Dear ISSRE 2004 Attendees,

As your Program Co-Chairs for 2004, we are delighted to welcome you to this year’s International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering (ISSRE) in Saint-Malo, Bretagne, France. This is the 15th year of the annual IEEE ISSRE conference, and we wish to thank all of you for your attendance and we thank the two IEEE society sponsors of ISSRE, the Computer Society and Reliability Society, for again allowing this event to continue.

As most of you know, ISSRE focuses on the theory and practice of Software Reliability Engineering. This year’s conference includes techniques and practices to (1) verify and validate software, (2) estimate and predict its dependability, (3) make it more tolerant/robust to faults, (4) and more secure. This year’s theme is “the use of model-driven software development and its implications on software dependability.” Models, which are rigorous representations of the artifacts being designed, have always been at the core of all engineering disciplines. To cope with the increasing complexity of software systems, software professionals and academics increasingly believe that we also need software development to be model driven. This is what motivates not only this conference’s theme but also the new Unified Modeling Language (UML 2.0) and Model Driven Architecture (MDA) standards.

This year we received 120 regular submissions. That is a remarkable number! And 39 regular papers were accepted. Because of the breadth of this year’s theme and hence the diversity of the papers that were accepted, we opted to put the program together as follows: three sessions devoted to testing, two sessions devoted to reliability, one session on empirical studies, one session on security, two sessions on tools and automation, and one session on quality assurance.

Further, our program consists of three excellent keynote speakers: (1) Robert V. Binder speaking on “Mobile Information System Reliability Challenges,” (2) Louis J. Blazy speaking on “Practical and Theoretical Approaches/Limitations to Software Reliability Modeling in Major U.S. Laboratories and Operational Environments,” and (3) Bernhard Rumpe speaking on “Model-Driven Engineering: Concepts and Challenges for Managing Reliability.”

In addition to the regular program, ISSRE ’04 will have speakers in the industry track as well as a series of fast abstracts that consist of short talks on research or ideas that can best be described as “works in progress.” And as it has become a tradition for ISSRE, we have a student poster session program as well. We thus hope to provide a forum for the younger researchers who will shape our community in the years to come.

In closing, I hope that you find this year’s ISSRE to be as stimulating and enjoyable as those of past years. We’ve had 14 years of excellent venues in the past, and we believe that this year’s program will make that fifteen.

Best Regards,

Lionel Briand and Jeffrey Voas
Program Co-Chairs