9TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SYSTEM SYNTHESIS

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Message from the Program Chair

To keep up with growing system complexities and shrinking time-to-market constraints, designers are shifting focus to higher levels of design abstraction, using rapidly-maturing synthesis tools to help finish the lower-level details. ISSS has assisted this shift by serving as the premier international forum for the leading, or more precisely, the "highest" edge of synthesis research. The meeting began as the High-Level Synthesis Workshop in the early 1980's, and evolved into a symposium in 1994. After over a decade of research, the first commercial high-level (or behavioral) synthesis tools appeared in the mid-1990's.

With the growing maturation and acceptance of high-level synthesis, the symposium has expanded to encompass higher-levels of abstraction as well as new technologies and design issues, including:

- System-level synthesis
- Hardware/software codesign
- High-level synthesis
- Programmable processor-based design and synthesis
- Synthesis for low power and test

The symposium also took on a new name in 1995 to better reflect its new focus on "system" issues: the International Symposium on System Synthesis.

Now in its ninth meeting, ISSS serves as a forum for mature research results as well as promising new ideas. We had 80 submissions from 16 countries, and the program committee selected 23 of those submissions following a rigorous review process. Each paper was evaluated by at least 4 independent reviewers, and results accumulated through a fully-electronic review process, resulting in an initial categorization of papers into "Clear Accept," "Middle," and "Clear Reject" categories. Two further rounds of electronic consultation on the middle papers were carried out by the program committee members until consensus was reached on the final selections. For the first year, authors were given the option of submitting the paper electronically, resulting in 60 of the 80 papers being sent electronically. This highly-positive response would seem to imply that a fully-electronic submission and review process is not far away.

Finally, I would like to thank the many committee members who contributed to the success of this symposium. Foremost, I would like to thank Sanjiv Narayan for his tremendous efforts as both Publicity Chair and Publications Chair. I would also like to thank Loganath Ramachandran and Yu-Chin Hsu for their efforts with finances and poster exhibits. The steering committee members were of great assistance in planning the symposium. Finally, I would like to thank the program committee for their tremendous efforts in reviewing the papers and for a thorough, yet peaceful selection process.

Further ISSS information can be found at: http://www.cs.ucr.edu/isss96, and by joining an email list by sending email to: isss-requests@ics.uci.edu.

Enjoy La Jolla!
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