From the Editor's Desk
Alok Srivastava

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 well 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 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:

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We look forward to hearing from you!

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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 <u>Ada Letters</u> 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. <u>Ada Letters</u> 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:

Deadline	Issue	Deadline	Issue
October 1st, 09	December 2009	February 1st, 10	April 2010
June 1st, 10	August 2010	October 1st, 10	December 2010

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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Back issues of Ada Letters can be ordered at the price of $6.00 per issue for ACM or SIGAda members; and $9.00 per issue for non-ACM members. Information on availability, contact the ACM Order Department at 1-800-342-6626 or 410-528-4261. Checks and credit cards only are accepted and payment must be enclosed with the order. Specify volume and issue number as well as date of publication. Orders must be sent to:

ACM Order Department, P.O. Box 12114, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10257 or via FAX: 301-528-8550.

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