

Message from the General Co-Chairs

DS-RT 2011

Welcome to the 15th International Symposium on Distributed Simulation and Real-Time Applications (DS-RT 2011), held this year in Salford Quays on the doorstep of Media City UK.

Manchester played a significant part in the industrial revolution. It was home to many achievements, both in science and society, which helped shape our modern world. The mid-20th century saw a decline in Manchester's industrial importance, prompting a depression. More recently the city has been rebranded and significant investment has made it a place of international significance in sport, broadcasting, and higher education. DS-RT will be held in The Lowry art gallery at Salford Quays overlooking MediaCityUK and in sight of Manchester United stadium. Lowry paintings of “matchstick men” against a backdrop of “satanic mills” were iconic representations of the industrial revolution. MediaCityUK is the new home for much of the BBC and part of the University of Salford, and hopes to attract a wealth of media companies.

DS-RT 2011 serves as a forum for simulationists from academia, industry and research labs, for presenting recent research results in Distributed Simulation and Real Time Applications. DS-RT 2011 targets the growing overlap between large distributed simulations and real time applications.

The Symposium prides itself on quality rather than quantity. Maintaining this quality in the face of a rising number of similar events and the pressures on conference participation of the recent financial crises, is a challenge shared with most similar events. We took the decision to be proactive in meeting this challenge by changing the way we attract contributions. This has been tackled through focussing and invitation. DS-RT has this year been focussed into three themes; Distributed Simulation; Virtual and Telepresent Humans; and Military simulation. We have invited more keynotes, panel members and papers.

We are delighted that Steve Turner, Adrian Hilton and Bharat Patel accepted our invitations and will provide keynote talks and Per Gustavsson an invites talk at the symposium. This year the keynotes have been selected for their contribution to the respective themes.

We would like to thank all members of the organising committee who have contributed in many ways to the success of this year's symposium. We are particularly grateful to: Georgios K. Theodoropoulos and Nick Avis the Program Co-Chairs, for their work in organising the technical program; Azzedine Boukerche, our Steering Committee Chair; Norman Murray the Poster Chair, Nathalie Audren Howarth local chair, Priscilla McAndrews and Nick Clark as Web Chairs, and Michael Lees publicity Chair. Special thanks go to Priscilla McAndrews and Steve Turner for significant help and advice beyond the call of duty. Special thanks is also given to Abdulmotaleb El-Saddik for his contribution as Co-program Chair of the conference in previous years.

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