Message from the Technical Program Co-Chairs

This IEEE International Symposium, which is the twenty-third in the highly successful SRDS series, aims to provide an effective forum for researchers and practitioners who are interested in distributed systems design and development, particularly with reliability, availability, safety, security, or real-time properties. SRDS 2004 continues the long-standing tradition of serving as a place for healthy technical debate, and for the exchange of newly recognized research issues and challenges.

IEEE SRDS has long been recognized as a prestigious symposium for fostering collaborations amongst leading international researchers and practitioners in the fields of distributed computing, dependability and real-time systems. This year's technical program fulfills that expectation and, in fact, breaks new ground as the themes of SRDS 2004, and its focus on cutting-edge research and technologies, are all the more timely given the recent events in the world.

The program for SRDS 2004 consists of 27 regular papers, selected from 117 submissions, and two keynote speeches by experts in their respective fields over three days. As has been the custom of SRDS, this year's Symposium offers three exciting panels that revealed research and development challenges that we are sure to see future SRDS presenters address.

We are exceedingly grateful to the members of the Technical Program Committee for reviewing the papers, helping us to assemble such an outstanding program, and for their efforts in making SRDS 2004 a memorable technical event. We extend a special note of thanks to the SRDS Workshop co-Chairs for organizing three timely workshops. We are also indebted to the Symposium Chair, Publication & Publicity Chairs, and the Publicity Committee for their valuable advice and support. We would like to recognize the efforts of finance, registration and local arrangements Chairs, and members of the Local Arrangements Committee who help to organize and operate the Symposium.

Finally, we would like to thank our authors for submitting publications of such high quality, and for sharing the results of their research work freely with the rest of this community.

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