Letter from the General Chairs

Dear Conference Participants:

It is our pleasure to welcome you to San Jose and to the First Joint WOSP/SIPEW International Conference on Performance Engineering, WOSP/SIPEW 2010. This conference is an experiment on the part of two communities with common interests, but with different emphases.

The first Workshop on Software and Performance took place in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1998, sponsored by ACM SIGMETRICS and ACM SIGSOFT. Its mission was to examine the links between traditional performance modeling and software engineering, and to encourage the use of performance engineering in the software engineering community. Over the years, WOSP has provided a platform for discussing a broad set of topics, including but not limited to links between software engineering principles and those of performance engineering, the use of layered queueing networks to predict the performance of software systems, the use of process algebras to describe performance impacts, and the use of UML-based models to predict performance and identify the resource demands of software components.

The System Performance Evaluation Cooperative, now named the Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation (SPEC), was founded in 1988 by a small number of workstation vendors who realized that the marketplace was in desperate need of realistic, standardized performance tests. The key realization was that an ounce of honest data was worth more than a pound of marketing hype. The goal of SPEC is to ensure that the marketplace has a fair and useful set of metrics to differentiate candidate systems. The path chosen is an attempt to balance requiring strict compliance and allowing vendors to demonstrate their advantages. The belief is that a good test that is reasonable to utilize will lead to a greater availability of results in the marketplace. SPEC's basic method is to provide the benchmarker with a standardized suite of source code based upon existing applications that have already been ported to a wide variety of platforms by its membership. The benchmarker then takes this source code, compiles it for the system in question and then can tune the system for the best results. The use of already accepted and ported source code greatly reduces the problem of making apples-to-oranges comparisons.

In 2006 SPEC began holding workshops in conjunction with the annual meeting. In 2008 SPEC was the sponsor of the first SPEC International Performance Engineering Workshop in Darmstadt in June 2008. At around that time, it became clear that the interests of the communities overlapped. Indeed, one of the founders of WOSP (Murray Woodside) was a keynote speaker at SIPEW 2008.

The notion emerged of running a joint international conference to foster the exchange of ideas between the two communities. To reach this point, WOSP's sponsoring organization, ACM (acting in concert with its performance and software engineering special interest groups SIGMETRICS and SIGSOFT) and SPEC had to agree on many matters. We were designated as general chairs to organize this conference to bring the communities together. The sponsoring organizations have different perspectives, traditions, and procedures. ACM's membership consists of individuals in academe, industry, and government worldwide. SPEC's membership consists of industrial organizations and universities. We and our sponsoring organizations have had the pleasure of working together to build a

bridge between the two communities, driven by a common desire to draw on each other's experience, energy, and expertise. The present workshop is the result. We have co-located it with the annual SPEC meeting to maximize the possibilities for the exchange of ideas.

We would like to thank Carlos Juiz and Mark Squillante for chairing the program committee. We would also like to thank the organizing committee for their efforts. Irene Frawley, Ginger Ignatoff, Stephanie Smith, and others at ACM Headquarters provided administrative support, as did Dianne Rice at SPEC. We would like to acknowledge the support and guidance of Prof. Murray Woodside and Dr. Connie Smith on behalf of the WOSP steering committee, and as well as the support and input of Drs. Sam Kounev and Kai Sachs on behalf of SIPEW.

Putting together this conference has been an exciting endeavour and a tremendous opportunity for exchange between our communities. We hope you find your attendance enjoyable and productive.

Alan Adamson
WOSP/SIPEW 2010 General Co-Chair,
For SPEC

André B. Bondi
WOSP/SIPEW 2010 General Co-Chair
For ACM WOSP