

Michel Gauthier (Ed.)

# Ada - Europe '93

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## Preface

Ada is now ten years old, though this is the twelfth of the Ada-Europe conferences, and dozens of years are generally considered to be special moments. It is the great pleasure of Ada-France to organise the conference again, after 1984. That was the first that could tell of real programs written and compiled in the one-year-old language, and this is now almost the last before the new standard. But, of course, this is still a future issue

I feel a need to apologise about the French name "Ada sans frontières". The board debated for some time about our initial proposition, which included of course the starting idea of unlimitedness, but the final name was proposed by English members. Apart from the acknowledgement of various French contributions, we hope that these French words, the only ones in the book, can become the symbol of more and more opening, novelty, and Europe-wide attendance to Ada.

We did not receive as many propositions as we could have hoped for, but the programme committee could find contributions of very high quality and interest. I may say that every paper has been refereed by three to five people, and that a fair and relevant choice could be made, leading to a well balanced conference, where every day has a well identified main topic.

May I emphasise on the second paper? This company built a one-million-line set of software products that could be ported on many machines running under many operating systems, and compiled by many compilers. As far as I know, the symbol of all the trouble they have gone to is that some systems use normal slashes and others use backslashes to separate directory names. It might be a side effect of an especially high capability in the company, but I prefer to view it as a direct effect of the qualities of Ada.

As the reader may suppose, many papers relate to Ada 9X, the new standard that the community is close to achieving after a world-wide consultation and debate about requirements, specifications, and now detailed definition. Management, real-time, and compiler validation are focused on.

It was of course bound to happen that a part of the conference includes object-orientation, but it is not the entire subject of this second part, where various issues are studied, all related to the general structures of the language, from exceptions to a certain use of genericity and heterogeneous data, from efficiency to formal requirements and CASEs, and, last, but not least, to a comparison with a competitor language.

The third part relates to real-time, past with performance measurement, present with certification and applications, and future with the ExTRA project and 9X. In particular, is Ada really suitable for real-time applications? It is of course an old question, but answers can still be refined.

It is not easy not to forget anybody in an acknowledgement, and I prefer to do it in a general way. Many people contributed to the refereeing process, which converged to a programme committee with Lars Asplund (Uppsala University, Sweden), John Barnes (consultant, Ada-Europe president, U.K.), Jan van Katwijk (Delft University, The Netherlands), Anton Leere (Defence Research Institute, Norway), Jean-Pierre Rosen (consultant, Ada-France president, France), and of course myself (Limoges University, France). All these people contributed greatly to building this conference, and I owe many thanks to them.

My university indirectly took part in preparing this conference through photocopies, faxes, and acceptance of the many days that I spent chairing the programme committee, and not doing my ordinary task.

Corinne Sweeney had the tedious final task of implementing the last details, like numbering the pages and building the table of contents. Have a kind thought for her.

April 1993

Michel Gauthier  
Programme chairman  
Ada-France vice chairman

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