Welcome to the 17th IEEE International Conference on Automated Software Engineering. This year the conference is held for the second time in Europe and we are fortunate enough to have it in Edinburgh, Scotland. We hope you will take the time to enjoy the surroundings and maybe sample some Scottish traditions - shortbread and single malt come to mind.

The Automated Software Engineering conference is the flagship conference for theory and practice concerned with automating the software development process. Formerly known as Knowledge-Based Software Engineering (KBSE), the conference expanded in 1997 to encourage worldwide participation and to reach out to other scientific communities concerned with the automation aspects of formal methods, software process, human-computer interaction, requirements engineering, reverse engineering, testing and verification and validation, while still including an active artificial intelligence and knowledge-based research focus. The conference has evolved into an international meeting place to share ideas on the foundations, techniques, tools and application of automated software engineering technology. At ASE, experts with different backgrounds in software practice and theory present and discuss promising results of their research and experience. Traditional topics at ASE include both automatic systems and systems that support and cooperate with people, as well as models of software and software engineering activities.

The paper evaluation this year was both very thorough and highly selective. The programme committee chose 19 technical papers from 94 submissions for presentation at the conference. Each paper was peer reviewed by at least three members of the programme committee. Papers submitted by programme committee members were reviewed by at least four other programme committee members. Over 30 programme committee members met in Marina del Rey, California on 29-30 June 2002 for a weekend of intense paper discussions.

In addition to the technical papers, the programme committee also selected another 19 papers for presentation as posters. These papers represent work that the programme committee feels is interesting and novel but not mature enough to warrant a full talk. Previous ASE conferences have shown that some of the most interesting and entertaining topics are discussed in the less formal and highly interactive poster sessions. Some of these have even been turned into ASE best paper award winners in subsequent years.

This year we tried an experiment in programme committee organization: no one was retained on the program committee unless they attended the committee meeting. This policy resulted in a very well attended and stimulating programme committee meeting, at the cost of losing valued programme committee members. We extend our sincere apologies to these victims of the attendance requirement, namely Pierre Flener, Bashar Nuseibeh, Wilhelm Schaefer, Gian Pietro Picco, Arthur Reyes, Klaus Pohl, Yves Deville, Andrew Ireland, Baudouin Le Charlier, Houari Sahraoui, Cordell Green, Ian Green and Debra Richardson.

Our warmest thanks go to the many individuals and organizations that have helped with this year’s conference. We are very grateful to the IEEE Computer Society and ACM Special
Interest Groups on Software Engineering (SIGSOFT) and Artificial Intelligence (SIGART) for their sponsorship and organizational help. QinetiQ and Scottish Embedded Software Centre also provided contributions. The Steering Committee and Organizing Committee all worked steadfastly. We are indebted to the members of the Programme Committee, each of whom not only reviewed a significant number of papers, but also travelled to Marina del Rey to attend the programme committee meeting in the last weekend of June. We would also like to thank a large number of additional reviewers. We are grateful to Richard van de Stadt of Borbala Online Conference Services for providing us with a free copy of Cyberchair, the electronic submission system that we used. We are particularly grateful to Licia Capra at UCL, for adapting Cyberchair to the needs of ASE 2002 and to Cecilia Mascolo for maintaining the conference web site.

Please enjoy ASE 2002, the sessions and these proceedings. We are confident that you will find the programme both stimulating and entertaining.

Julian Richardson  Wolfgang Emmerich  Dave Wile
General Chair  Programme Co-Chair  Programme Co-Chair