

**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 25th meeting
held at Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom, 17 February 2000**

Present at the meeting were:

- Andrew Butterfield
- Dines Bjørner
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson
- John Fitzgerald
- René Jacquart
- Cliff Jones
- Peter Gorm Larsen
- Peter Lucas (Chairman)
- Steve King
- José Oliveira
- Nico Plat (minutes)
- Kees Pronk
- Wolfgang Reisig

Apologies had been received from: Eric Delalonde, Markus Montigel, Jan Storbank Pedersen, Göran Anger, Tim Denvir, Jim Woodcock, Derick Kourie, Inga-Lill Bratteby-Ribbing, Angela Alapide, Michel Chaudron, Jan Tretmans and Andreas Fett.

1 Agree upon agenda

The agenda distributed at the meeting was agreed upon with one addition: agenda item 10: Status of FM'2002.

2 Minutes of the meeting held in Toulouse on 22 September 1999

The minutes were approved without modifications.

The status of outstanding actions was discussed:

- Action 21/5: A plan had been distributed prior to the meeting and was discussed under item 6 of the agenda. Action closed.
- Action 22/12: Peter Lucas reported that he had found Kees Pronk and Dines Bjørner prepared to take part in the FME conference subgroup. Also, the PC and chair(s) of the upcoming conference/symposium would normally be members of the conference subgroup. Action closed.
- Action 24/1: A membership policy had been distributed prior to the meeting and was discussed under item 4 of the agenda.
- Action 24/2: Pamela Zave had been nominated as a second PC chair for FME'2001 and she had accepted the job. Action closed.

3 Financial report by the treasurer

Kees Pronk presented and clarified the report at the meeting, again expressing concern that sufficient income is needed to cover the costs for travel reimbursements.

4 Membership policy

A proposal for a membership policy was distributed prior to the meeting. FME aims in the year 2000 to achieve a steady but controlled growth of its membership to roughly 100 members. To achieve this growth FME intends to adhere to the following rules and guidelines:

1. Only natural persons (as opposed to e.g. organisations) can become a member (the FME by-laws mention other possibilities so this may change in the future, i.e. after 2000).
2. There will be no membership fee in the year 2000.
3. Members are welcome from all parts of the world, not only from Europe.

4. Key persons in the formal methods community will be identified and invited to become members. There will be no other 'active' form of seeking members.

Action 25/1: All to suggest names of key persons in the formal method community to be approached and asked to become FME members to Nico Plat.

Action 25/2: Nico Plat to approach key persons in the formal method community and suggest to them the possibility of becoming an FME member.

5. In principle no travel reimbursement is provided for members attending meetings, unless their presence is specifically requested for a meeting (to be decided upon by the FME board).

It was also noted that some more general rules with respect to FME membership are formulated in the FME statutes. The proposed membership policy was approved and accepted by the members present at the meeting.

5 Travel expenses and reimbursement policy

Some questions were put forward with respect to the current regulation for reimbursing travel expenses.

The first question addressed the matter of who is entitled to travel reimbursement. In principle no travel reimbursement is provided for members attending meetings, unless their presence is specifically requested for a meeting (to be decided upon by the FME board). This would typically include the board members and the PC and OC chair(s) of the upcoming conference/symposium.

The second question addressed the issue of why FME does not reimburse hotel costs etc., only aeroplane tickets. This seems to be in contradiction with the desire to purchase 'cheap' tickets, typically including an overnight stay from Saturday to Sunday with extra hotel costs. The answer to this question is that FME also provides a daily allowance of 100 EURO per day (2 days at maximum), intended to cover such costs.

6 FME web site

A plan for setting up a central FME web server was distributed prior to the meeting. The plan consists of the following short-term steps:

1. FME obtains and pays for the <http://www.fmeurope.org> domain name (roughly \$100 a year).

Action 25/3: Nico Plat to obtain the domain name <http://www.fmeurope.org> from InterNIC.

