

Minutes of VDM Europe Meeting held on 15th December 1989

Present : T Denvir (Acting Secretary) - Praxis and Brunel
S Prehn (Chair) - CRI
A Hall - Praxis
F Clarke - Generics Software
H Toetenel - Delft University
P Schobbens - U Cath de Louvain
U Schmidt - Norsk Data, Kiel
C Blaue - Univ Kiel
H Langmaack - Univ Kiel
A Blikle - Polish Academy of Sciences
K De Vriendt - CEC
D Bjoerner - Tech Univ of Denmark
M Mac an Airchinnigh - Generics Software
N Nikitchenko - Kiev State University
M Naftalin - University of Stirling
S Bear - Hewlett Packard Labs
A Naxthausen - CRI
J Pettersson - TFL
M Chang - GAK
N North - NPL
C Jones - Manchester University
D Sannella - Univ of Edinburgh
P Behm - Bull
H Jonkers - Philips

Apologies: John Dawes

1 Agenda

Adopted with alterations.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September were accepted.

3 Report on VDM 90 (Prof H Langmaack)

Fees will be raised in anticipation of numbers attending and costs. Early applicants will pay less. The committee will seek underwriting of any possible deficit from CEC. The symposium brochure is planned for distribution on 15th January. The programme will be finalised pending receipt of descriptions of talks from 3 speakers and 3 tutorial presenters. Opening addresses have been arranged. Social arrangements are in hand. Final versions of presented papers need to be at Kiel by 20th January. Scripts for the symposium brochure are in preparation. Arrangements are being handled by Prof Langmaack's secretary. Transport between the conference location and the airport is arranged.

5 organisations have responded to invitation to exhibit at the exhibition: 1 on Z and 4 on VDM.

46 papers were submitted, 24 accepted. Prof Dines Bjoerner gave more details of the technical programme. There will be sessions on structuring and on object oriented paradigms.

In response to comments from M Mac an Airchinnigh, D Bjoerner proposed that there should be a poster session at VDM 90 in which educators can exhibit training and education material.

A point was made that early calls for papers, eg 1 year, should be made especially to enable papers to be submitted from the USSR.

It was agreed to include an information presentation on VDM Europe and BSI VDM.

4 VDM BSI

In Derek Andrews' absence Tim Denvir reported on progress. A more complete draft of the standard will be issued early in 1990.

D Bjoerner volunteered effort from TU Denmark to work on static and dynamic semantics of VDM.

At present static semantic definitions exist for expressions, statements and patterns.

5 Formal Semantics Review Board

Professor A Blikle reported on the work of the panel. He believed the panel now know how to define and structure the semantic definitions, both static and dynamic. He believed that these two had to be done jointly. He considered that some changes were necessary to the abstract (not necessarily the concrete) syntax, in order to make the semantics denotational-compositional. The work should come to fruition in about 6 months.

6 Reports from Working Areas

Newsletter Hans Toetenel reported that the idea was to gather material produced by the various working groups and include it in the first newsletter. This will contain material resulting from enquiries into tools. The tools support various dialects of VDM. A history of these dialects was discussed. Enquiries had been made of tool developers. Hans Toetenel gave a very informative account of this tool survey. He also presented details of the T U Delft tool work. Copies of his slides are attached.

The first issue of the newsletter will be published in time for VDM 90, so contributions are needed by 1st April at the latest.

Foundations A Blikle reported that he had proposed a borderline between the early VDM and later developments. He had circulated this and received a reply from Cliff Jones. There was discussion about the nature of this borderline and whether it was useful to define one.

7 Technical Presentations

The following technical presentations were given:

Tim Denvir: The need for Structuring.

Don Sannella: Modules in extended ML, (a way of structuring languages independently of the nature of the language).

Steve Bear briefly described some constraints on the work area on the BSI VDM structuring proposal.

H Jonkers: Structuring in COLD.

8 Next Meetings

The next meetings of VDM Europe will be 14th June, 19th July, 20th September, 13th December and an information meeting during VDM 90.

9 Attachments

- 1 Programme (draft) of VDM 90.
- 2 Formal Program Development in Extended ML for the working programmer. D Sannella.
- 3 Modularisation and Parameterisation in COLD-K. H Jonkers.
- 4 N Plat and H Toetenel (eds). Tools for VDM support.

T. Denvir

T Denvir
2nd January 1990