

## This was EUROSIM'95

In this issue of EUROSIM - Simulation News Europe we have tried to summarize the outcome of the EUROSIM '95 Congress in Vienna (September 11 to 15, 1995) under different aspects. There are scientific results, facts and numbers, impressions, and personal views.

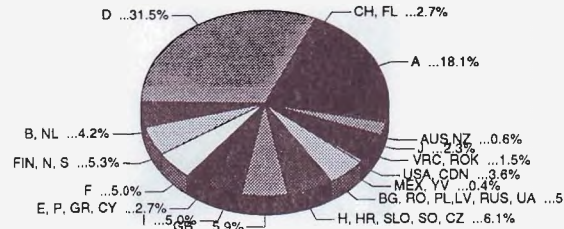
For the scientific programme we have introduced a new kind of organized sessions, the so-called "Special Interest Sessions". The idea was that the organizer (chairperson) not only suggests and collects contributions but also that at the end of each session a summarizing discussion takes place and a report is provided. This issue presents two session reports "Simulation in Mechatronics and Computational Mechanics" and "VHDL-A, A Standard Modeling Language for Simulation?". The summary by Mr. Ecker shows that in Mechatronics and Computational Mechanics there is a new view of simulation tools and methods: people "living" in the domain between 1 Hz and 1 KHz meet people simulating from 1 KHz on. The Industry Session organized by Mrs. Bausch-Gall discussed in detail the up-to-date question of model exchange and the question whether AHDL is a new common denominator in modelling and simulation. This series of reports will be continued in the next issues of SNE.

Also the Poster Session was new to European simulation congresses. Posters were on display during the entire congress, on Thursday afternoon a special Poster Session took place, with a Best Poster Award. This award became a big competition because some of the posters were of outstanding quality (see also page 13).

From the reactions from the participants which we heard during and after the Congress we gather that EUROSIM '95 was a very informative event for the simulation society. People also enjoyed the atmosphere of Vienna during the mild autumn days and the social events of the congress. But it is difficult for us to judge about the congress, being the organizers. Therefore we have to thank especially D. Murray-Smith for writing a personal report on this congress for us (see next page).

The Congress turned out to be a much larger event than we had expected. Therefore the organizers were put under considerable stress during the last seven months before the congress. We would like to thank everybody who helped with organizing this congress, especially our staff members (ARGESIM staff) and our congress helpers (see also their personal report).

**Some numbers and facts: 480 participants** attended the congress, they were from **41 countries**. The figure shows that most of them came from the ASIM area. Some came from very far, at least one from each continent. 55 of the participants were students. The participation of most of the people from the reform countries has been supported financially by special funds.



459 abstracts for presentations have been submitted. The **Proceedings** (1356 pages) and Late Paper Volume (111 pages) contain **240 contributions**, 410 copies of the Proceedings have been distributed. The Proceedings of the Session "**Software Tools and Products**" present **37 papers** (163 pages). The presentations were held on four days in seven parallel sessions. The session chairpersons suggested 50 papers for publication in SIM-PRA and MMS (extended versions). **113 Posters** were on display.

During the **preparation** we mailed about **25000 flyers**, our database contains about **1000 addresses**. We sent and received **several hundred email** messages and counted about **3500 contacts** to our WWW server from outside.

More than **30 persons** belonged to our **staff**, some of them you may find on the following photo:



Finally, photos may tell more than a thousand words, so please have a look at the cover page and at page 10 to get some impressions.

*F. Breitenecker, I. Husinsky*



**EUROSIM CONGRESS '95 VIENNA September 11 - 15**



## EUROSIM CONGRESS '95 - A Personal View

The EUROSIM Simulation Congress took place at the Technical University of Vienna during the period 11-15 September 1995. The Congress programme included presentations on many aspects of computer simulation methodology and a very wide range of applications.

EUROSIM '95 was the largest conference which the EUROSIM federation has organised, with a total of 480 registered participants from all parts of Europe and from many countries much further away. The Congress on this occasion was organised on behalf of EUROSIM by ASIM (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Simulation*), the German speaking simulation society, in cooperation with the other EUROSIM member societies and a number of co-sponsoring societies and organisations.

Vienna is a splendid conference venue and the scene was set for those attending EUROSIM '95 by the excellent Welcome Party which took place at a wine cellar close to the Technical University on the first evening. Much wine was consumed and many friendships were established or renewed that evening. The Opening Session the following morning (see next photo) provided more opportunities to learn about the Viennese way of life.



