 November 1995.

The subsequent meeting will be held during FME'97 in Oxford on 18-20 March 1996.

10. Other business

Two very welcome and interesting technical presentations were given during the meeting. Jan Storbank Pedersen gave a presentation on "On-board Software development Approach for the Oersted micro Satellite", and Soeren Prehn gave a presentation on "Using VDM in Domain Analysis". We are most grateful to Jan Storbank and Soeren for their contributions.

Goran Anger asked for ideas on future directions for FME to be sent to him.

Nico Plat and John Fitzgerald have cooperated to make the form of the Applications database more specific so that search queries can be sent to it over the internet.

Tim Denvir gave advance notice of his retiring from the post of Secretary after FME'97.

Tim Denvir
secretary FME

29/8/95

Summary of Actions

Brought forward

10/1: Arrange for change of signatories for the FME bank account. This is in hand and will be completed shortly. KP

10/5: Provide a periodic report on FME to the Commission. Peter Lucas, Kees Pronk and Tim Denvir will put this in hand soon. PL, TD, KP

12/9. More suggestions and leads were given for a Finnish representative and Peter Lucas agreed to explore these further. PL

New Actions

13/1. Form a working group to take forward ideas on moving to financial independence from EC. Put item on next agenda. GA,PL

13/2. Extend electronic mailing list to whole committee. JF

13/3. Write to those who haven't attended last four meetings (TD to supply list). PL, TD

13/4. Arrange to start meetings earlier, with technical presentations at start and end. PL

13/5. Contact newsletter editors conveying wish to strengthen links. TD

13/6. Contact IEEE FM planning group asking again if they are interested in links with FME. PL

13/7. Ask Marie Claude Gaudel if the next FME committee meeting can be held at Orsay following the PC meeting. PL