Welcome to this issue of Ada Letters. In this issue you will find Advance Program of SIGAda 2009 annual international conference with emphasis on Engineering Safe, Secure, and Reliable Software.

This issue consists of an interesting paper SystemAda: An Ada Based System-Level Hardware Description Language by Negin Mahani, Parnian Mokri, Mahshid Sedghi, and Zainalabedin Navabi. The paper reiterates that inherent concurrency of Ada, makes this language a good candidate for design and description of modern electronic systems. The regular Ada Letters contributor, Trudy Levine in paper “Ada for the Control of Degradation of Service” examines degradations of service in terms of constructs of the Ada programming language that are effective for their control and deployment. With the growth of hard real-time systems, wireless networks, and multimedia applications, a comprehensive understanding of service degradations and their usage has become ever more important. Well known to the community, J-P. Rosen in his paper “The Ada paradox(es)” attest that at a time where many people view Ada as a language of the past, it will be the language of future. Ada came too early, at a time when compiler technology was not able to support such a large language. Technical Editor Pat Rogers has again compiled another list of selected AdaCore developed Ada 2005 Gems published in this issue.

SIGAda 2009 Conference on Ada and Related Technologies: Engineering Safe, Secure, and Reliable Software will be held from November 1-5 at Tampa Bay, Florida and 15th International Conference on Reliable Software Technologies - Ada-Europe 2010 to be held from 14-18 June 2010 in Valencia, Spain. The next International Real-Time Ada Workshop IRTAW- 14 will be held from October 7-9, 2009 in Portovenere, Italy open to attendees who have submitted the papers. These conferences provide great opportunities to learn more about what is in the new revision of the Ada language, and how implementations of Ada 2005 are accomplished, as well as other research and industry uses of Ada.

This year’s SIGAda 2009 brings a vast range of Tutorials, Technical Papers and Keynote speeches by

- Richard Schmidt, a key software architect with the Lockheed Martin. He leads a group responsible for developing infrastructure and middleware solutions for the highly available, reliable, safety-critical systems and has a deep interest in reliable communications, full life-cycle problem determination, software fault-tolerance, automated testing, and software reuse through proper abstraction and cross language applications.

- John Knight is a professor of computer science at the University of Virginia. Prior to joining the University of Virginia in 1981, he was with NASA’s Langley Research Center. Dr. Knight’s research interests are in software dependability and security. From 2001 to 2005 Dr. Knight served as Editor in Chief of the IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, and he is a member of the editorial board of the Empirical Software Engineering Journal.

- Dr. J. C. Smart is the Chief Technology Officer for the Intelligence and Information Systems business division at Raytheon responsible for managing advanced technology research and development for Intelligence Community and Homeland Defense/Security customers. Prior to joining Raytheon, Dr. Smart served as the Senior Technical Director of the National Security Operations Center at the National Security Agency.

I am sure you will find the value to attend the ACM SIGAda 2009 conference, excellent.

Ada Letters is a great place to submit articles on your experiences with the language revision, tips on how to do things with the new language features, as well as to describe success stories using Ada. We’ll look forward to your submission. You can submit either a MS Word or Adobe PDF file (with 1” margins and no page numbers) to our technical editor:

Pat Rogers, Ph.D.
AdaCore, 207 Charleston, Friendswood, TX 77546 (USA)
+1 281 648 3165, rogers@adacore.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Alok Srivastava, Ph.D.
Northrop Grumman Corporation
475 School St, SW; Washington, DC 20024 (USA)
+1 202 314 1419 Alok.Srivastava@auatac.com
Editorial Policy (from Alok Srivastava, Managing Editor)

As the editor of Ada Letters, I’d like to thank you for your continued support of ACM SIGAda, and encourage you to submit articles for publication. In addition, if there is some way we can make Ada Letters more useful to you, please let me know. Note that Ada Letters is now on the web! See http://www.acm.org/sigada/ada_letters/index.html. The two newest issues are available only to SIGAda members. Older issues beginning March 2000 are available to all.

Now that Ada is standing on its own merits without the support of the DoD, lots of people and organizations have stepped up to provide new tools, mechanisms for compiler validation/assessment, and standards (especially ASIS). The Ada 2005 language version is fulfilling the market demand of robust safety and security elements and thereby generating a new enthusiasm into the software development. Ada Letters is a venue for you to share your successes and ideas with others in the Ada community. Be sure to take advantage of it so that we can all benefit from each other’s learning and experience.

As some of the other ACM Special Interest Group periodicals have moved, Ada Letters also transitioned from quarterly to a tri-annual publication. With exception of special issues, Ada Letters now is going to be published three times a year, with the exception of special issues. The revised schedules and submission deadlines are as follows:

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Please send your article to Dr. Pat Rogers at rogers@adacore.com

Guidelines for Authors
Letters, announcements and book reviews should be sent directly to the Managing Editor and will normally appear in the next corresponding issue.

Proposed articles are to be submitted to the Technical Editor. Any article will be considered for publication, provided that topic is of interest to the SIGAda membership. Previously published articles are welcome, provided the previous publisher or copyright holder grants permission. In particular, keeping with the theme of recent SIGAda conferences, we are interested in submissions that demonstrate that “Ada Works.” For example, a description of how Ada helped you with a particular project or a description of how to solve a task in Ada are suitable.

Although Ada Letters is not a refereed publication, acceptance is subject to the review and discretion of the Technical Editor. In order to appear in a particular issue, articles must be submitted far enough in advance of the deadline to allow for review/edit cycles. Backlogs may result in an article's being delayed for two or more issues. Contact the Managing Editor for information on the current publishing queue.

