Message from the General Chair

Within software engineering, the topic of ICST (International Conference on Software Testing, Verification and Validation) exemplifies the problem of having “no silver bullet”[1].

A wide variety of scientific approaches and techniques, including logic, semantics, probability and statistics, optimisation or knowledge-based methods can be applied, depending upon the kind of software, types of faults and what quality targets must be considered. Moreover, these problems are of great practical interest for software developers and users, both from industry and from research. This diversity of issues and actors has been reflected by ICST since its creation in 2008.

This third ICST conference offers a very stimulating and diverse programme and I would like to highlight a few key elements. The three distinguished keynote speakers are Patrick Copeland from Google, who will speak on “Testing, Culture, and Infrastructure: Google’s Innovation Feature Factory”, Odile Laurent from Airbus, who will speak on “Using Formal Methods and Testability Concepts in the Avionic Systems Validation and Verification Process”, and Mary Lou Soffa from the University of Virginia, who will speak on “Exploiting Advances in Computer Architecture to Support Testing Tools”.

Thanks to the dynamism of the workshop chairs, Paul Ammann, Benoit Baudry, and Ina Schieferdecker, we are able to follow the conference tradition of offering associated workshops. They selected a dozen workshops from a number of excellent proposals, including: Advances in Model-Based Testing (AMOST); Mutation Analysis (Mutation 2010); Search-Based Software Testing (SBST); SOA Testing (SOAT); Benchmark for Event-Driven Software (TESTBEDS); Validation and Verification of Dynamic Systems (VIDAS); Constraints in Software Testing, Verification and Analysis (CSTVA’10); Modeling and Detection of Vulnerabilities (MDV); Quality of Model-Based Testing (QuOMBAT); Testing in the Cloud (STITC); Test Driven Development (TDD); and Benchmarks for Software Testing (TESTBENCH).

Another ICST tradition is the Ph.D. Symposium, which will be embedded in the conference this year. The Ph.D. Symposium Chairs Fatiha Zaïdi, Atif Memon, and Manuel Nuñez have carefully selected a select group of challenging and promising presentations.

I also want to give my warm thanks to Ana Cavalli and Sudipto Ghosh for their excellent work in managing the programme committee and leading the lively scientific discussions that took place during the very competitive selection of papers.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to all contributors and participants for attending ICST 2010 and I sincerely hope that they will enjoy both the scientific event and the opportunity to enjoy Paris in April.

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