Welcome to PNPM99 - the eight International Workshop on Petri Nets and Performance Models. This workshop is held in conjunction with the 3rd International Workshop on the Numerical Solution of Markov Chains and the 6th International Workshop on Process Algebras and Performance Modelling. Two application oriented workshops -Formals Methods and Manufacturing, and Formal Methods and Telecommunications- and joint tutorials and tool presentations complete the program of the Multi-Workshop with the common theme of formal methods and performance modelling.

This event takes place at the XXVth anniversary of the young Centro Politecnico Superior of the University of Zaragoza, an old rooted University, founded in 1542 by the Emperor Charles V and king of Spain.

The history of PNPM starts in 1985 in Torino, where the first workshop has been organized. From there on PNPM became a biennial event which took place in the USA (1987 and 1995), in Japan (1989), in Australia (1991) and in France (1993 and 1997). This shows that PNPM has established a worldwide forum for the presentation of new results in the area of Petri net based quantitative analysis of dynamic systems. All proceedings of PNPM have been published, like this one, by IEEE CS-Press. They provide a rather comprehensive overview of new developments in the field of timed and stochastic Petri nets.

Forty papers have been submitted to this PNPM. All papers were reviewed by four or five reviewers from the PC or appointed by the PC. Paper submission and the handling of the review process was done electronically via the Web. This allowed us to held after the review phase a virtual PC meeting to fix the first decisions about acceptance or rejection of papers. In a final physical PC meeting the final decisions were made. As a result of the procedure we selected eighteen papers for presentation at the workshop. The selected papers cover a wide range of topics in the scope of PNPM. They are accompanied by an invited session on Max-plus algebra and Petri nets with three papers and by an invited talk given by William Sanders.

We would like to thank all authors who submitted their papers to PNPM and all members of the International Program Committee who spend a lot of work preparing detailed reviews under a very tight schedule. Finally, we would like to thank those who contributed to the organization of this multi-workshop, and in particular J. Campos, J.M. Colom and their colleagues for the local arrangements, G. Balbo as Tutorial Chair and G. Ciardo as Tools Presentation Chair. The help and the assistance of D. Plummer and F. Titsworth of the IEEE Computer Society is gratefully appreciated.

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