Active participation by commercial representatives is a key factor that differentiates IPDPS from many other symposia and conferences. Although the number of commercial participants and supporters attending IPDPS usually does not match the number of academically-oriented researchers in attendance, their presence and impact is nevertheless extremely important.

Representatives from the commercial sector will be participating in one or more of three events. First is the Commercial Exhibits, which will take place throughout the day on Tuesday through Thursday. You will discover that we have strategically co-located the exhibit area along with the refreshments available during the breaks! I encourage all attendees to stop by and chat with these exhibitors. As we all know, it is often those serendipitous exchanges that provide the stimulation and ideas we need to move our field forward. Many of my academic colleagues have told me how much they appreciate talking with their counterparts in industry because it either reminds them (or informs them) about the unique pressures and forces present in the commercial marketplace.

The second event where you will see active commercial participation is during the commercial tutorials, which will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. These tutorials will be particularly useful to learn about a company’s technology/product in more depth than is usually possible during the more informal exhibit forum.

Thirdly, there will be a special plenary Commercial Track on Thursday morning for commercial presenters. This collection of presentations will describe various commercial technologies in considerable depth, and the associated papers are published in these proceedings.

It was an honor heading up the Commercial Presentations and Exhibits for IPDPS 2005. Creating stimulating forums for the exchange of information between the research and commercial communities has been exciting and rewarding. I would particularly like thank this year’s IPDPS General Co-Chairs, H. J. Siegel from Colorado State University and David A. Bader from the University of New Mexico, for inviting me to serve in this capacity. I would also like to thank the other members of the Commercial Exhibits and Presentations Committee for their help in soliciting commercial participants: Wim Böhm from Colorado State University, Serge Chaumette from the University of Bordeaux 1 in France, and Mitchell D. Theys from the University of Illinois at Chicago. I would also like to thank the IPDPS 2005 Finance Chair Bill Pitts and Production Chair Sally Jelinek for their assistance in handling the financial and publication matters related to the commercial activities. Additionally, I thank the Local Arrangements Chair, Susamma Barua from California State University at Fullerton, for a job well done in coordinating the logistics and venues for the commercial activities here at the Omni Interlocken Resort. Finally, I would like to thank Jim Summers from the University of Oklahoma, for his creation and maintenance of an excellent on-line registration site for commercial participants.

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