Message from the Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the Fifth IEEE Distributed Simulation and Real Time Applications Workshop. This year DS-RT 2001 is being held in Cincinnati, once again co-located with MASCOTS. The conference venue is near to the University of Cincinnati and just two miles from downtown Cincinnati and the Ohio riverfront area. Cincinnati is home to the Reds (baseball), Bengals (football), and Cyclones (hockey) professional sports teams. The Reds have home games on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday before and after the DS-RT/MASCOTS programs.

In addition to the sports opportunities, Cincinnati is home to the state-of-the-art Aronoff Center for the Arts, and several other small theaters are also located in the downtown area. There are also a number of museums, including the Museum Center, and the underwater Aquarium is just over the river in Newport Kentucky. Very close to the conference site is the world famous Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens. At the northeastern edge of Cincinnati is the Kings Island roller-coaster/water-park and the Beach water-park. And, of course, Cincinnati has many fabulous restaurant and entertainment centers. We hope that you will take time to enjoy the City of Cincinnati during your visit.

We have two excellent keynote speakers this year. Philomena Zimmerman, manager of the High Level Architecture program at DMSO, will discuss the strategy and plan for achieving the transition of HLA technology from the "developer" to the "user". Her keynote address is entitled: "HLA Technology Transition: the Challenge and the Way Forward".

Our second keynote speaker is Douglas Schmidt, formerly at Washington University, St. Louis and currently program manager in the Information and Technology Office at DARPA, who will be talking on TAO, CORBA and the HLA. His address is entitled: "COTS Middleware for Real-time Distributed Interactive Simulations - Fact or Fiction?". We also have a number of invited papers from leading researchers in the area including Richard Fujimoto, Paul Reynolds, Jr., Katherine Morse, Frederick Wieland and David Bruce.

The title of our panel session is "Field Experience with the use of Distributed Interactive Simulation for Weapons and Doctrine Development". We are very grateful to Dennis McBride, Potomac Institute for Policy, for suggesting this topic and forming the panel which also includes Susan Numrich, Rosemary Seyowski and Wayne Martin. We look forward to a very interesting discussion.

We would like to thank all who have helped to make DS-RT 2001 a success, particularly the program committee and referees who provided high quality reviews within a tight schedule. The reviewing process was simplified by the use of David Nicol's WIMPE conference program management system.

We would like to thank our main sponsor, IEEE Computer Society, and the editorial staff at IEEE Computer Society Press, particularly Frances Titsworth, for their work in producing these proceedings. On behalf of the DS-RT 2001 Organizing Committee, and Azzedine Boukerche, we also wish to thank Dr Warren Burggren, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of North Texas at Denton, for his support and generosity.

Finally, thanks must go to Azzedine Boukerche as DS-RT Steering Committee Chair, and Mark Pullen, who as General Chair was always ready with advice and suggestions.

We hope you enjoy the conference!

Stephen Turner
Philip Wilsey
DS-RT 2001 Program Co-Chairs