Welcome to Grenoble and the 15th IEEE International Conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE ’00). This is an exciting year for ASE as we are in Europe for the first time in the history of the conference.

The ASE conference (http://sigart.acm.org/Conferences/ase/) continues to be a meeting place where researchers and practitioners meet to discuss a wide spectrum of research related to the automation of software engineering tasks. Traditional topics for the conference include requirements and specification, program synthesis, transformation, software architecture, software process modelling, verification and validation, and testing. This year, the conference continues to grow with addition of new areas such as software evolution.

Since 1997, when KBSE became ASE, there has been a growing effort to internationalise the conference. Starting by expanding the programme committee and the technical programme to attract international participants, we have steadily become a truly international event. This year, not only the conference but also the programme committee meeting was held in Europe. Further, our technical programme includes papers from five continents. ASE is truly building itself as a world community.

The programme committee worked hard to select 23 full and 22 short papers from over 100 submissions. Topics for this year’s conference include requirements, verification & validation, testing, algebraic specifications, program synthesis & code generation, software development process, software evolution and design. We are also excited to have two excellent invited speakers: Gérard Berry from INRIA and Jeff Magee from Imperial College. Moreover, the conference includes four tutorials, two panel sessions, and a growing and thriving doctoral symposium.

There are many people to thank for the success of this year’s conference. First, we must thank our programme committee for their efforts in reviewing and selecting papers. We would also like to thank Conor Ryan and The University of Limerick for hosting our programme committee meeting. Next, we thank our students at The University of Kansas ITTC for their help in processing papers. Special thanks go to Brahim Hnich (Uppsala University) and Sven Laemmermann (KTH Stockholm) for getting the programme committee web site up and running. Finally, we warmly thank our colleagues at LSR/IMAG and the Université Joseph Fourier who helped organise all aspects of the local arrangements.

Putting together a conference of this size is always a labour of love. We hope that you enjoy your stay in Grenoble and ASE 2000 as much as we have enjoyed organising the conference.

Yves Ledru  Perry Alexander  Pierre Flener