After the formalities of the opening ceremony - welcome addresses of the organizers, Prof. F. Breitenacker and Mrs. I. Husinsky, and of Prof. Stachelberger, Dean of the Faculty for Technical and Natural Sciences - the audience were given an excellent guided tour of the city and its surroundings by Professor Dr. Inge Troch using some of her own beautiful photographs and accompanied by a zither group playing themes from "The Third Man" as well as some more traditional music from Vienna.

The professionalism of the Opening Session carried over to the technical sessions which involved plenary sessions based on invited lectures, some special lectures

on topics of particular interest and a large number of parallel sessions involving up to seven lecture theatres simultaneously. Session chairpersons had been instructed to keep strictly to the schedule and they succeeded in controlling both the speakers and those involved in discussion in a very effective fashion. The precise control of the parallel sessions contributed considerably to the success of the Congress in my view. Sessions started on time and finished on time and the participants were able to move between parallel sessions with relative ease.

One interesting feature of the EUROSIM '95 programme was the inclusion of a poster session for which a period of more than two hours was allowed. Participants were served with glasses of the specially selected *Grüner Veltliner* Congress Wine and other refreshments while walking round the poster and exhibition areas. It is clear that much useful discussion took place and I suspect that the quality of the discussion improved steadily as the afternoon progressed and more and more wine was consumed. Many of the poster displays were of a very high standard.

A *Heurigen* evening held in the open air on the outskirts of the city at the end of the first full day of the Congress was a great success. It also provided an opportunity for all concerned to test their abilities to use the public transport system. Equipped with passes for the underground, trains and buses all 480 of us were let loose on the city at the Technical University and re-appeared, as if by magic, at the *Heurigen* which was quite a few kilometers away by a journey involving at least two of the three possible modes of transport. I am sure that detailed monitoring of our arrival times could have provided a basis for some fascinating simulation studies, aimed at deducing the actual routes taken! However, at the time, no-one was admitting to having had any problems at all and certainly, by the end of the week, everyone was full of praise for the excellent transport facilities in and around the city.



Another important social event took place on the Wednesday evening. This was an organ and choral concert at the Church of St. Michael. The *Wiener Sän-*

*gerrunde* was conducted by Karl-Hans Strassl and the organist was Thomas Preisz. The concert included works by Bach, Beethoven, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Mozart. The concert showed, that simulationists may be also excellent in music: the organist and some members of the chorus are PhD students in simulation technique. The audience listened concentrated to the music. The photo above also shows that the church was full to the last seat.

On Thursday evening there was a reception by the Mayor followed by the Conference Dinner, both at the Rathaus. This proved to be a very appropriate and impressive location for the highlight of the social programme and provided an opportunity for the EURO-SIM umbrella to be handed over from the Past President Prof. F. Breitenecker to the new EUROSIM President Dr. Kaj Juslin. This tradition was established in 1989 at the European Simulation Congress in Edinburgh when, much to my surprise, I was presented with an umbrella signed by representatives of all the European simulation societies existing at that time. This was to celebrate the successful outcome of talks concerning the creation of the EUROSIM federation. An umbrella was again used at the EUROSIM Congress in Capri in 1992 to mark the transfer of the EUROSIM presidency and it was good to see the tradition continuing this year in Vienna.

Unfortunately all good things come to an end eventually and it was with some sadness, perhaps, that those who remained in Vienna on the final afternoon of the Congress gathered together in the *Cafe Schrödinger* for the Closing Party. After a hard week people could relax, having a beer from the cask and a Gulyas soup (see next photo). It is said that some participants and some staff members finished the Closing Party on Saturday.



Another attraction for participants was the *Café Simulation* in the congress area where "real" coffee (Espresso, Melange), the Congress Wine and snacks could be enjoyed.



In the *Café Simulation* scientific discussions took place, vendors could get into contact with customers, and one could meet old friends.

By the way, it was a very nice idea that every participant could get a bottle of the Congress Wine to take home.

Over 280 papers had been presented at the Congress and most of these were included in the Congress Proceedings [1], a massive volume of 1356 pages, in the Late paper Volume and in the Proceedings of the Session on "Software Tools and Products", abstracts of the 113 posters are published in the Poster Book (ARGESIM reports, see page 14). Many useful discussions had taken place in the formal sessions, at the poster displays, at the exhibition stands, informally in the corridors, at the social events or at the excellent *Café Simulation*.

