



**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 47th meeting
Held at FM'08, Turku, Finland
29 May 2008
www.fmeurope.org**

Present at the meeting were:

- Bernhard Aichernig [TU Graz]
- Tijn Borghuis [TU Eindhoven]
- Raymond Boute [University of Gent]
- Jeremy Bryans [Newcastle University]
- Ana Cavalcanti [University of York]
- Joey Coleman [Newcastle University]
- Jorge Cuellar [Siemens]
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson [Uppsala University]
- Alessandro Fantechi [Politecnico di Milano]
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman) [Newcastle University]
- Carlo Fura [Politecnico di Milano]
- Leo Freitas [University of York]
- Stefania Gnesi [ISTI]
- Randolph Johnson [National Security Agency]
- Shmuel Katz [Technion]
- Joe Kiniry [University College of Dublin]
- Peter Gorm Larsen [IHA]
- Gunar Piho [Tallinn University of Technology]
- Nico Plat (Secretary) [West Consulting BV]
- Marcel Verhoef (Treasurer) [Chess BV]
- Erik de Vink [TU Eindhoven]
- Marina Waldén [Åbo Akademi University]
- Jim Woodcock [University of York]

Apologies had been received from: Jos Baeten, Eerke Boiten, Paul Boca, Jan Storbank Pedersen, John Cooke, Dino Mandrioli, Eckehard Schnieder, Stefan Gruner, Bruce Watson, Lynn Marshall, Cliff Jones, Simão Melo de Sousa, Anthony Hall, José Nuno Oliveira, Jan Tretmans, Kees Pronk, Peter Ryan, Jarl Hoyem and Angelo Morzenti.

1 Welcome

John Fitzgerald welcomed the members present. He thanked Marina Waldén and Tiina Haanila for organising and hosting the meeting.



2 Agree upon agenda

The agenda was agreed upon.

3 Minutes of the meeting held in London, UK, on 25 February 2008

The minutes of the meeting were approved with a correction of the date of the meeting (“2007” should be “2008”).

4 Action list

Action 43/6: John Fitzgerald to prepare a proposal for an annual report on the status of formal methods

Action closed because Jonathan Bowen, envisaged to carry out this action, is currently unavailable. The activity may, however, be part of FME’s web publication strategy.

Action 44/8: ForTIA to formulate their plans for FM’09 (deadline: next FME meeting)

ForTIA intends to hold another I-Day at FM’09. Action closed.

Action 44/9: The Education Subgroup to formulate their plans for FM’09 (deadline: end of 2007)

The Education Subgroup intends to hold another Workshop on FM Education at FM’09. Action closed.

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

In progress. At the moment two awards are envisaged: one for long term contribution to FME’s goals, and one for outstanding contribution in the field of formal methods. This issue will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Action 47/1: Nico Plat to put FME Awards on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

No progress, John Fitzgerald will remind Paul to do this.

Action 47/2: John Fitzgerald to remind Paul Boca on the MoU for producing a joint annual seminar by FME and BCS/FACS

Action 45/7: FM’09 OC to produce a budget

Well in progress, under discussion with FME Treasurer, action closed.

Action 45/9: FME Board and FM’09 OC to agree on a contract

Significant progress has been made. The contract in itself is orally agreed upon by all parties. However, a finalised budget and a Call for Papers are needed before the contract can be signed. Action continues, but expected to be closed at the next FME meeting.

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

No progress, action continues.

Action 46/1: Marcel Verhoef to send the financial materials for 2007 to the Independent Financial Examiners.

Done, action closed.

Action 46/2: Bernhard Aichernig to select a new CMS for FME’s website

No progress, action continues.

Action 46/3: Bernhard Aichernig to negotiate Jan Klauck’s possible role in FME’s publications/web site

Ongoing, action continues.

Action 46/4: Stefania Gnesi to propose a date for the 48th meeting.
Done, action closed.

5 Financial report regarding the period 1 January 2007 – 31 December 2007

Marcel Verhoef presented the consolidated financial report for 2007 (attached to the minutes). The financial position of FME is solid, although FME remains dependent on its income from the symposia. John Fitzgerald thanked Marcel for his work as FME's Treasurer during 2007.