2. The domain name will map to the web-server currently supporting the Dutch FME site at <http://www.fme-nl.org/>.
3. A small group of FME committee members are given write-access to the site in order to maintain it (at first including Nico Plat and Andrew Butterfield)
4. All existing references to the current master hub (@cs.tcd.ie) are redirected to <http://www.fmeurope.org>.

Action 25/4: Andrew Butterfield and Nico Plat to approach sites referring to the old FME site at Trinity and ask them to redirect to <http://www.fmeurope.org>.

5. The site is brought up-to-date, first by 'un-Dutching' the current content of <http://www.fme-nl.org/>, then by adding new material. The 'local FME hubs' will disappear (proposal!) and will be replaced by 'local pages' on the central server: this will make maintaining the content which is of interest to local industry much easier.

Action 25/5: Nico Plat to transform the current Dutch FME hub into a first version of the central FME web server.

Action 25/6: Andrew Butterfield and Nico Plat to approach the web masters of the FME European hubs to ask them to provide one web page with local information to be stored at the central FME web server.

The plan was approved and accepted by the members present at the meeting.

7 Report on FM'99

René Jacquart gave a report on FM'99. The world congress has been a great success in all respects. Not all the participants and exhibitors had yet paid, and some are expected never to pay. In spite of this, with more than 500 participants and 32 tool exhibitors, the conference will generate a surplus. Preliminary figures were presented by René at the meeting.

It was decided to renounce the EU grant that had been provided, simply based on the observation that the conference had made a profit and therefore FME would not be eligible for the

grant. This also affects the academic exhibitors because part of the grant would have been used to lower their participation fees for the exhibition.

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

Action 25/8: Nico Plat to inform the academic exhibitors of FM'99 that the EU grant will be renounced.

8 FME'2001: PC

Pamela Zave had been approached and she is willing to co-chair the PC together with José Oliviera. The CfP is almost ready and will be distributed in the week after this meeting: deadline for submissions will be 15 July 2000. José inquired about the existence of mailing lists, in particular those that were used for FM'99.

Action 25/9: René Jacquart to send the FM'99 mailing list to José.

Action 25/10: All to send suggestions for addressees of the FME'2001 CfP to José.

The meeting was differed on opinion w.r.t. whether a physical PC meeting would be necessary or whether this could be arranged electronically. It was left to the discretion of the PC chairs to decide.

Action 25/11: José Oliviera and Pamela Zave to decide on the necessity of a physical PC meeting for FM'2001.

9 FME'2001: OC

Wolfgang Reisig reported on the current state of affairs on the organisation of FME'2001. He presented a draft budget and report on various details, such as the venue of the banquet (a boat trip), etc. It was decided that only a small fee would be charged for attendance at the tutorials held prior to the full symposium.

10 FME'2002

Dines Bjørner, the OC chairman for FME'2002, had suggested prior to the 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. His idea was supported provided that:

- The event would be FME'2002 (and not FM'2002: the 'world congress' equivalent of the normal FME symposia) because a really big event is not considered feasible in such a configuration.
- The event will be organised at the university campus because the alternative proposed location in Copenhagen was considered too expensive.

Dines will report to the FLOC committee and will then report back to FME

Action 25/12: Dines Bjørner to liaison between FLOC committee and FME.

Dines also asked for PC chair candidates

Action 25/13: All to send suggestions for FME'2002 PC chair to Dines Bjørner.

11 EC funded projects

The discussion of this item was postponed until the meeting on 18 February 2000.

12 Successor FME chair

Peter Lucas announced that he wishes to resign as FME chairman in the foreseeable future. This means that a successor for Peter needs to be found.

Action 25/14: All suggest candidates for the next FME chair.

13 Date and place of next meeting

Wolfgang Reisig offered to host the next meeting at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. The meeting will be held on Saturday 17 June 2000.

14 Other business

There was no other business.

