Welcome to Metrics 2003, the Ninth IEEE Symposium on Software Metrics. It is an honour and a pleasure to be able to host this conference. Over the years since the first meeting in Baltimore and the subsequent meetings in London (on two occasions), Berlin, New Mexico, Bethesda, Boca Raton, and Ottawa, the conference has built its reputation as the leading conference in empirical software engineering, software measurement and software quality.

This year the conference is co-located with the Australian Conference on Software Measurement (ACOSM). ACOSM was first held in 1993 in Sydney and is the annual conference of the Australian Software Metrics Association (ASMA). The co-location of these two events will facilitate the interaction between industry and research communities. It is most important that these two communities have the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences so that research results are taken up faster in industry, and so that research remains relevant to the community served.

This year’s location in the city of Sydney is the first time that the conference has ventured into the southern hemisphere and the only time so far that we have been outside Europe or North America. This reflects the increasing role that Australia is playing in the world community of researchers in the information and communication technologies. It also reflects the global community that has emerged in the last ten years and provides the opportunity for young researchers in software measurement to engage in debate with those of us who have pursued this interest for a little longer.

Finally I wish to thank all of the people who have been involved in organising this symposium, especially the Program Co-Chairs, Michael Berry and Warren Harrison, the Finance Chair, David Wilson, and the Local Arrangements Chair, Maria Patane.

Ross Jeffery