



**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 45th meeting
Held at TU Eindhoven, The Netherlands
9 October 2007**

Present at the meeting were:

- Jos Baeten [TU Eindhoven]
- Tijn Borghuis [TU Eindhoven]
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman) [Newcastle University]
- Nico Plat (Secretary) [West Consulting]
- Marcel Verhoef (Treasurer) [CHESS]

Apologies had been received from: Bernhard Aichernig (Publications Officer), Derek Andrews, Raymond Boute, Joey Coleman, Stefania Gnesi (Symposia Officer), Stefan Gruner, Anthony Hall, Niklas Holsti, Peter Gorm Larsen, Dino Mandrioli, Jan Storbank Pedersen, Jan Tretmans and Bruce Watson.

1 Welcome

John Fitzgerald welcomed all those present at the meeting. He thanked Jos Baeten and his Secretary, Astrid Volkers, for hosting and organising this business meeting, including a visit during to the meeting to the proposed venue for FM 2009.

2 Agree upon agenda

The agenda was agreed.

3 Minutes of the 44th meeting held in Turku, Finland, on 30 May 2007

The minutes of the 44th meeting were approved without modification.

4 Action list

Action 40/2: Bernhard Aichernig to further promote and provide structure for FME's Wiki
No Progress. Action continues.

Action 40/3: Bernhard Aichernig to coordinate discussion on on-line publications by FME
No Progress. Action continues.

Action 43/1: Kees Pronk and Marcel Verhoef to change Board Member details for FME at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce
Done. Action is closed.

Action 43/2: Kees Pronk and Marcel Verhoef to setup a new bank account for FME
See agenda item 5. Action continues.

Action 43/5: Bernhard Aichernig to make links from Wikipedia to the FME website and FME Wiki
No Progress. Action continues.

Action 43/6: John Fitzgerald to prepare a proposal for an annual report on the status of formal methods
No Progress. Action continues.

Action 43/8 John Fitzgerald to send the FP7 report to FME's EU contacts and to Jean-Raymond Abrial

No Progress. Action continues.

Action 43/10: Nico Plat to scan the Technical report reflecting the ISO VDM-SL standard and make it available in electronic form

Done. Action is closed.

Action 44/1: Marcel Verhoef to issue a Call for Proposals for Small Projects 2007

Done. Action is closed.

Action 44/2: Marcel Verhoef to contact Jonathan Bowen for more details on the sponsorship request for SEFM'07)

Done. Patrick Cousot gave a very good presentation at SEFM'07. Action is closed.

Action 44/3: Marcel Verhoef to contact Jim Woodcock for more details on the yet informal sponsorship request for a Summerschool on Testing in Pernambuco

Done. Mike Hennel will be sponsored by FME to participate in the summerschool. Action is closed.

Action 44/4: John Fitzgerald to ask Paul Boca if financial support is requested for the BCS FACS Christmas Workshop 2007

Done, but a more detailed proposal is requested. Action is closed.

Action 45/1: John Fitzgerald to ask Paul Boca to submit a proposal covering the travel costs for Peter Gorm Larsen.

Action 44/5: John Fitzgerald to ask Paul Boca to provide a concrete proposal for organising a yearly seminar jointly organised by BCS FACS and FME

Done, next steps will be in the hands of Paul Boca

Action 45/2: Paul Boca to produce a memorandum of understanding on the collaboration between FME and BCS/FACS on organising a joint seminar

Action 44/6: Stefania Gnesi to ask the FME Symposium Steering Committee to suggest invited speakers

Done. In the mean while, invited speakers have been selected. Action is closed.

Action 44/7: Marina Waldén to prepare a draft budget for FM 2008 (deadline 15 June 2007).

Done. Marcel Verhoef has commented on it and now a revised version is awaited. Action is closed.

Action 45/3: Marina Waldén to prepare a revised budget for FM 2008

Action 44/8: ForTIA to formulate their plans for FM 2009 (deadline: next FME meeting)

No plan has yet been received.

Action 45/4: Nico Plat to remind ForTIA to submit a plan for 2008

Action 44/9: The Education Subgroup to formulate their plans for FM 2009 (deadline: next FME meeting)

Open, although some plans have been put forward to organise seminars at FM 2008 and/or 2009. Action continues, deadline is shifted to the end of 2007.

Action 44/10: FME board to discuss the idea of awarding a prize or other support for FM-based products arising from the student contest at ICSE'09

Done, see agenda item 10. Action is closed.

Action 44/11: Nico Plat to arrange the next FME meeting, if possible at TU Eindhoven.

Done. Action is closed.

Action 44/12: John Fitzgerald to discuss with Jim Woodcock the pros and cons of having an FME

award

The discussion with Jim has been initiated. Action continues.

Action 44/13: Marcel Verhoef to ask Peter Gorm Larsen if he wants to submit a "Small Project"-proposal on information on formal methods tools

Done. Action is closed.

5 Transfer of Treasurership

Marcel Verhoef is now registered as a Board member of FME at the Chamber of Commerce, and is authorized to conduct bank transactions with FME's Belgian bank account. The next step will be to open a Dutch bank account, transfer the funds from the Belgian to the Dutch account, and then close the Belgian account. It was decided to open a new account with the Fortis bank before the end of the year.

Neither Bernhard Aichernig nor Stefania Gnesi have so far supplied the documentation by which they can be registered as Board members. Nico Plat will remind them to send the required information and documents to Marcel as a matter of urgency.

