Welcome to the 2008 International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN-2008). This is our community's 38th annual offering of this premier international conference series. This year marks the first time the conference has been held in Anchorage Alaska, the largest city in America's Last Frontier.

DSN is the place where researchers in the international dependability community publish their very best work. The conference focuses on creating and assessing the dependability of computer systems and networks in all their forms, including embedded systems, enterprise systems and globe-spanning networks. These systems must have resilience to malicious attacks, accidental faults, design errors, and unexpected operating conditions. Increasingly, even "every-day" computing systems must provide near-continuous operation, security, and safety. The challenges to providing computing that is truly dependable in all respects are significant, but meeting them is essential to the well being of corporations, individuals, governments, and our global economy.

This year our technical program includes two main technical tracks: DCCS and PDS. The regular papers in these two tracks are of archival quality, having been selected via a rigorous review process. There is no selection quota -- only excellent papers get in, with selectivity comparable to that of refereed professional society journals. Because these papers appear more quickly than journal publications, they are the most important publications in our research community. This main volume of the proceedings contains those papers and summaries of other key events in the conference. A supplemental volume contains workshop papers and material from other conference tracks.

Additional features of this year’s program include a tutorial day, four workshops, two panel sessions, fast abstracts, a Student Forum, and two keynote speakers (Alex Hills and Tom Seder). New initiatives this year include: an Industry Forum track, Birds of a Feather sessions, and special support for families and accompanying persons, including discounted excursion tickets for children of attendees. Our excursion is a sightseeing cruise on Prince William Sound to see wildlife and glaciers.

We'd like to especially thank our organizing committee for getting all the pieces together to make this a successful event. We thank our steering committee for providing continuity, guidance, and valuable advice. And, of course, we thank you, our authors and attendees, without whom the conference would not be possible.