Preface

As more complex software is being developed for new domains even faster than before, the management and control of software quality is becoming increasingly important – and also increasingly challenging. This requires new methods and techniques in software quality management and we believe that a paradigm shift in software quality is taking place: we need to re-evaluate our current method and tool portfolio and create new and more effective solutions.

The two themes for the 7th European Conference on Software Quality – Quality Connection – to highlight this paradigm shift. Our first theme, "production of attractive and reliable software at Internet speed" sums up the dilemma many software organisations face. In order to be competitive, software should contain advanced features and work correctly - yet it should be developed quickly and cost effectively for the right market window.

Our second theme, "production of software with a dynamic partnership network" addresses partnerships and subcontractors as integral players in the software development process.

The official conference proceedings are published elsewhere by Springer-Verlag as “Quality Connection - 7th European Conference on Software Quality 2002 – Proceedings”. These proceedings contain the keynote presentations and the peer-reviewed papers submitted for the conference.

In addition, the program committee recognized the need to present and publish additional contributions as separate Conference Notes. These supplementary contributions present interesting new leads and ideas, as well as practical experiences, on key approaches in achieving software quality. These papers include the Quality Forum presentations, as well as the panel position papers. Thus, the official proceedings and these Conference Notes together provide up-to-date view of what are both the new advances as well as new tentative directions in software quality research and practice.

We would like to thank all the authors for their contributions and for making their results and insights available to a wider audience. The topics and issues presented in this publication are likely to be ingredients that will partially make up the “new software quality paradigm” that will help us develop better software faster.

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