Welcome to the SIGCOMM 2003 Data Communications Festival in Karlsruhe, Germany!

This year’s SIGCOMM is hosted in a typical German town: Karlsruhe, a multifaceted vibrant and friendly city. Karlsruhe, population 425,000, was founded in 1715 and is located in the famous Rhine Basin in the South of Germany at the borders of the beautiful Black Forest close to France. Overall this region has more days of sunshine than any other German city. The highlight of the 2003 social program gives you a chance to explore one of the world-famous castle and the picturesque old town of Heidelberg. The conference is hosted by the University of Karlsruhe, the oldest Technical University in Germany. We appreciate the generosity of our host as well as the corporate sponsors of the conference: Intel Research, and Microsoft Research, Cambridge.

This year’s Conference broadens the traditional scope of the annual SIGCOMM conference in a number of ways: an expanded technical program including position papers exploring various viewpoints and a poster session showcasing work-in-progress; a set of six workshops and two tutorials that are interleaved with the technical conference to encourage participation by a broad set of attendees. Five workshops are held for the first time, covering networking research (MoMe Tools and NREDS), future architectures (FDNA), network – I/O convergence (NICEli), and a QoS retrospective (RIPOs). The highly successful education workshop (NetEd) returns for a second year. Tutorials given by renowned experts cover network security and self-similar traffic.

This exciting week would not have been possible without the extensive effort by many individual volunteers. We thank the technical program committee, headed by Jon Crowcroft and David Wetherall, for choosing “significantly” more papers, diversifying the topic set while balancing theory and practice. Our special thanks go to the Poster Session committee, chaired by Karen Sollins, for once again putting together an excellent Poster session, Burkhard Stiller for the fine tutorial program, and Craig Partridge for encouraging such a diverse and intriguing set of workshops. Furthermore we highly appreciate all the efforts of the workshop chairs, Georg Carle, Hartmut Ritter, Klaus Wehrle, Shawn Ostermann, Karen Sollins, Allyn Romanow, Jeff Mogul, John Wroclawski, Grenville Armitage and their program committees in realizing the data communication festival.

Once again ACM SIGCOMM is encouraging students to participate by providing a forum for displaying their current work, at the conference, the poster session, and/or the various workshops, and by reduced registration fees. The generous support of the National Science Foundation, HP Labs, and NEC Heidelberg made this year’s student travel grant program reasonable. Our thanks for fund raising and student selection go to Dan Rubinstein and his committee.

The logistics of the conference would not have been possible without several people who have worked extremely hard: Steffen Blüdt, Alexander Lüdtke, and Marcus Schöller, who handle the local organization and Web pages, Thomas Fuhrmann, who ensures that we only spend what we have, James Sterbenz for the publicity, Robin Sommer for putting together the Advanced Program, Philipp Walter for the great logo, and Erin Dolan from ACM SIGCOMM for helping with the conference management, and all student volunteers from the Universität Karlsruhe and the Technische Universität München. Our special thanks go to Chris Edmondson-Yurkanan and Craig Partridge for their tremendous help and efforts in making the Data Communication Festival in Karlsruhe a reality as well as for serving as the collective SIGCOMM memory.

We hope that you will feel at home in Karlsruhe and have a chance to not just enjoy the various Festival activities but also to explore the various local and nearby attractions and sample the great food, excellent beers and pleasant wines.

Thank you for joining us at SIGCOMM 2003!

Anja Feldmann & Martina Zitterbart
General Co-chairs
ACM SIGCOMM’03 Conference