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Product-Focused Software Process Improvement

9th International Conference, PROFES 2008
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Proceedings

Springer

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Preface

On behalf of the PROFES Organizing Committee, we are proud to present to you the proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Product-Focused Software Process Improvement (PROFES 2008) held in Frascati - Monteporzio Catone, Rome, Italy.

Since 1999, PROFES has established itself as one of the recognized international process improvement conferences. The main theme of PROFES is professional software process improvement (SPI) motivated by product and service quality needs. Focussing on a product to be developed, PROFES 2008 addressed both quality engineering and management topics including processes, methods, techniques, tools, organizations, and enabling SPI. Both solutions found in practice and the relevant research results from academia were presented.

Domains such as the automotive and mobile applications industry are growing rapidly, resulting in a strong need for professional development and improvement. Nowadays, the majority of embedded software is developed in collaboration, and distribution of embedded software development continues to increase. Thus, PROFES 2008 addressed different development modes, roles in the value chain, stakeholders' viewpoints, collaborative development, as well as economic and quality aspects. Agile development was included again as one of the themes.

Since the beginning of the series of PROFES conferences, the purpose has been to bring to light the most recent findings and novel results in the area of process improvement, and to stimulate discussion among researchers, experienced professionals, and technology providers from around the world.

The technical program was selected by a committee of leading experts in software process improvement, software process modeling, and empirical software engineering research. This year, 61 papers from 23 nations were submitted, with each paper receiving at least three reviewers. After thorough evaluation, the Program Committee selected 31 technical full papers. The topics addressed in these papers indicate that SPI is still a vibrant research discipline, but is also of high interest for the industry; many papers report on case studies or SPI-related experience gained in industry.

The technical program consisted of the tracks quality and measurement, cost estimation, capability and maturity models, lessons learned and best practices, software process improvement, systems and software quality, and agile software development.

We were proud to have three keynote speakers, Antonia Bertolini, Kurt Schneider, and Horst Degen-Hientz. Interesting tutorials and workshops were co-located with PROFES 2008.

We are thankful for the opportunity to have served as Program Co-chairs for this conference. The Program Committee members and reviewers provided excellent support in reviewing the papers. We are also grateful to the authors, presenters, and Session Chairs for their time and effort in making PROFES 2008 a success. The General Chair, Frank Bomarius, and the Steering Committee provided excellent guidance. We wish to thank Fraunhofer IESE, the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, and University of Rome Tor Vergata for supporting the conference. We are also grateful to the authors for high-quality papers, the Program Committee for their hard work in

reviewing the papers, and the Organizing Committee for making the event possible. In addition, we sincerely thank Frank Bomarius for his work as a General Chair of PROFES 2008. Last, but not least, many thanks to Giovanni Cantone and his team at University of Rome Tor Vergata for the local organization of this conference and the maintenance of the PROFES 2008 website, and Sonnhild Namingha and Isabelle Schlitzer at Fraunhofer IESE for her support in copyediting this volume.

June 2008

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