

SIGAda

The ACM Special Interest Group on Ada

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Dear SIGAda Members:

We are happy to include the SIGAda 2002 Conference Proceedings CDROM with this issue. We were hoping to release it with the March Ada Letters, but some copyright issues delayed its release. The proceedings are accessed using an index.html file from your browser. Most of the presentations are provided in the PowerPoint Slide Show format (.pps). You may experience problems accessing the file using older versions of Netscape (e.g., Version 4.7). Internet Explorer Version 6.0 appears to work satisfactorily. If you have any suggestions to make the conference proceedings more useable, please contact Mr. Clyde Roby at robby@ida.org. We are indebted to Mr. Clyde Roby for his hard work in putting together not only the SIGAda 2002 Conference Proceedings CDROM, but also the hardcopy of the SIGAda 2002 Conference Proceedings, which was distributed with the March Issue of Ada Letters.

This CDROM has a host of interesting papers and presentations not provided with the hardcopy of the proceedings. In particular, the slide sets from our keynote speakers and invited speakers are now available. The WG9 Forum, chaired by Mr. Tucker Taft, has already been mentioned. We thank Tucker and WG9 for sharing their important work with SIGAda. Dr. Robert Dewar addressed high quality achievable via free/open source software and its impact on software engineering. Mr. Robert Carey discussed the use of Ada 95 and CORBA in the National Ignition Facility (NIF) program to generate power via fusion. This is a very impressive use of Ada synchronizing the firing of 192 extremely high powered lasers to a really small target to create fusion. The power fired is equivalent to that used by the entire rest of the United States during the same nanosecond. The use of Ada appears to be extremely successful for this research; we only hope that the research also provides valuable results. Dr. Charles McKay challenged us to address critical needs in Ada 2005 for Mission & Safety Critical (MASC) computing systems. He believes that we should remember our roots & emphasize the current & future needs for embedded MASC systems. His excellent presentation resulted in a separate track during the WG9 forum to address these needs. Mr. Michael McEvilley discussed the essence of Information Assurance and why it is important to the Ada Community. The Information Assurance community is taking a new look at Ada to address its very challenging needs. You are all encouraged to share the Conference CDROM with your colleagues! A very special thanks to Dr. Salih Yurttas, General Chair, Dr. John McCormick, Program Chair, and the entire SIGAda 2002 Conference Committee for an excellent conference.

In the December issue of Ada Letters, I reported on the possibility of a liaison agreement between ACM SIGAda and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22 WG9. This is now a reality. WG9 is that body in the



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International Organization for Standardization (ISO) responsible for the Ada standards. Mr. James W. Moore, Chair of WG9, had invited ACM SIGAda to become a Category C Liaison with WG9. The liaison agreement has been approved by both ACM and ISO. I received a letter from Mr. Keith Brannon from the ISO/IEC Information Technology Task Force stating: *“With reference to your request to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 22 for the establishment of Category C liaison with SC 22/WG 9, after consulting ISO/IEC JTC1 we can confirm that Category C liaison has now been officially established between ISO/IEC 1/SC22/WG9 and your organization.”* The letter is dated 5 November 2002. The text of the Liaison Agreement is published in the December issue of Ada Letters and provided via the SIGAda Home page. The benefits to SIGAda are identified in the liaison agreement. In addition, this will also provide extra value to a SIGAda membership, in that:

- SIGAda members will be allowed to see the draft WG9 documentation for the next Ada Standard in its early stages. [This documentation has not been made available to us before.]
- SIGAda members will be allowed (collectively) to comment on the draft WG9 documentation, thus potentially impacting the standard;
- SIGAda members will have an important role in the management of Ada Application Program Interfaces (APIs); and
- SIGAda members (collectively) can play a more active role in the evolution of the Ada standard should they choose to do so.

We have already been the beneficiary of this agreement as WG9 provided valuable information on the future of Ada during the WG9 Forum at SIGAda 2002. We were all able to provide our input to proposed changes to the Ada language. We view this role to be of great value to our membership and extremely important to the Ada community.

