Welcome to SRDS 2000. This is the 19th Symposium of Reliable Distributed Systems. It takes place near the Wöhrdersee just outside the medieval walls of the ancient city of Nürnberg known for a long and lively history. Nürnberg is celebrating this year its 950th anniversary. It is the city of artists like Albrecht Dürer, Veit Stoß, Adam Kraft, of humanists like Willibald Pirckheimer and of industrial entrepreneurs like Cramer-Klett or Sigmund Schuckert.

SRDS is an excellent opportunity and challenge for world wide interaction among researchers and practitioners in dependable computing. The papers submitted to the Symposium this year represented a wide range of research areas and nationalities. In fact, the Symposium offers 24 outstanding papers from 13 European and North American countries. We are also very fortunate to have the keynote address and the invited talk given by outstanding researchers who are leading in the field. The program is complemented by three panels.

Two workshops have been organized in connection with SRDS 2000: The International SRDS-Workshop on Dependable System Middleware and Group Communication (DSMGC 2000) chaired by Michel Cukier, and the International SRDS-Workshop on Object-Oriented Reliable Systems (WOODS 2000) chaired by Jie Xu.

Let me thank all the people who helped making SRDS 2000 a success. First of all, I would like to thank the members of the Program Committee, especially the Co-Chairs Andrea Bondavalli and Shambhu Upadhyaya, for their advice and their efforts to set up an excellent technical program of high standard of quality and originality. Sincere thanks are also due to the chairman of the workshops.

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the organizing committee. The symposium could not be successful without their engagement and their tireless efforts to help me organizing the Symposium. Finally I would like to thank all the authors, speakers and panelists for providing their contributions to the Symposium.

I surely hope you find your participation in the Symposium both fruitful and valuable.

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