Introduction by the Program Chairs

It is a pleasure to be able to introduce the proceedings of the first IEEE International Conference on Software Testing Verification and Validation (ICST 2008). ICST is a new forum whose development was motivated by the observation that while there are several conferences and workshops in the area, each has a particular focus and so attracts people from only part of the community. The aim of ICST was thus to provide a single event that brings together researchers and practitioners interested in software quality. The significant interest in ICST 2008 is encouraging and suggests that there is real support for this idea from within the community.

ICST covers areas such as test-driven development, model-based software testing, domain specific testing (e.g., third party components, databases), empirical studies of testing techniques and their cost effectiveness, and the technology transfer of test technologies. Of course, these are only a few of the relevant topics and the aim was to publish high quality papers from many areas of software quality. The ICST charter specifies rules ensuring the transparent, democratic, and open management of the conference. For example, there are limits on how long someone can serve on the steering committee and new members of the steering committee will be selected by election.

The program committee accepted three types of papers for ICST 2008: research papers, industry papers (including short industry papers), and student papers. We were encouraged by the number of papers we received: approximately 250 in total when duplicates were removed. Of these, a total of 65 were accepted including 37 regular papers, 19 industry papers and 9 student papers. In addition, there are several workshops on specialized topics. We hope and believe that ICST 2008 will prove to be a rich and varied experience for all those who attend.

We were extremely fortunate in having many able and hard working people assisting us with the organization of ICST 2008 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them. The steering committee members provided valuable advice at many key points and this was particularly important for the first ICST. We were assisted in the process of organizing the reviewing and decisions regarding acceptance by industry chairs Robert Eschbach, Per Runeson, and Clay Williams, student papers chairs Henry Muccini and Tao Xie, and by the general chair Lionel Briand. The strength of the program is a testament to their efforts, the members of the technical program committee, and those who reviewed the many papers in a thorough and timely manner.

The proceedings were produced by the IEEE Computer Society Press and in this we were assisted by Silvia Ceballos and Bob Werner who made everything extremely straightforward for us. ICST 2008 is complemented by a good and varied set of workshops and for this we have to thank the workshop chair Benoit Baudry. The large number of papers received was a consequence of the hard work of the publicity chairs Harita Bhaskar, Yvan Labiche, Yves Le Traon, and T.H. Tse. In addition Sudipto Ghosh, as Web Chair, managed the website and ensured that it was up-to-date. Finally, we thank all the authors who spent valuable time in preparing and submitting papers to ICST 2008.

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