Action 45/5: Nico Plat to remind Stefania Gnesi and Bernhard Aichernig to send documents/information to Marcel Verhoef for registration at the Chamber of Commerce

6 Audit Committee 2007

Because the transfer of Treasurership (see item 5) is taking longer than expected, Kees Pronk has effectively been carrying out some of the Treasurer's tasks during the 2007 financial year and should not, therefore, act as an auditor. Kees has therefore indicated that he wants to withdraw from the Audit Committee for 2007. Jos Baeten kindly volunteered to take his place in the committee instead.

7 Status report on FM 2008

No report had been submitted to the meeting. Other open points are that the budget still has to be revised and the contract between Åbo University and FME has to be signed (this awaits the final budget). Nico Plat will remind the FM 2008 organisation committee to submit a revised budget.

Action 45/6: Nico Plat to remind the FM 2008 organisation committee to submit a revised budget.

The deadline for paper submissions is 11 November.

8 Status report on FM 2009

Jos Baeten and Tijn Borghuis reported on the status of FM 2009. The time frame of the Symposium has been narrowed down to either week 43 (starting 16 October 2009) or week 44 (starting 23 October 2009). This is not a convenient period for UK academics (it is the middle of term then) but it is necessary to have it then because of the availability of the premises.

Co-located conferences at this point are: FORMATS'09 (confirmed), FMICS'09 (confirmed) and ESWEEK'09 (not yet confirmed but a positive response has been received). ESWEEK (Embedded Systems Week) consists of EMSOFT, CASES and ISSS. In the same period a major exhibition will be organised in the "Evoluon" (the former exhibition space of Philips in Eindhoven). Jos and Tijn are investigating at the moment if a form of "co-location" could be organised here as well.

The local organisation staff is now complete. Erik de Vink will probably act as Workshop Chair.

There is no budget yet. Marcel Verhoef pointed out that from the side of FME the following is required:

- A budget
- A planning in time
- An action plan
- A signed contract

Action 45/7: FM 2009 OC to produce a budget

Action 45/8: FM 2009 OC to produce an action plan including a timeframe

Action 45/9: FME Board and FM 2009 OC to agree on a contract

Current thoughts on a venue for the conference dinner are:

- The “Efteling” (the biggest amusement park in The Netherlands).
- The soccer stadium of PSV in Eindhoven.

The agenda item was concluded with a tour of the venue for FM 2009. It was noted that the facilities are adequately sized for hosting a large event, including a large exhibition space.

9 Small projects 2007

Five proposals had been submitted in this round of small projects to be funded in 2007. All proposals have been discussed amongst the board members and decisions on funding will be made by 17 October at the latest.

Since five submissions can be regarded as a rather small number, it was decided to get feedback from FME’s members to see if the “small projects” approach can be improved.

Action 45/10: John Fitzgerald to get feedback from FME’s members on the “small projects” approach that has been followed so far

10 Sponsorships requests

The only request for sponsorship undecided on at this point is a request put forward by Paul Boca to sponsor the BCS/FACS Christmas Workshop in December.

Dino Mandrioli, who is chairing a student contest on “engineering” (SCORE) at ICSE’09, had sent in a request to FME for orthogonal support, e.g. by granting an award to a product that come out of the contest and that has exploited formal techniques in its development. It was decided that FME would support such an award, although its concrete form requires further consideration. Nico Plat will act as a liaison to SCORE.

11 ForTIA

No report had been received. The agenda item was therefore not discussed.

12 FME Education Subgroup

It was reported that cooperation with the group that organised the FACS Christmas Workshop on Education was continuing with a view to holding joint events at FM’08 and/or FM’09. It was also reported that selected papers from both the Christmas Workshop and the SIG’s workshop at FM’06 would form a special issue of Formal Aspects of Computing. No report had been received on other aspects of the SIG’s work.

13 FME web site/Wiki/Electronic Publications

No report had been received. The agenda item was therefore not discussed.

One administrative announcement was made by Nico Plat: West Consulting will discontinue its support for MaS (the CMS used for the FME web site) on 1 January 2008). Of course this does not mean that MaS cannot be continued to be used, but it seems wise to consider alternative

CMS's in due course. There are no consequences for the hosting facilities offered by West.

14 Date and place of next meeting

The intention is to have the next meeting in London, late February 2008, in conjunction with a BCS/FACS evening seminar.

Action 45/11: John Fitzgerald to contact Paul Boca with respect to the schedule of BCS/FACS seminars in 2008.

15 Other business

There was no other business.

Summary of actions

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- Action 40/3: Bernhard Aichernig to coordinate discussion on on-line publications by FME
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- Action 45/1: John Fitzgerald to ask Paul Boca to submit a proposal covering the travel costs for Peter Gorm Larsen.
- Action 45/2: Paul Boca to produce a memorandum of understanding on the collaboration between FME and BCS/FACS on organising a joint seminar
- Action 45/3: Marina Waldén to prepare a revised budget for FM 2008
- Action 45/4: Nico Plat to remind ForTIA to submit a plan for 2008
- Action 45/5: Nico Plat to remind Stefania Gnesi and Bernhard Aichernig to send documents/information to Marcel Verhoef for registration at the Chamber of Commerce
- Action 45/6: Nico Plat to remind the FM 2008 organisation committee to submit a revised budget.
- Action 45/7: FM 2009 OC to produce a budget
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