Formal Methods Europe
Notes of the 25th meeting on the future of FME
held at Close House near Newcastle, United Kingdom, 18 February 2000

On 18 February 2000 a one-day meeting was held on the directions FME should/could take in the future. Due to the informal character of the meeting no formal minutes were made. Some notes that were made during the day by Nico Plat and José Oliviera are presented here.

All those present at the meeting on 17 February were also present at this gathering.

The day started off with informal presentations by the members present on their ideas of FME's future (presentation materials and/or position statements are distributed separately with these notes).

Some observations:

9:53 René Jacquart

- FM the wrong terminology?
- Widen the scope of DBs, ISs
- NB: e-mail René about KARMA

10:11 C.B. Jones

- discuss FM before FME
- Interfaces between tools
- Standardize things (ISO)?
- push FM-light?
- "critical systems" as the only market?

10:27 Kees Pronk

- UFM + UDP
- XMI (based on XML)

10:37 Andrew Butterfield

Coffee break

11:20 José Nuno Oliveira

11:34 P. G. Larsen

- Mission-critical web applications
- "FM not needed but risky without"
- FME Multimedia CD-ROM
- Focus on return of investment
- A plan with FME press releases
- National industrial seminars
- Follow-up on attendees
- Students to investigating new extensions
- Repository of teaching material on the Web (already available in the US)

11:44 Nico Plat

- How pro-active are we ?
- Manpower
- Goals for the next 3 years

11:57 Steve King

- Management-oriented success stories (lots of figures, no high-tech.)
- FME as an external reviewer provider

12:01 John Fitzgerald

- Abstraction and automated analysis sell better than formality
- Cost-effectiveness in developing systems
- Tool support governs the choice of methodology
- Interoperability
- Data exchange
- Traceability
- Not confined to Europe
- FME as an organisation: 1000 members, fees, high-tech.

12:16 Peter Lucas

- Thematic SIGs (no particular tool or language) led by a champion
- Industry sector SIGs e.g. Railways, Avionics, Telecommunications
- Team up FM(E) with IEEE, IFIP, ACM?

12:29 Wolfgang Reisig

- Customers to blame for low quality
- 82% managers in Europe do not have an IT background
- Software engineering vs. FM ?
 - Pert Nets: graphical notation for many-years now. But not so much impact due to c. 40 tools ! Cf Statecharts

During the presentation the members were encouraged to write thoughts, ideas, observations, etc. on stick-it notes which were put on a brown paper mounted at the wall. The stick-it notes were clustered and prioritised (photos of the stick-it notes are distributed separately with these notes). On the basis of this a number of sub groups were formed to discuss separate issues.

15:35 Some observations on the results of the separate meetings:

Group A - Marketing (P Larsen)

- Channels
- Contents

+ Added value!!! (emphasis on return of investment)

Action 25/15: Peter Gorm Larsen to form subgroup on 'Marketing' and deliver a preliminary report at the next FME meeting

Group B - Education (P Lucas)

- Define standard FM curriculum
- Workgroup led by P Lucas will deliver a preliminary report in next FME meeting

Action 25/16: Peter Lucas to form subgroup on 'Education' and deliver a preliminary report at the next FME meeting

Group C - Scope (C B Jones)

What

- A embrace {other? All?} Formally Based Method
- B widen audience (healthcare records)
- C "normware"

Action 25/17: Peter Lucas to form subgroup on 'Scope' and deliver a preliminary report at the next FME meeting

- Workgroup led by P Lucas will deliver a preliminary report in next FME meeting

How

- A Use FME 2001
- B Procurement agencies, projects
- C ?
- D open source (specs, proofs) etc of APIs and Linux

Summary of actions

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Action 25/14: All suggest candidates for the next FME chair.

Action 25/15: Peter Gorm Larsen to form subgroup on 'Marketing' and deliver a preliminary report at the next FME meeting

Action 25/16: Peter Lucas to form subgroup on 'Education' and deliver a preliminary report at the next FME meeting

Action 25/17: Peter Lucas to form subgroup on 'Scope' and deliver a preliminary report at the next FME meeting