



PREFACE

You are very welcome to the Eighth Annual Conference of the European Spreadsheet Risks Interest Group.

Our contributors this year are from Australia, Canada, Ireland, the UK, and the USA.

This year's theme is "Enterprise Spreadsheet Management – a Necessary Evil?" This theme reflects the greater grip of regulation and the equal and opposite reaction of corporations.

In its eight years so far, Eusprig has fostered the linking of academic research with the skills of practitioners. We are pleased to see this networking bearing fruit in ever more thorough and imaginative research. We commend the maturing of the market for spreadsheet discovery, assessment, remediation, and control. Visitors to our website eusprig.org have increased by 50% per year over the last years; currently we have more than 3000 unique visits per month.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude our sponsors who have supported us financially and professionally. Our prime commercial sponsor this year is Compassoft, along with SecureXLS. We depend also on the support of ISACA Northern England chapter, Baker Tilly, the University of Greenwich, the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff, Spreadsheet Engineering Ltd and Systems Modelling Ltd. Representatives of these organisations have contributed a great amount of expertise in the organising of this conference, the publicity, the proceedings, and much more work in the background.

It is my pleasure to once again acknowledge the untiring efforts of our three conference and programme organisers from the University of Wales Institute, Pat Cleary, Simon Thorne, and David Ball (recently taken over from our long-time treasurer Graham Macdonald), and David Chadwick of our host university of Greenwich. The committee also depends upon the wise counsel and active support of Ray Butler of ISACA Northern England Chapter, David Colver of Operis, Grenville Croll (PR and membership secretary), Roland Mittermeir of Klagenfurt University, Jocelyn Paine of Virtual Worlds, and David Ward of Baker Tilly.

The main programme now fills two days to overflowing. Our keynote speakers are Dean Buckner of the UK Financial Services Authority, Paul Bach of Compassoft, Ray Panko of the University of Hawaii. Enterprise Spreadsheet Management will also be addressed by ClusterSeven, Prodiance, and Codematic. We continue with a focus on risk management, development and control methodologies, testing, and debugging. Other speakers will present their research into error impact, detection and correction, quality improvement, Education and Training. Thank you for your interest and participation, and we look forward to a stimulating and interactive conference!

Patrick O'Beirne, Chairman 2006/07, Eusprig

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