At SIGAda 2002, Mr. Clyde Roby chaired a workshop to address a ***Plan for Ada Application Program Interfaces (API) Management***. The Workshop was extremely well received with approximately one fifth of all attendees present. Valuable input was made to the plan. The intent is that Ada-Europe, SIGAda, and WG9 can work together to provide a valuable service to the Ada community for managing Ada bindings to APIs. The draft plan presented in the December issue of ***Ada Letters*** has been significantly improved and is now available on line from the SIGAda Home Page for the API Working Group at either the <http://www.acm.org/sigada/wg/apiwg/> or <http://www.sigada.org/wg/apiwg/> URL. Please contact Mr. Clyde Roby at <roby@ida.org> if you are interested in evolving an API. Thank you Clyde, for a highly productive workshop.

One of our important initiatives has been the Ada Advocacy Booth. This booth takes Ada to important conferences and lets folks know that Ada is very much alive and a sound part of any software engineering effort having real-time, high integrity, high-assurance, and highly distributed requirements. We go to about 5-6 conferences a year. Ms. Ann Brandon has just returned from the Embedded Systems Conference (ESC) in San Francisco and the Software Technology Conference (STC). She reports that the booth is extremely effective and has had more focused and interested traffic than in the past. A very special thanks to Ms. Ann Brandon and Mr. Hal Hart for coordinating the Ada Advocacy program. Also special thanks to Dr. Richard Riehle, Dr. Paul Stachour, and Lt. Colonel Ricky Sward who helped man the booth at STC. Our next conference will be OOPSLA. Ann reports: “The language wars are being fought at OOPSLA and so I'd appreciate some Ada techie volunteers for the booth there. The dates are October 26-30, at Anaheim, California.” If you are going to OOPSLA and would like to volunteer to support the booth, please contact Ms. Ann Brandon at ann@ONYONS.COM.

A recent concern has been associated with SPAM on the SIGAda and ACM maillists. This is extremely important to us as it is affecting our capability to communicate to our SIGAda membership.



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Spammers have found out that they can access approximately 75,000 email addresses by tapping into the ACM maillists, whose names are in the public domain. The situation has gotten so bad that many organizations have installed spam filters that eliminate any email from a “@acm.org” address coming from the acm list server. If your organization does this, Please contact your system administrator and have the “@acm.org” removed from the spam list. If you have not received announcements from SIGAda-Announce during the past month, your organization has likely included “@acm.org” on your spam list. ACM is taking steps to significantly reduce spam by preventing email from servers with open relays and screening text for prohibited words (e.g., “free”). ACM views spamming as a serious threat and is expanding their capability to reduce/eliminate spam. The SIGAda maillists have also facilitated spammers in the past. We are also taking steps with SIGAda maillists so that all maillists are either private (member posting only [most spammers don't join maillists]) or moderated (extremely effective against spammers – all messages have to be approved by a moderator). We are also trying to limit the amount of email going out over the announce type of maillists (e.g., SIGAda-Announce) to only a couple of messages per month. Hopefully these measures will increase the signal to noise ratio and make our maillist communication to our members more effective. Again, please make sure you are receiving messages from SIGAda-Announce on a monthly basis – If you are not, you will need to contact your system administrator.

There are a number of important Ada conferences in the near future. These include:

- **Ada-Europe 2003** – 16-20 June 2003 - 8th International Conference on Reliable Software Technologies - Toulouse, France => <http://www.irit.fr/AdaEurope2003/>
- **Ada-Europe 2003 Workshop** – 20 June 2003 - Quality of Service in Component-Based Software Engineering Workshop - Toulouse, France => <http://liuppa.univ-pau.fr/QoSCBSE2003/>
- **IRTAW-12** – 15-19 September 2003 - 12th International Real-Time Ada Workshop - Pousada Monte de Sta. Luzia, Viana do Castelo, Portugal => <http://www.hurray.isep.ipp.pt/irtaw2003/>
- **SIGAda 2003** – 7-11 December 2003 - ACM SIGAda Annual International Conference on the Ada Programming Language - San Diego, California => <http://www.acm.org/sigada/conf/sigada2003>

As noted, we are planning for our next conference to be at San Diego, California from 7-11 December 2003. The venue will be at the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, set amidst tropical palms and lush, inviting gardens, it is convenient to the San Diego recreational and sight-seeing attractions. We are planning a SIGAda 2003 conference, which should be interesting and extremely valuable to your employer. For more information, please see: <http://www.acm.org/sigada/conf/sigada2003>. If you are interested in active participation, please contact Dr. Robert Leif, the Conference Chair at rleif@rleif.com, or Lt. Colonel Ricky Sward, the Program Chair at ricky.sward@usafa.af.mil. I am looking forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely yours,



Currie Colket
Chair ACM SIGAda

