Message from the EDOC 2014 General Chair

Welcome to the 18th IEEE International EDOC Conference in Ulm, Germany. It is a great pleasure for the University of Ulm to host the leading Enterprise Computing conference, bringing together researchers and practitioners to discuss challenges, solutions and experiences related to enterprise computing.

The EDOC conference series addresses the key challenges regarding the development, management, operation and evolution of enterprise computing systems. From its beginning in 1997, it has provided a platform to discuss innovations that make enterprise systems more flexible, more dependable, and easier to develop and maintain. Enterprise computing is based on a wide and ever growing range of methods, models, tools, and technologies for enterprise applications covering a broad spectrum of vertical domains and industry segments. This richness is expressed in the range of topics addressed at this year’s EDOC, with the focus on the impact of big data on the enterprise of the future.

We are especially delighted to bring EDOC to Baden-Württemberg, which is one of Europe's most inventive and innovative regions. Here in the Southwest of Germany, 4.2% of the gross domestic product is invested in research and development, equal to 14 billion per year. Four of the nine best German universities have their home in Baden-Württemberg. Automobiles and the Zeppelin, airbags and anti-lock braking systems, SAP software: groundbreaking inventions have been made in Baden-Württemberg. This is why it is one of the leading states in the Federal Republic of Germany. Global players such as Daimler, Bosch and SAP have their global headquarters here, IBM and Hewlett-Packard their German headquarters. Besides automotive engineering, other key industry branches include mechanical and electrical engineering. Industry’s technological lead is closely interwoven with the region’s long tradition in science and research.

The success of EDOC 2014 is due primarily to the work of many people who have given their time and worked diligently to make this conference possible.

First and foremost, we would like to thank our program chairs, Stefanie Rinderle-Ma (University of Vienna, Austria) and Georg Grossmann (University of South Australia, Australia) who took responsibility for the matter at the heart of our meeting, the main conference’s technical program. They have led the selection process for an excellent list of papers that will be presented at the conference. Stefanie and Georg, many thanks for your devotion and numerous late night hours you put into the composition of the conference program.

Furthermore, we would like to thank our general workshop chairs Dimka Karastoyanova (University of Stuttgart, Germany) and Sylvain Hallé (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Canada). Both have done an outstanding job in managing the EDOC 2014 workshop program, which comprises nine interesting workshops on a variety of topics related to enterprise computing. Likewise, we want to thank the chairs of all workshops for contributing to EDOC 2014. For the sixth year in the row, we implemented a "roll-over process", in which good papers that could not be accommodated by the main conference were forwarded to our workshops for consideration. This requires close coordination between program chairs and workshop chairs, and thus extra work for all involved; the support provided by Stefanie, Dimka, Georg, and Sylvain was instrumental in getting this done successfully.
Special thanks also go to our demo chairs Patrícia Dockhorn Costa (Federal University of Espírito Santo, Brasil) and Jens Kolb (University of Ulm, Germany) who have composed an excellent demo session.

Essential for all of us was the support of the program committee, all members of which we want to express our sincere thanks. Further, there can be no conference without the substantial contributions of the authors: we would like to express our deep gratitude to all contributing to make our conference and workshop programs interesting and to all those coming to Vancouver to make EDOC lively.

We also have to thank the Local Organization Chairs Nicolas Mundbrod and Rüdiger Pryss (University of Ulm) as well as all student volunteers for their devotion and excellent conference support! Our thanks further go to our Web and Social Media Chair Nicolas Mundbrod (University of Ulm, Germany) for his exceptional creativity. Furthermore, we would like to thank the Publicity Chairs Matt Selway (University of South Australia, Australia) and Walid Fdhila (University of Vienna, Austria) for their efforts in bringing the word out about EDOC 2014.

We want to express our gratitude to our sponsors, the IEEE Communications Society and the IEEE Computer Society, and all the persons from IEEE involved in the sponsorship and publication process. Their continuous institutional support is crucial for the EDOC conference series. Our supporters and patrons should be acknowledged for their support which is essential to our meeting.

We are glad to host this year three renowned keynote speakers: Wil van der Aalst (Professor of Information Systems at the Technische Universität Eindhoven, The Netherlands), Heiko Ludwig (Research Staff Member with IBM’s Almaden Research Center in San Jose, CA), and Barbara Weber (Associate Professor at the University of Innsbruck, Austria). We would like to thank them for joining us in Ulm, and we look forward to their talks during the conference.

Last but not least, we would like to thank EDOC’s steering committee, who entrusted us with the responsibility of maintaining EDOC’s long standing reputation.

We hope you will enjoy your stay in Ulm and will find the time before or after the conference to explore the natural and multi-cultural beauties of Ulm, Baden-Württemberg and Germany. We hope you will find the conference productive and inspiring and will return home with the prospect of new collaborations and interesting ideas for future work.

Manfred Reichert, University of Ulm, Germany