Foreword from the Conference Co-Chairs

Welcome to the inaugural International Conference on Software Methods and Tools (SMT2000). We hope you enjoy attending the conference and we trust that you will find the presentations and discussions stimulating. The conference is being held at the Novotel Northbeach Hotel, Wollongong, Australia, 6-9 November 2000, and comprises two days of conference and exhibition with two further days of seminars and tutorials. The main conference programme contains a mixture of invited speakers, technical papers, and mini-tutorials. The technical papers have been refereed by the programme committee, and the organisers have selected a range of 22 high quality technical papers from authors representing 8 different countries.

The provision of appropriate methods and tools plays an important role in the promotion and adoption of sound software engineering practices. One of these sound practices is the identification of, and adherence to, suitable software development processes. For all organisations involved in software development, and for all kinds of software, the identification and implementation of a suitable development process is a well recognised approach to improving the quality of the software produced. Choosing and using the right tools can assist the implementation, maintenance, and improvement of an organisation's development process. There are many well-known software methods and processes such as JSD, SSADM, OMT, UML/Unified Process, and there are commercially available tools to support them. For various reasons, many organisations do not use these well-known and standard approaches - they may prefer to use their own in-house methods, or a customised version of a standard, or none at all. The aim of this conference is to bring together software engineering practitioners and researchers, to exchange information about a variety of development methods and tools, and to share experiences.

The conference presentations report the experience of researchers and industrial practitioners actively involved in the development and use of software engineering methods and tools. The conference encompasses all phases of the software lifecycle, and covers a variety of topics including:

- adoption and assessment of development methods
- procurement and evaluation of software engineering tools
- standards and practices for dependable applications
- high integrity and safety related systems
- training in methods and tools
- software process management
- workflow and business process modeling
- tool construction technologies and techniques
- method engineering and metaCASE

A successful conference is the result of the efforts of many people, and we would like to thank all those who made this conference possible. In particular, thanks to our steering committee, the referees, and to our sponsors. Also thanks to the conference participants for their attendance and interest in software engineering methods and tools.

Jonathan Gray and Peter Croll
SMT2000 Conference Co-Chairs