

Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 22nd meeting
held at DaimlerChrysler Research and Technology, Berlin, 23 February 1999

Present at the meeting were:

- Dines Bjørner
- Tim Denvir
- Andreas Fett
- John Fitzgerald
- Peter Gorm Larsen
- Peter Lucas (Chairman)
- Nico Plat (Secretary)
- Kees Pronk (Treasurer)
- Wolfgang Reisig
- Svetovar Serafimovski

Apologies had been received from Göran Anger, Robin Bloomfield, Manfred Broy, Andrew Butterfield, Michel Chaudron, René Jacquart, Cliff Jones, Steve King, Jose Oliviera, Jan Tretmans and Jim Woodcock.

Peter Lucas thanked Andreas Fett and DaimlerChrysler for hosting and organising the meeting. After lunch a presentation was given by Andreas Fett and Sadegh Sadeghipour, entitled "An Overview of the ESPRESS project". This technical contribution to the meeting was very much appreciated and it was felt that such presentations should remain a regular part of the meetings.

1 Agree upon agenda

The agenda distributed at the meeting was agreed upon. One agenda item was added: "FME future" (proposed by Peter Gorm Larsen).

2 Minutes of the meeting held in London on 15 October 1998

The minutes were approved with the following modifications:

- Page 1, discussion of outstanding actions: the discussion on action 20/1 was missing.
- Page 2, agenda item "Financial report by the treasurer", last sentence: "John Fitzgerald" should be "Kees Pronk".

The status of outstanding actions was discussed:

- Action 18/2: A letter to the Commission had been sent by Dines Bjørner asking for support. Action closed.
- Action 18/8: It was concluded that the action had become obsolete, although Tim Denvir promised that he would analyse the 5th framework program to investigate if there were any viable options for FME in this respect. Action closed.

Action 22/1: Tim Denvir

- Action 20/1:
 - ACM, IEEE and IFIP will support FM'99 but they will not take any financial risks.
 - A renewed budget was sent to FME by René Jacquart and distributed at the meeting.
 - The fall back plan is instituted by the mechanism that FME can give a go/no-go decision at two points in time: one at the present meeting and one right after the PC meeting in May.

Action closed.

- Action 20/9: Dines Bjørner has approached three Russian individuals but they have not yet given any response. Action continues.
- Action 21/1: Peter Gorm Larsen and Michel Chaudron are prepared to carry out this task. Action closed.
- Action 21/2: Done. Action closed.

- Action 21/3: Andrew Butterfield had sent a written report to the meeting in which he reported that he planned to take action on this issue in March and that he was willing to proceed with the organisation of “7 Magic Minutes” sessions. Nevertheless, the meeting felt that progress was rather slow and therefore Dines Bjørner proposed that he would assist Andrew on this matter.

Action 22/2: Dines Bjørner

- Action 21/4: No progress. Action continues.
- Action 21/5: Andrew Butterfield had sent a written report to the meeting in which he reported that he had run into problems with providing a home for the “fmeurope.org” domain name: Trinity College has a ruling that only “.tcd.ie” domain names may be served from college. Andrew was trying to find a way around this problem. Action continues.
- Action 21/6: Done. Action closed.
- Action 21/7: See agenda item 5. Action closed.
- Action 21/8: Done. Action closed.
- Action 21/9: Done. Action closed.
- Action 21/10: Done. Action closed.
- Action 21/11: Andreas Fett received a reply from Nico Plat. However, as a result of the discussion on agenda 10 it was decided not to produce an FME flyer (at this moment) because no large extension of FME membership is sought at this moment. Action closed.

3 Financial report by the treasurer

Kees Pronk presented and clarified the current financial situation of FME, based on the overview circulated prior to the meeting.

4 Appointment of auditing members

According to the FME statutes, each year two FME members must check the financial situation and report at the annual general meeting (this year to be held in Toulouse during FM’99) either in person or through a written report. Peter Gorm Larsen and Michel Chaudron were prepared to perform the task this year. Treasurer Kees Pronk will send them copies of the financial archive to prepare themselves.

Action 22/3: Kees Pronk

5 Travel regulations

Kees Pronk had circulated a proposal for travel reimbursements prior to the meeting (enclosed with the minutes). The proposal was accepted with the following modifications: only FME board members are reimbursed and members who are invited by the board whose presence is highly desirable at that meeting. In principle only economy fare tickets will be reimbursed, unless economy travel is not possible. Furthermore, a small per-diem will be paid to these persons per travel day. Tim Denvir offered to send Kees Pronk the EU regulations on per-diem.

Action 22/4: Tim Denvir

Kees will adjust the travel reimbursement procedure accordingly.

Action 22/5: Kees Pronk

6 FM’99

A written report by René Jacquart was distributed at the meeting. An extensive OC has been set up (15 persons!), a number of sponsors had been found, and a new budget had been constructed (enclosed with the minutes). The new budget was unclear: a number of questions were collected which will be sent to René by Dines Bjørner. Furthermore, an e-mail meeting will be organised on the budget by Dines. This meeting should lead to final approval of the budget by 1 April at the latest.

Action 22/6: Dines Bjørner

The meeting expressed regret that René was not present at the meeting to report in person on the state of affairs on FM’99 and that he had not been able to find a representative at the meeting.

Dines Bjørner reported on the progress in the organisation of FM'99. 260 Papers had been received so far. Dines' attempts to attract attendees from 3rd world countries had not yet been very successful because of uncertainties in getting funding for such persons. All were asked to send input to Dines on appropriate mailing lists for sending the Call for Participation to.

