Message from the ICST 2018 Program Chairs

We are very pleased to present the proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Software Testing, Verification & Validation on behalf of the entire Programme Committee. This year’s edition of ICST is in Västerås, one of the oldest cities in Sweden, and a vibrant industrial city. The location provides a fitting background for ICST, which continues to bring together researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas and celebrate latest progress.

The programme committee is happy to report that ICST 2018 received 195 submissions to the four tracks. After filtering out desk rejects and abstract only submissions, the programme committee has reviewed 119 submissions for the Full Research Track, 9 for the Industry Track, 21 for the Tools, Demos & Artefacts Track, and 14 for the PhD Symposium. Participation was from 43 different countries, reflecting the international nature of our community. After carefully reviewing the submissions, we have accepted 30 Full Research Track papers, 5 Industry Track papers, 9 Tools, Demo & Artefacts Track papers, and 7 PhD Symposium papers. In addition, nine workshops have been collocated with ICST 2018. Finally, this year’s ICST took place in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of Swedish Association for Software Testing (SAST), putting a strong emphasis on the close collaboration between academia and industry.

We would like to thank all members of the ICST 2018 Program Committee, whose support and contribution was absolutely critical to the high quality of the technical programme of ICST 2018. The general chair, Hans Hansson, led an excellent organisation team, streamlining every process as much as possible. Industry chairs, Stig Larsson, Daniel Sundmark, and Richard Torkar worked closely with the industry partners and sponsors to ensure that ICST 2018 is both relevant and accessible to industry practitioners. Arpad Beszédes and Dave Binkley worked hard not only to elicit and review PhD Symposium submissions but also to make sure students are sufficiently supported. Wasif Afzal, Francisco Gomez, and Rene Just oversaw the process of handling tool papers, demo proposals, and the increasingly important artefact submissions. Gregory Gay and Mike Papadakis organised the collocated workshops, continuing the technical programme would not have been what it is without their effort, for which we are deeply grateful. We also want to express our gratitude to the ICST Steering Committee for supporting us through the process and for helping out with backup, last-minute reviews and in questions about conference scope.

ICST has a strong tradition of having the world leading researchers and practitioners as its keynote speakers, and this year is no exception. We heard from Dulma Churchill, whose work is about providing industry scale static analysis at Facebook. We had the team of Magnus Nordin, David King, and Stefan Posthuma from DICE and Electronic Arts, all of whom work hard to test the highly complex systems that are modern video games. Finally, we had the honour of hearing the keynote talk from Marta Kwiatkowska, professor at Oxford University, whose work on verification of deep neural networks cannot be more timely and relevant.

This year, we implemented the Double Blind Review process to the Full Research Track for the first time in ICST. Based on many empirical evidence, our belief is that the double blind reviewing is the best way to enable as fair a review process as possible, although not without its own inconveniences and flaws. We want to thank both the Programme Committee and the submitting authors for their patience with a new and unfamiliar process. Fair and just peer review is vital to the health and
progress of our community; we would like to encourage all who participated to continue to exchange ideas and perspectives on this important issue.

We would like to thank all the authors who submitted to ICST 2018 regardless of the outcome, and everyone who attended the conference. We also hope that these proceedings can help anyone who were not in Västeras have the opportunity to experience the open and vibrant ICST community as well as its excellent research outcomes.

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