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Preface

This book contains the proceedings of the Fourth International Workshop on Product Family Engineering, PFE-4, held in Bilbao, Spain, October 3–5, 2001. This workshop was the fourth in a series started in 1996, with the same subject, software product-family engineering. Proceedings of the second and third workshops have been published as LNCS 1429 and LNCS 1951.

The workshops were organized within co-operation projects of European Industry, the first two by ARES (Esprit IV 20.477) 1995–1999. This project had three industrial and three academic partners, and focused on software architectures for product families. Some of the partners continued in ITEA project 99005, ESAPS (1999–2001). ITEA is the software development program (Σ! 2023) within the European Eureka initiative. ITEA projects last for two years and ESAPS was succeeded by CAFÉ (ITEA ip00004), which started in 2001 and will terminate in 2003. This workshop was initially prepared within ESAPS and the preparation continued in CAFÉ.

Due to the attacks in the USA of September 11, several people were not able to fly and therefore did not show up. However, we have included their submissions in these proceedings. The session chair presented these submissions, and their inputs were used during the discussions.

It was planned that Henk Obbink be workshop chair, and Linda Northrop and Sergio Bandinelli be co-chairs. However, because of personal circumstances Henk Obbink was not able to leave home during the workshop. Moreover both co-chairs had already enough other duties. Therefore the chairing duties were taken over by the program chair, Frank van der Linden.

The program committee was recruited from a collection of people that had shown interest in the workshop on earlier occasions:

Felix Bachmann	Jean-Marc DeBaud	Robert Nord
Sergio Bandinelli	André van den Hoek	Henk Obbink
Len Bass	David Weiss	Dewayne Perry
Don Batory	Jean Jourdan	Alex Ran
Joe Bauman	Juha Kuusela	Klaus Schmid
Günter Böckle	Philippe Kruchten	Steffen Thiel
Jan Bosch	Frank van der Linden	
Paul Clements	Nenad Medvidovic	

The meeting place was again excellent. The weather was fine for the time of the year, and the beaches were near. The city of Bilbao, hosting the Guggenheim museum, and the surrounding countryside is very pleasant. Pablo Ferrer of ESI in Bilbao was responsible for the local organization, which was done perfectly.

The participants were satisfied with the workshop itself. In the future we see a collection of events to exchange ideas about product families. For instance

conferences, workshops, and special issues of journals are planned. However, the community still feels a need for PFE workshops, and we plan to have the next PFE workshop in 2 years' time, somewhere in Italy.

January 2002 Frank van der Linden

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