Action 22/7: all

Nico Plat reported on the progress in the organisation of the tools exhibition and applications forum held during FM'99. So far, 27 different organisations have expressed interest in participation. Practical details were being sorted out at the moment. First estimates based on calculations made by René Jacquart suggested a price for participation of 1000 EURO for academic institutions and 2500 EURO for industrial organisations. For this amount basic facilities would be offered to the participants, excluding hardware. The question was raised whether these prices would inhibit people to participate, but even so, it was decided to go ahead with this pricing policy.

The meeting agreed to proceed with the organisation of FM'99, in accordance with clause 9 of the contract with Onera.

7 FMERail project

This FME meeting was held in conjunction with the 3rd FMERail workshop. Peter Gorm Larsen reported on the progress of the FMERail project. The first workshop was held in Breukelen, The Netherlands on 8 and 9 June 1998. The second workshop was held in London and had attracted 65 attendees, mainly academics from the UK. The 3rd workshop will be held in St. Poelten (Austria) right after the meeting and has attracted 28 attendees so far. Peter Lucas expected that the lower number of attendees (with respect to the second workshop) was related to the fact that the workshop is held in Austria where the formal methods community is much smaller than in the UK. The 4th workshop will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 11 and 12 May 1999.

8 FME industrial activities

See the discussion under agenda item 11 (Future of FME).

9 FME web site

See the discussion on action item 21/5. Nico Plat furthermore noticed that the current FME web site (<http://www.cs.tcd.ie/FME/>) had not been renewed for quite some time and held outdated information. Nico will contact Mícheál Mac An Airchinnigh on this matter.

Action 22/8: Nico Plat

10 Membership issues

Nico Plat reported that FME currently has 29 members. Membership policy was discussed. FME, at the moment, wants to grow but does not want to become 'too big' in the sense that everybody who is slightly interested in formal methods also becomes an FME member. Hence, new members are for now solicited in circles of those that current members know to be valuable to FME causes. All members are expected to think about this and approach new potential members individually.

Action 22/9: all

The fme-ctte mailing list will be restricted to FME members only (it will also be given a new name because 'The FME Committee' as such does not exist any longer). Current list members who have not yet officially become an FME member will be approached one more time after which they will be removed from the mailing list. Peter Lucas will draft a message.

Action 22/10: Peter Lucas

11 Future of FME

Nico Plat reported that a number of FME members had met in Odense (May 1998), where they had had an 'industrial subgroup meeting' to discuss potential FME activities oriented towards an industrial audience. The minutes of this meeting have been sent to all members via the fme-ctte

electronic mailing list. No new meeting has been planned yet but Nico suggested to organise a new meeting adjoint to the next FME meeting.

Action 22/11: Nico Plat

Peter Gorm Larsen noticed that discussions on the symposia/conferences usually take a lot of time at regular FME meetings. He suggested, therefore, to create a subgroup similar to the FME industrial subgroup to take care of such discussions. Only few of the attendees at the meeting were prepared to take place in such a subgroup at the moment, and therefore this idea was not directly implemented but Peter Lucas was asked to seek members for such a subgroup.

Action 22/12: Peter Lucas

Attention was focussed on the conference *after* FM'99, which should be announced at FM'99 at the latest. The general feeling was that, instead of e.g. joining up with other conferences like FemSYS, we should go back to having the original FME symposia, relatively small scale, like e.g. FME'93. Wolfgang Reisig and Andreas Fett were asked if such a symposium could possibly be held in Berlin in the spring of 2001.

Action 22/13: Wolfgang Reisig, Andreas Fett

At the same time, possible co-location with other conferences should be monitored

Action 22/14: John Fitzgerald

and in particular the FemSYS conference was suggested as a possibility to co-operate with.

Action 22/15: Dines Bjørner

12 Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 May 1999 in Stockholm, Sweden, directly after the 4th FMERail workshop.

13 Other business

No other issues were brought forward.

Summary of actions

Action 20/9: Dines Bjørner to prepare a proposal for interaction between FME and Russian organisations.

Action 21/3: Andrew Butterfield to organise "7 Magic Minutes" sessions at FM'99.

Action 21/4: Andrew Butterfield to address the issue of maintaining the FME Internet web site with the FME industrial subgroup

Action 21/5: Andrew Butterfield to set up the FME Internet web site.

Action 22/1: Tim Denvir to analyse the 5th framework program to investigate if there are any possibilities for funded projects.

Action 22/2: Dines Bjørner to assist Andrew Butterfield with organising "7 Magic Minutes" sessions at FM'99.

Action 22/3: Kees Pronk to send copies of the financial accounts to Peter Gorm Larsen and Michel Chaudron.

Action 22/4: Tim Denvir to send EU regulations on per-diem reimbursements to Kees Pronk.

Action 22/5: Kees Pronk to adjust FME reimbursement policy according to comments made at the 22nd meeting.

Action 22/6: Dines Bjørner to set up an e-mail meeting on the final FM'99 budget.

Action 22/7: All: send suggestions for appropriate mailing lists to send the FM'99 call for participation to Dines Bjørner.

Action 22/8: Nico Plat to bring the matter of the outdated FME web site to the attention of Míchéal Mac An Airchinnigh.

Action 22/9: All: select and approach potential new FME members.

Action 22/10: Peter Lucas to draft a message to remind fme-ctte members to become an official FME member.

Action 22/11: Nico Plat to organise the next FME industrial subgroup meeting.

Action 22/12: Peter Lucas to seek members for the FME conference subgroup (to be formed).

Action 22/13: Wolfgang Reisig and Andreas Fett to investigate possibilities for organising an FME symposium in Berlin in 2001.

Action 22/14: John Fitzgerald to monitor possibilities for co-locating the FME symposium in 2001 with.

Action 22/15: Dines Bjørner to contact the FemSYS OC to address possibilities for co-operation with the organisation of an FME symposium in 2001.