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Preface

After the huge success of the first German Conference on Multiagent System Technologies (MATES) last year in Erfurt the German Special Interest Group on Distributed Artificial Intelligence together with the steering committee of MATES proudly organized and conducted this international conference for the second time.

The goal of the MATES conference is to constitute a high-quality platform for the presentation and discussion of new research results and system developments. It provides an interdisciplinary forum for researchers, users, and developers, to present and discuss the latest advances in research work, as well as prototyped or fielded systems of intelligent agents. The conference covers the complete range from theory to application of agent and multiagent technologies.

MATES 2004 was conducted

- as an integral part of the 5th International Conference Net.Object Days 2004 along with the
- 8th International Workshop on Cooperative Information Agents (CIA) 2004
- Autumn meeting of FIPA (Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents)
- Prototype and Product Exhibition of Agent Related Platforms, Frameworks, Systems, Applications, and Tools

As such all these events together may have formed the biggest agent-related event of this year in Europe and one of the biggest worldwide.

The call-for-papers attracted about 60 submissions from all over the world. After a careful reviewing process, the international program committee accepted 22 high-quality papers of particular relevance and quality. The selected contributions cover a wide range of exciting topics, in particular agent analysis and security, agent negotiation and control, agents and software engineering, simulation and agents, and agent policies and testing. Exciting highlights of the conference were the invited talks, by Jim Odell on *Agent UML 2.0: Too Radical or Not Radical Enough?*, and Cristiano Castelfranchi on *Emergence and Cognition: Towards a Synthetic Paradigm in AI and Cognitive Science*. Moreover, several agent-related tutorials were conducted.

As editors of this volume, we would like to thank all the authors for their contributions and, especially, the program committee members and the external reviewers who sacrificed their valuable time to review the papers. Their careful, critical, and thoughtful reviews helped not only the authors but also us in putting together a truly convincing program.

There were also some sponsors that helped to conduct this conference in these difficult times. Our highest gratitude goes to the Ministry for Business, Work, and Infrastructure of the state Thuringia (Thüringer Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Infrastruktur), which provided all the support needed to conduct such a big and successful event. A big supporter of MATES was also the Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents (FIPA), which not only sponsored

this event but also conducted its 2004 autumn meeting in Erfurt at the same time as MATES and Net.ObjectDays.

We would also like to thank Alfred Hofmann from Springer for his support and cooperation in putting this volume together.

Calgary, Berlin, Bremen, Essen
July 2004

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