Foreword

These proceedings contain the papers selected for presentation at the 1996 PDIS Conference in Miami Beach, Florida, on December 18-20.

Parallel and distributed database technology is at the heart of many mission-critical applications such as online transaction processing, data warehousing, business workflow management, interoperable information systems, and information brokering in global networks. While commercial systems in this arena are gradually maturing, new challenges are posed by the growing demand for large-scale, enterprise-wide solutions and the proliferation of services on the "information superhighway." Future parallel and distributed information systems will have to support millions of clients and will face tremendous scalability challenges with regard to massive data volume, performance, availability, and also administration and long-term maintenance.

The program of the PDIS'96 conference reflects both the breadth of the relevant subjects and the rapid progress of this area. The 22 papers that were selected from 121 submissions cover the full spectrum ranging from Web-related issues and data mining to core technologies such as indexing and transactions. In addition to these research papers, the conference also includes 8 industrial contributions on the latest commercial developments and future trends. The conference is preceded by two tutorials on data warehousing and on parallel and distributed real-time systems.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the people who have contributed to the success of PDIS'96: the program committee members for ensuring the quality of the scientific program; the authors who submitted papers to the conference; the tutorial chair, Hank Korth, for arranging two hot-topic tutorials; Beau Shekita and Honesty Young for putting together the industrial track program; David DeWitt, for giving the keynote address; Marek Rusinkiewicz, for organizing and moderating a panel discussion; and Maurice van Keulen, Jacek Skowronek, and Markus Sinnwell for their software and help to organize the program committee's work;

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We look forward to seeing you at Miami Beach for an exciting PDIS'96 Conference.

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