

NF

FORMAL METHODS EUROPE

Minutes of 8th Meeting held in Brussels on 13 April 1994

Present : Angela Alapide
Manfred Broy
Eric Delalonde
Tim Denvir
John Fitzgerald
Joseph Garrel
Hans-Martin Hoercher
Peter Larsen
Alejandro Moya
John Nicholls
Kees Pronk
Wilhelm Reisig
Felix Riera
Martyn Thomas
Joan Vilaplana

George Cleland (Guest Speaker)

Apologies: Miguel Bertran
Rainer Gimlich
Nico Plat
Jim Woodcock

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Peter Larsen pointed out that the surplus reported from FME'93 of 94k DKK included a float of 38k DKK; the true surplus was therefore 56k DKK. Given this correction, the minutes were accepted.

2. Matters arising

Action 7/1: done; the representatives from Spain are now on the FME mailing list.

Action 7/2: done; Cliff Jones had drafted a letter which Martyn Thomas had sent to David Talbot. In a subsequent discussion with David Talbot he said that there will be an opportunity to bid for funding for such an activity in the Framework IV programme. David Talbot had added that we should all lobby our national governments to put money into software development and not let it all be syphoned into device technology.

Action 7/6: done; Tim Denvir has set up a database to record the industrial seminars which have been held.

Action 7/7: still to be done. Martyn Thomas has discussed the setting up of a file of case studies with Cliff Jones and invites information.

Action 7/12: done; the FME officers are now listed on the back of the newsletter.

Action 7/13: done; Tim Denvir sent the last issue of FACS FACTS to Peter Larsen.

Action 7/14: done; several members of the committee have made suggestions to Martyn Thomas about speakers at FME meetings.

Other matters arising from the minutes of the 7th meeting were dealt with under subsequent agenda items.

3. Treasurer's report

FME funds are healthy with 600k BF in both bank accounts.

Peter Larsen distributed a final account of FME'93 funds (attached).

4. Update on CEU

Alejandro Moya reported that Framework IV had been approved by the European Parliament. This was encouraging news, but now the individual programmes have to be approved. He was relatively confident that this will happen in May, which will enable a Call for Proposals in September. If not, because of the European elections, the Call will be delayed to 1995, but he was optimistic about this.

The final version of the programme has been drafted, and a first draft of the Call for Proposals is being presented to the ITC. There is opportunity in the programme for proposals on formal methods.

Calls will be issued every 3 months, with periodical revisions to the work programme about every six months. The rules for consortia will be similar to before.

5. FME '94

The representatives from the local Organising Committee presented a new budget, based on the committee meeting being funded direct from CEU, as now seems increasingly likely. This is attached.

11 tool demonstrations have been offered (list attached) and are about to be acknowledged.

Hotel prices based on block bookings have been negotiated; they are in the range of 50 - 100 ecus.

The programme chair reported on the status of papers etc. The conference is technically very viable with (at the time of writing these minutes) 121 papers submitted, 65 being late of which 50 were a week or more late. Reviews are being sought for those which are up to a week late in arriving and for as many as possible of the remainder.

9 tutorial submissions have been received; they are of good quality. To fill two days in parallel sessions of two, eight are needed. The received tutorial submissions fall in equal numbers into "fairly advanced" and "advanced" which will facilitate dividing them into the parallel sessions.

About 5 of the papers were industrial usage reports, but many other papers were about industrial usage. Two reports from European collaborative projects were received, but one is not about formal methods.

The submitted papers come from 18 countries: U.K.: 43, Germany: 15, France: 12, U.S.A.:7, Denmark: 6, Canada: 6, Spain: 4, Australia, Netherlands: 3, Finland, Switzerland: 2, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, Taiwan: 1 each.

Action 7/4: resolved; the newsletter mailing list cannot be sent to the FME'94 local organisers for data protection reasons, but all publicity can be sent to members of the list by FACS.

Action 7/5: done. Speakers have been invited and have accepted: Fernando Meija (at Jean-Raymond Abrial's recommendation), Tony Darlison and Ralph Back. Fernando Meija will talk on formal methods in railway signalling and Tony Darlison on the formal proof of the Sizewell B software.

Action 7/3: done; Tim Denvir has contacted Springer to place the proceedings in the LNCS series. A very encouraging reply has now been received and we expect to obtain formal approval when abstracts of the selected papers can be sent to Springer.

Martyn Thomas suggested placing the industrial reports in the programme next to the tutorials so that managers etc. could attend some tutorials and the industrial usage sessions. The programme committee will try to arrange this.

