Preface from the Program Chairs

Parallel and Distributed Processing has undergone impressive change over recent years. New architectures and applications have rapidly become the central focus of the discipline.

These changes are often a result of cross-fertilisation of parallel and distributed technologies with other rapidly evolving technologies such as telecommunications and multimedia. It is of paramount importance to review and assess these new developments in comparison with recent research achievements in the well-established areas of parallel and distributed computing, from industry and the scientific community.

The objective of the Parallel and Distributed Processing Conference series is to provide a forum for the presentation of these and other issues through original research presentations and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and new ideas at the highest technical level in the area of distributed and parallel computing.

This Proceedings volume includes 45 regular contributions, and 20 short contributions, presented at the Fourteenth Parallel and Distributed Processing Conference which was held in Montbéliard, Sochaux, France, February 15-17, 2006.

We attracted a good number of paper submissions, almost 100, not only from Europe, but also from the Asia Pacific and America. All submissions underwent a rigorous peer review process. All submissions were reviewed by at least three program or technical committee members or external reviewers. A ballot decided the final collection of the accepted papers. It was extremely difficult to select the presentations for the conference because there were so many excellent and interesting submissions. In order to allocate as many papers as possible and keep the high quality of the conference, we finally decided to accept 45 papers for regular presentation and 22 for short presentation.

Investigated topics include Parallel and Distributed Systems, Models and Tools for Programming Environments, Advanced Applications, Grid Computing, Languages, Compilers and Runtime Support Systems. As new requirements such as network pervasiveness, ubiquity, user mobility, performance improvements must be satisfied to support the design and development of new advanced applications, particular emphasis has been given to new emerging technologies such as Grid, Web and Mobile Computing which have been addressed by both regular and special sessions.

We believe all of these papers and topics will provide novel ideas, new theoretical and experimental results, work in progress and state-of-the-art techniques in fields of distributed and parallel computing and stimulate the future research activities in this area. The organization of the conference and of this volume was conceived in order to provide an effective overview of the contributions which the authors brought by their works in the different regular sessions of the conferences. Four special sessions address the latest technical developments in some specific topics, which are Mobile Computing, Web Computing, Parallel Storages, and Parallel and Distributed Image Processing, Video Processing, and Multimedia.

We hope you will find the final program enriching and stimulating.
The conference program is the result of hard and excellent work of many others, reviewers and program committee members. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all authors for their valuable contributions and to all program committee members and external reviewers for their cooperation in completing the conference program under a very tight schedule. We are glad to remark the excellent work by the Special Session Chairs: by Karl-Erwin Grosspietsch Chair of Parallel Storage, Konrad Klockner Chair of Mobile Computing, Pascal Chatonnay Chair of Web Computing and Andreas Uhl Chair of Parallel and Distributed Image Processing, Video Processing, and Multimedia (PDIVM).

We are thankful to Julien Bourgeois and François Spies, the Organizing Chairs, for their excellent conference organization. It was a great pleasure working with them.

We heartly thank Karl-Erwin Grosspietsch, the president of EUROMICRO, and Andrea Clematis, chair of the PDP Steering Committee and the steering committee members, for their dedicated hard work to make this exciting and stimulating conference series possible.

We are grateful to the Keynote Speakers for accepting to come to the Conference with enthusiasm. Last but not least, we are grateful to all authors and attendees who contributed to the success of the Program with their paper and speech on their research results, and by attending the Conference.

Beniamino Di Martino and Salvatore Venticinque

*The Program Chair and the Program Deputy Chair*