6 Report by the Independent Financial Examiners

The Independent Financial Examiners (Derek Andrews and Jos Baeten) had individually checked the FME accounts and found no irregularities. The meeting formally approved the Financial Report 2007 and discharged the Treasurer from his responsibilities during this period. John thanked the Independent Financial Examiners for their work. Jos Baeten (as this was his first term as Independent Financial Examiner) had been asked to serve on this committee again in 2008, and he agreed to do so. Jeremy Bryans volunteered to be an Independent Financial Examiner as well, replacing Derek Andrews who has served the maximum of two consecutive terms. The nomination of Jeremy Bryans was approved *nem con*.

8 Budget for 2008

Marcel Verhoef presented the final budget for 2008. Not much has changed since the preliminary presentation of the budget at the previous meeting (the 2008 AGM). A significant amount of money will be earmarked to support activities at or during FM 2009. A call for proposals will be released in collaboration with the local organisers. Marcel also informed the meeting that FME

has opened a savings account with its current bank.

The budget was approved *nem con*.

9 FME Symposia

Marina Waldén reported on the operational aspects of FM'08, as the Symposium is progressing. The workshops had attracted roughly 70 attendees, the Symposium itself around 115-120. This means that, financially speaking, FM'08 will reach a break even point or make a small surplus. The daily operations of the Symposium are firmly under control.



Jorge Cuellar reported on the scientific aspects of FM'08. The paper selection process had caused a lively discussion amongst the PC members, and the paper selection included making some tough decisions. Jorge explained that the PC's goal had been to only accept papers of high quality, to maintain the high reputation of the FME Symposia. Nevertheless this turns out to be difficult because there is an increasing number of symposia, workshops, and congresses relating to formal methods. Negotiations and communication with Springer had gone smoothly. The PC had experienced some problems with the free version of "EasyChair", the tool used to support the paper submission and selection process. Finally, he mentioned that clear communication is needed whose contributions are expected to be part of the proceedings and whose are not (there had been some misconceptions about this).



John Fitzgerald congratulated the OC and PC of FM'08 on the scientific and organisational success of the Symposium.

Tijn Borghuis reported on the status of FM'09. His presentation is attached to the minutes, work is well under way to host a significant event in Eindhoven in 2009. Several meetings took place at FM08 related to organising the next conference. He was pleased to announce that Ana Cavalcanti (University of York, UK) and Dennis Damms (Bell Labs, USA) will be the PC Chairs for FM'09. Jorge Cuellar suggested asking relevant European projects to be represented at FM'09. Tijn reported that preliminary contacts with several FP6 and FP7 projects are already established.



Stefania Gnesi reported that the Call for Organisation of FM'11 had been finalised and distributed amongst the attendees of the Symposium. Nico Plat will distribute the call via FME's events mailing list.

Action 47/3: Nico Plat to distribute the CfO for FM'11 via FME's events mailing list.

10 Report on Small Projects

Three out of four small projects that FME funds this year had sent in progress reports (attached to the minutes). Joe Kiniry, representing the fourth project ("JML Reloaded"), reported in person at the meeting.

11 ForTIA

Marcel Verhoef reported that Volkmar Lotz, the current Chairman of ForTIA, will not seek re-election following completion of his three year term of office. A successor will therefore be sought. ForTIA plans to organise an annual general meeting later this year. He also suggested that new prospects can perhaps be interested in ForTIA via one of the FP7 projects. I-Day at FM'08 was again a success, and ForTIA intends to hold an I-Day at FM'09 as well, although no organisers have yet been found.

12 FME Education Subgroup

The FME Education Subgroup had sent in a report on its past activities (attached to the minutes). The major new activity is that the subgroup will organise a workshop on FM Education at FM'09.

13 FME web site/Wiki

Bernhard Aichernig presented the status of FME's website and the FME Wiki. The goal is to implement a new website this year. Bernhard has been thinking about a publication strategy. One idea is to propose for a "small project" to hold a survey on the current state of the art with respect to formal methods. Bernhard also stimulated all members to use and add to FME's Wiki.



14 Date and place of the next meeting

FME's next meeting will be in Pisa, Italy, on 10 October 2008.

15 Other Business

Carlo Furia, PC member of SCORE (Student Contest On SoftwaRe Engineering) at ICSE'09, reported on the status of SCORE. A flyer was also distributed amongst the Symposium participants. He encouraged all FME members to stimulate students to form teams and participate in SCORE. On the same subject, Nico Plat (also SCORE PC member) reported that he had been asked by Dino Mandrioli if FME would be willing sponsor one of the SCORE prizes, in a form to be decided upon by FME.

Action 47/4: FME Board to propose a prize for SCORE

Summary of actions

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

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Action 47/4: FME Board to propose a prize for SCORE