Articles should be submitted electronically in one of the following formats: MS Word (preferred) Postscript, or Adobe Acrobat. All submissions must be formatted for US Letter paper (8.5” x 11”) with one inch margins on each side (for a total print area of 6.5” x 9”) with no page
numbers, headers or footers. Full justification of text is preferred, with proportional font (preferably Times New Roman, or equivalent) of no less than 10 points. Code insertions should be presented in a non-proportional font such as Courier.

The title should be centered, followed by author information (also centered). The author's name, organization name and address, telephone number, and e-mail address should be given. For previously published articles, please give an introductory statement (in a distinctive font) or a footnote on the first page identifying the previous publication. ACM is improving member services by creating an electronic library of all of its publications. Read the following for how this affects your submissions.

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KEY CONTACTS

Technical Editor
Send your book reviews, letters, and articles to:

Pat Rogers
AdaCore
207 Charleston
Friendswood, TX 77546
+1-281-648 3165
Email: rogers@adacore.com

Managing Editor
Send announcements and short notices to:

Alok Srivastava
Northrop Grumman
475 School Street, SW
Washington DC 20024
+1-202-314-1419
Email: Alok.Srivastava@auatac.com

Advertising
Send advertisements to:

William Kooney
Advertising/Sales Account Executive
2 Penn Plaza, Suite 701
New York, NY 10121-0701
Phone: +1-212-869-7440
Fax: +1-212-869-0481

Local SIGAda Matters
Send Local SIGAda related matters to:

Greg Gicca
AdaCore
1849 Briland Street
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689, USA
Phone: +1-646-375-0734
Fax: +1-727-944-5197
Email: Gicca@AdaCore.Com

Ada CASE and Design Language Developers
Matrix
Send ADL and CASE product Info to:

Judy Kerner
The Aerospace Corporation
Mail Stop M8/117
P.O. Box 92957
Los Angeles, CA 90009
+1-310-336-3131
Email: kerner@aero.org

Ada Around the World
Send Foreign Ada organization info to:

Dirk Craeynest
c/o K.U.Leuven, Dept. of Computer Science,
Celestijnenlaan 200-A, B-3001 Leuven (Heverlee)
Belgium
Email: Dirk.Craeynest@cs.kuleuven.be

Reusable Software Components
Send info on reusable software to:

Trudy Levine
Computer Science Department
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Teaneck, NJ 07666
+1-201-692-2000
Email: levine@alpha.fdu.edu
SIGAda Working Group (WG) Chairs
See http://www.acm.org/sigada/ for most up-to-date information

**Ada Application Programming Interfaces WG**
Geoff Smith
Lightfleet Corporation
4800 NW Camas Meadows Drive
Camas, WA 98607
Phone: +1-503-816-1983
Fax: +1-360-816-5750
Email: gsmith@lightfleet.com

**Ada Semantic Interface Specification WG**
http://www.acm.org/sigada/wg/asiswg/asiswg.html
Bill Thomas
The MITRE Corp
7515 Colshire Drive
McLean, VA 22102-7508
Phone: +1-703-983-6159
Fax: +1-703-983-1339
Email: BThomas@MITRE.Org

**Education WG**
http://www.sigada.org/wg/eduwg/eduwg.html
Mike Feldman
420 N.W. 11th Ave., #915
Portland, OR 97209-2970
Email: MFeldman@seas.gwu.edu

**Standards WG**
Robert Dewar
73 5th Ave.
New York, NY 10003
Phone: +1-212-741-0957
Fax: +1-232-242-3722
Email: dewar@cs.nyu.edu
Ada Around the World
(National Ada Organizations)
From: http://www.ada-europe.org/members.html

Ada-Europe
Tullio Vardanega
University of Padua
Department of Pure and Applied Mathematics
Via Trieste 63
I-35121, Padova, Italy
Phone: +39-049-827-1359
Fax: +39-049-827-1444
E-mail: tullio.vardanega@math.unipd.it
http://www.ada-europe.org/

Ada-Belgium
Dirk Craeynest
C/o K.U.Leuven, Dept. of Computer Science, Celestijnenlaan 200-A, B-3001 Leuven (Heverlee), Belgium
Phone: +32-2-725 40 25
Fax: +32-2-725 40 12
E-mail: Dirk.Craeynest@cs.kuleuven.be

Ada in Denmark
Jørgen Bundgaard
E-mail: Info at Ada-DK.org
http://www.ada-DK.org/

Ada-Deutschland
Peter Dencker, Steinackerstr. 25
D-76275 Ettlingen-Spessartt, Germany
E-mail: dencker@parasoft.de
http://www.ada-deutschland.de/

Ada-France
Association Ada-France
c/o Jérôme Hugues
Département Informatique et Réseau
École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications, 46, rue Barrault
75634 Paris Cedex 135, France
E-mail: bureau@ada-france.org
http://www.ada-france.org/

Ada Spain
J. Javier Gutiérrez
P.O. Box 50.403
E-28080 Madrid, Spain
Phone: +34-942-201394
Fax: +34-942-201402
E-mail: gutierjj@unican.es
http://www.adaspain.org/

Ada in Sweden
Rei Stråhle
Box Saab Systems
S:t Olofsgatan 9A
SE-753 21 Uppsala, Sweden
Phone: +46-73-437-7124
Fax: +46-85-808-7260
E-mail: Rei.Strahle@saabgroup.com
http://www.ada-i-sverige.se/

Ada in Switzerland
Ahlan Marriott
White Elephant GmbH
Postfach 327
CH-8450 Andelfingen, Switzerland
Phone: +41 52 624 2939
Fax: +41 52 624 2334
E-mail: ada@white-elephant.ch
http://www.ada-switzerland.org/

Italy
Contact: tullio.vardanega@math.unipd.it

Ada-Europe Secretariat
E-mail: secretariat@ada-europe.org