Message from the Program Chair

Synthesis methods are rapidly becoming the main solution allowing to cope with electronic system design of increasing size and complexity. Design methods and tools for higher level electronic system design automation are by now strategic issues for industry. The Eighth International Symposium on System Synthesis is devoted to aspects of system synthesis and has become the premiere international event in this area.

This symposium is the eighth in a series of high-quality technical forums. It is the continuation of the previous High-Level Synthesis Workshop and Symposium events. In response to the growing acceptance of commercial synthesis tools and of increasing research activities in system design, the scope of this year's symposium has been extended to cover all aspects of computer-aided synthesis of complete electronic systems. This is the major international forum in system synthesis which deals with methods starting from system-level specifications. The symposium is oriented towards design automation professionals and covers issues in design automation of complex integrated systems.

The program reflects the perceived importance of the following new technologies:

- Hardware/software codesign.
- Retargetable code generation and software synthesis for embedded processors.
- Behavioural synthesis.
- Low-power and estimation techniques for behavioural and system-level synthesis.
- Design methods for mixed hardware/software systems.

In addition the program includes two invited presentations in the emerging areas of multi-media system design and state-of-the-art real time system technology. Finally two panels address power issues at the system level and the convergence of industry expectation and system synthesis research. An original element of the symposium is a series of workgroup focus discussion periods that involves all attendees.

For this symposium, we received 79 submissions from 22 countries. The program committee has selected 25 papers following a rigorous E-mail based review process. Each paper was evaluated independently by at least five reviewers. The review process included three rounds in order to achieve a consensus about accepted and rejected papers. During each review round, the reviewers were given the opportunity to revise their ratings. Only the top quality papers were accepted. Unfortunately, many good quality papers did not make the program since we wanted to keep the program to a 2.5-day schedule.

I would like to thank the steering committee, the program committee, the session chairs, the invited speakers and the panelists for helping to make this symposium a success. I would also like to thank all the authors for submitting high-quality work making this symposium the major forum in the field of system synthesis.

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Program Chair
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A total of 79 manuscripts were submitted to the 8th ISSS. The Symposium Steering and Programme Committees wish to acknowledge the time and effort spent by the following people who reviewed these manuscripts and returned the review forms. Our thanks to all those who participated and contributed to the success of the conference.

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