Message from the Conference Chairs

This edition of the 26th IEEE International Real-Time Systems Symposium (RTSS) contains the 37 full papers accepted for presentation. RTSS 2005, held this year on December 5-8, in Miami, FL, USA, is the oldest conference devoted exclusively to issues involving real-time systems. The symposium traditionally brings together researchers from academia and industry in the broad field of embedded and real-time computing. This year, following the momentum of last year’s successful multi-track format, there are special tracks in Hardware/Software Co-Design, Real-Time Communication and Sensor Networks and Real-Time Middleware and Software Engineering in addition to the regular conference track. We also have the second incarnation of the Embedded Real-Time Systems Implementation (ERTSI’ 04) Workshop and a tutorial on a timely and important topic: UPPAAL.

The main programmatic novelty this year is a special session organized as a design and coding contest to control a robot on the MaRTian surface in the search for water. We expect this competition to increase the diversification of the attendees at RTSS and broaden the scope of the conference.

The main reviewing change this year was the addition of double-blind reviews: authors are not known to the reviewers before their paper is accepted. One of the aims of double-blind reviewing is to "level the playing field" between well-known institutions/projects and less well-known ones. Due to the double-blind review process, we did not limit submissions of Program Committee members (but did not accept submissions from the PC chair).

Although not a record (falling short by 11 submissions), the 176 papers submitted to this year’s symposium were reviewed by the tireless Program Committees (four different PCs were formed, coordinated by the PC Chair and the three Track Chairs). The 37 papers accepted to all four tracks were partitioned into conference sessions without (much) regard for which track a paper was submitted to, and their ordering in these proceedings reflects this partitioning. Papers submitted to a special Work-In-Progress Session were considered and evaluated separately by another committee.

Two of the accepted papers were selected for special recognition, namely “Tardiness Bounds for Global EDF Scheduling on a Multiprocessor” by UmaMaheswari Devi and James Anderson from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and “Cost Monitoring and Enforcement in the Real-Time Specification for Java - A Formal Evaluation” by Omar Santos and Andy Wellings from the University of York. These papers were submitted to the Main and Middleware Tracks, respectively. We congratulate these authors for their outstanding work.

RTSS 2005 was again this year made possible by the hard work of a number of people, to whom we are very grateful. They include Rolf Ernst, Chair of the Hardware/Software Co-Design track; Tarek Abdelzaher, Chair of the Real-Time
Communication and Sensor Networks track; Chris Gill, Chair of the Real-Time Middleware and Software Engineering track; Kevin Jeffay, Financial Chair; Dakai Zhu and Haifeng Zhu, Work-In-Progress Session co-Chairs; Ted Baker and Dilip Sarkar, Local Arrangements co-Chairs; the members of the Program Committee for the symposium, for the special tracks, and for the Work-In-Progress Session; all session chairs; the organizers of the ERTSI’05 workshop (Neil Audsley and Iain Bate), the tutorial on UPPAAL (Gerd Behrmann, Alexandre David, Kim G. Larsen, Paul Pettersson, Wang Yi) and the design/coding competition (Stefan Peters); Rich West and BU, who helped in organizing the Program Committee meeting; Nathaniel Soltesz, who helped with various issues during the entire process; Linda Buss, who, as usual, handled the administrative part of registration and secretariat; and all external reviewers who assisted in the review process.

In addition, we gratefully acknowledge the financial support from Nokia and from the U.S. National Science Foundation.

Finally, we thank all authors who submitted their work (whether it was accepted or not); without them, this symposium (obviously) would not have been possible.

**James H. Anderson**  
General Chair, RTSS 2005

**Daniel Mossé**  
Program Chair, RTSS 2005