



“Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications – I-ESA 07” holds the third edition of its Annual Conference

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Speakers included Cristina Martínez, Howard Mason, Holger Barthel, Reinhard Büscher, Guy Doumeingts, Dan Nagy and Uwe Vieille.

The ATHENA Integrated Project, the INTEROP Network of Excellence, the Enterprise Interoperability Centre and the INTEROP VLab concluded the third edition of the Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications (I-ESA) Conference on March 30 at Hotel Pestana Carlton Madeira in Funchal (Portugal). The Conference had three intensive days of exchange of ideas and presentations about the different aspects of interoperability.

More than 400 people attended the 32 sessions, 12 workshops, 12 tutorials, 16 courses of the School in Interoperability and the PhD symposium. I-ESA' 07 fulfilled its objective of bringing together the world's leading researchers and practitioners in the area of Enterprise Interoperability and e-Business and enable a fruitful exchange of the participants' vision, research and experiences. I-ESA has been successfully shown as a unique forum for the exchange of visions, ideas, research results and industrial experiences, dealing with a wealth of interoperability research subjects for business, enterprise applications and software.

Over 90 papers were presented ranging from academic research through case studies to industrial and administrative experience of interoperability. The international nature of the authorship continues to broaden. Many of the papers had clear examples and illustrations calculated to deepen understanding and generate new ideas.

Sentences such as: “the entire week of events was first class”; “I would like to congratulate the whole team. The I-ESA07 conference was perfect” or “I just wanted to congratulate you for the organisation of such a big event” have been received by the organisers in the last days.

The week was divided in two days of pre-conference with a doctoral symposium, tutorials and workshops, and three days of conference with relevant keynote addressed by different Industrial representatives such as Howard Mason from BAE Systems and Chair of the ISO TC 184 SC4, Holger Barthel from Fraunhofer IPK, Dan Nagy from Intelligent Manufacturing Systems -IMS and Uwe Vieille from UNISYS representing the Open Source Alliance; academics such as Prof. Guy Doumeingts and European Commission representatives such as Cristina Martínez from DG Information Society and Media and Reinhard Büscher from DG Enterprise and Industry. Opened by the ATHENA programme manager Klaus-Dieter Platte, the conference was kicked off by Her Excellence the Regional Ministry of Social Affaires representing His Excellence the President of the Regional Government of Madeira.

In its third edition, I-ESA gathered participants from around the world, including attendees from the five continents. The concurrent meetings of the ISO Technical Committee 184 Sub-Committee 4 and the Europe INNOVA Standard Networks partnership event, allowed participants of both events to take advantage of the others and attend to the different sessions of their interest in any of them.

The week was especially timely and carefully scheduled to have workshops and tutorials on the first two days being those of pre-conference, and the scientific sessions on the last three days. The different papers approved and presented have been gathered in the proceedings book entitled “Enterprise Interoperability II: New Challenges and Approaches”, being the editors Ricardo J.

Gonçalves, Jörg P. Müller, Kai Mertins and Martin Zelm and published by Springer-Verlag London Ltd.

Of particular note was the Panel entitled "Challenges in Interoperability" organised on Thursday that counted with remarkable panellists such as Guy Doumeingts (Univ. Bordeaux 1); Rainer Ruggaber (SAP Research); Cristina Martínez (DG Information Society and Media); Reinhard Büscher (DG Enterprise and Industry); Uwe Vieille (UNISYS-Open Source Alliance); Howard Mason (ISO Technical Committee 184 Sub-Committee 4); Holger Barthel (Fraunhofer IPA); Serge Novaretti (Interoperable Delivery of European eGovernment Services to public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens -IDABC); Johan Witters (Capgemini) and Roger Freisa (BEA Systems). Different discussions took place in the panel and interesting questions raised from the audience. The panel also made a follow up of the activities of the Manufuture technology platform and the European Summit on Interoperability in iGovernment.

The conference awarded the Best Paper and the Best Paper by a Young Researcher that were presented at I-ESA 07. Also, IFIP-International Federation for Information Processing, and more concretely its Technical Committee 5, Information Technology Applications, kindly granted them with 500,00.-€ each of them. The Best Paper Award winners were Manfred Jeusfeld, Per Backlund, Jolita Ralyté by "Classifying Interoperability Problems for a Method Chunk Repository". The Best Paper by a Young Researcher Award winners were: Christoph Schroth, Gregory Pemptroad, Till Janner by "CCTS-based Business Information Modelling for Increasing Cross-Organizational Interoperability".

Also announced at the conference was the celebration of the next edition that will take place in Berlin -Germany-, at the Fraunhofer IPK facilities in 25-28 March 2008. The first day will be focused on pre-conference activities such as workshops and tutorials and the last three days will address the main topics of the conference.

The I-ESA conference series is the result of a cooperation of two very important programmes in the Research and Technological Framework Programme 6 of the European Commission: the Network of Excellence INTEROP "Interoperability Research for Networked Enterprises Applications and Software" (IST-508011. <http://www.interop-noe.org>) and the Integrated Project ATHENA "Advanced Technologies for Interoperability of Heterogeneous Enterprise Networks and their Applications" (IST-507849. <http://www.athena-ip.org>). The Enterprise Interoperability Centre – EIC (<http://new.eic-community.org>) and the INTEROP VLab (<http://www.interop-noe.org>) will carry on from now on with the organisation of the Conference.

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