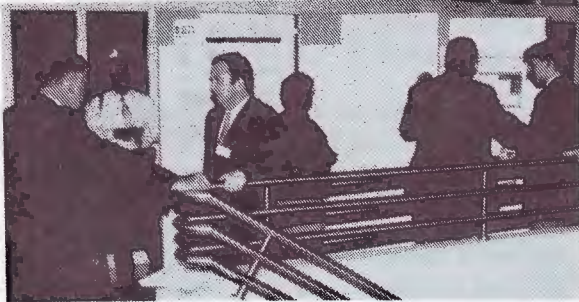
Although the Congress turned out to be a much larger event than expected, the local team led by Prof. Dr. Felix Breitenecker and Mrs. Irmgard Husinsky ensured that the organization was of the very highest quality. All of the Congress staff and helpers are to be congratulated for their hard work and for making their conference such an interesting and pleasant one to attend. Particular mention should also be made of Dr. Manfred Salzmann who had special responsibilities within the Local Organization Committee. Manfred is a dynamic system in every sense and managed to deal calmly and efficiently with every minor difficulty as soon as it arose while simultaneously finding time to exchange jokes with those around him and keep the whole organization one step ahead of any real problems. I am sure that local organization committees for many other conferences could learn much by studying how it was done at EUROSIM '95.

*David Murray-Smith*

[1] EUROSIM '95 Simulation Congress"  
Edited by F. Breitenecker and I. Husinsky, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1995 (ISBN: 044482241 0)

## Poster-Award EUROSIM '95

113 Posters, on display from Monday to Friday, showed a broad spectrum of applications and methodology. During the Poster Session on Thursday, with no other sessions in parallel, participants were invited to inform themselves on the posters in walking around in the poster/exhibition area, where the authors gave explanations.



Refreshments, snacks and the Congress Wine were served in order to stimulate discussions.

The visitors of the Poster Session were invited to select the best posters. As some of the posters were of outstanding quality the award became a big competition. The congress helpers collected the ballots in time (see next photo), so that the three winners could be announced in the evening at the congress dinner.



### The Winners are:

1. Simulation in the Planning of Construction Operations. Sagert P., Mansson U., Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden
2. Modelling and Optimization of Carbon and Nitrogen Elimination. Vogelpohl A., Sievers M., Möller D.P.F., Bracio B.R., Jungblut J., CUTEC and Technical University of Clausthal, Germany
3. Object-Oriented Approach for Modelizing Discrete Event Systems. Muhlenbach L. Wendling S., Laboratoire d'Informatique de Sévenans, Belfort, France

The three winners received a one-year subscription to the journal "Simulation Practice and Theory". Also three winners of a one-year subscription of "Simulation Practice and Theory" have been drawn from the visitors who took part in the selection of the best poster, they are: Jukka Toukonen, ABB Corporate Research, Finland; Liliana Oprea, Technical University of Timisoara, Romania; Marko Gerbec, Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

## Report from a Congress Helper

About 20 students from the high school "BORG Wiener Neustadt" had the possibility to help at the "EUROSIM Simulation Congress" at the Technical University of Vienna from Sept. 11th to Sept. 15th. The "EUROSIM '95" was concerned with all aspects of computer simulation methodology and application.

While talking with participants from all over the world we were able to practise English and we got a better view of people from other countries. With our blue name-badges we stood recognisable along the corridors of the building to help participants find the right lecture-halls and trying to answer their questions. We often found ourselves in unexpected and funny situations but most of the time we found a solution or at least another person who could help.

Apart from copying and washing the dishes (for the *Café Simulation*, where we could rest in the breaks, see photo) we sat in lecture-halls watching the time exactly to stop the speakers and we also tried to help which meant slipping out of the last row and giving the speaker in the front a piece of chalk which lay beside him.



Although we haven't met the other members of the staff before, we were soon accepted and became part of a good working team. Participating in the evening events was always amusing for us.

When looking back I come to the decision that these were interesting days with lots of experiences you never get at school.

*Alexandra Tobler*

P.S.: The organizers would like to thank Mr. Wiesbauer, director of the BORG, Mrs. Lechner, English teacher, and Mr. Fischer, teacher for Computer Science, for their support.