John Nicholls suggested a poster or other session on standards and Formal Methods. The programme committee will look into this.

Action 8/1 TD

It would be useful if someone from the CEU could talk about Framework IV at the conference.

Action 8/2 AM

To assist publicity all committee members are asked to send their addresses and numbers of posters etc. required for further distribution to Joan Vilaplana.

Action 8/3 all

The date proposed for FME'96 is 25 - 29 March 1996. Unfortunately this coincides with ICSE. Martyn Thomas agreed to talk to Jim Woodcock about rearranging the date.

Action 8/4 MCT

6. Industrial Seminars

Two industrial seminars have taken place: CRI gave a tutorial on formal methods at the Ada in Aerospace conference on 8 November in Brussels, and Angela Alapide reported on a series of seminars given within the 18-company Space S W Italia group, also in November. In order to maintain good records of seminars given and to report on them to the FME committee and the EC, Tim Denvir has contacted all industrial national representatives asking them to provide such details (Action 7.6: done).

Action 3/3: this is cancelled.

Action 3/5: in hand; John Fitzgerald is arranging to have a formal methods seminar at the next safety critical systems club meeting.

Micheal Mac An Airchinnigh agreed to be the industrial representative for Ireland (action 7.8: done). Jose Oliveira agreed to be the representative for Portugal. (action 7.9: done). Following suggestions from Lloyd's register, Tim Denvir wrote to a possible Greek representative but has still to hear from him (action 7.10: carried forward). A representative also has to be found for Spain: Manfred Broy has suggested a name to Tim Denvir who will follow up the suggestion.

Action 8/5 TD

A register of speakers has been initiated with (at time of writing these minutes) 8 speakers present (action 7.11: done). Further speakers should be suggested from countries other than U.K., Germany, Denmark. Tim Denvir will send copies of the speaker panel list to the industrial representatives.

Action 8/6 TD

George Cleland gave a presentation the DTI-funded formal methods study, which is paving the way for a possible U.K. national programme in formal methods. A five year part funded #25M programme is the objective. He recommends an evolutionary approach to take-up and suggests a policy of injecting foundational research directly into industrial applications, then deriving "packaged" techniques. But he also recommended having formal methods as part of an engineering discipline.

Following this there was a general discussion, including brief accounts of the various national positions of formal methods adoption as perceived by the representatives at the meeting and accounts of formal methods related activities.

In this discussion a proposal emerged to hold the next FME meeting to coincide with a technology transfer visit in which the development of software in TV sets using formal methods will be spoken about, among other things. Martyn Thomas and Eric Delalonde agreed to arrange this.

Action 8/7 MCT & E.Delalonde

Also Hans-Martin Hoercher proposed to have a tutorial on formal methods in the Eurostar conference which is being held in London in October. He asked if there was hand-out material on FME. Several people thought this would be helpful. Martyn Thomas agreed to write some material for the next meeting.

Action 8/8 MCT

George Cleland offered to raise the possibility of having a formal methods seminar at an EWICS meeting.

7. Newsletter

The second joint FME - FACS newsletter was ready for printing (and at the time of writing these minutes has now been distributed).

8. Other Business

Martyn Thomas announced that he plans to retire as FME chairman after FME'94. He asked everyone to think of who might succeed him, and thought that a current member of the committee would help to maintain continuity.

9. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the FME committee will be on Thursday 14 July 1994 at 10.00; as noted above, it is hoped to arrange the meeting at Philips in Eindhoven, but failing this it will be in Brussels as usual.

The first (and probably only) meeting of the FME '94 programme committee will take place in Barcelona on 7-8 May 1994. At that point papers, tutorial proposals etc. should be in, the referees reports received and the final selections should be made at the meeting.

Summary of Actions

Brought forward

- 7/7 Martyn Thomas has discussed the setting up of a file of case studies with Cliff Jones and invites information. MCT
- 7/10 Find a Greek industrial representative. TD

New Actions

- 8/1 Look into a poster session on standards with PC at FME'94. TD
- 8/2 See if someone can talk about Framework IV at FME'94 AM
- 8/3 Send addresses and number of posters etc required to Joan Vilaplana. all
- 8/4 Discuss change of date for FME'96 with Jim Woodcock. MCT
- 8/5 Follow up suggestion for a Spanish industrial representative. TD
- 8/6 Send copies of the speaker panel list to the industrial representatives. TD
- 8/7 Arrange next meeting of FME at Philips in Eindhoven. MCT & E.Delalonde
- 8/8 Write some hand-out material for distribution at other conferences etc. MCT

**Tim Denvir
19.4.94**