

IEEE SMC2004 is shaping up!

The IEEE 2004 International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics is shaping up beyond expectations. The conference, to be held in the Netherlands' Congress Centre, The Hague, Netherlands, from October 10 through October 13, is expected to attract a larger audience than the SMC society has seen in recent years. Over 1600 abstracts were submitted, over 1300 were accepted after peer review, and about 1100 papers have been included in the proceedings. We expect about 900 papers to be actually presented at the conference, starting with parallel technical sessions Sunday, October 10 in the afternoon, and continuing through Wednesday, October 13. About 250 papers will be presented as part of over 50 special sessions, organized by the SMC Technical Committees and other volunteers. Uniquely, the European Annual Conference on Human Decision Making and Manual Control will be included as part of SMC2004. The conference also promises to be a very international event, with large representations from Asia, Europe and Northern America (and smaller ones from Africa, Australia and Latin America). Highlights of the conference will be the three plenaries given by:

- Margot Weijnen, TU Delft, on: 'Innovating Infrastructures; Dealing with complexities in networked systems'
- Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann, University of Geneva, on 'On-Line Virtual Manufacturing of Garments'
- John Flach, Wright State University, Dayton Ohio, on 'Sensemaking in Cognitive Systems: Beyond the Servo Metaphor'

Various demonstrations, relating to robotics, facial expression recognition, and virtual reality will be given during the breaks.

The welcome reception will be on Sunday, Oct 10, in the nearby GEM Museum, at 5 min walking distance from the conference center. The Museum presents photography and modern art exhibitions, and will be open freely to all SMC participants during the reception. The conference dinner will be in the 19th century style surroundings of the Kurhaus in Scheveningen, a beach resort just a few kilometers from the congress centre.

We look forward to seeing old and new friends in The Hague, in a couple of weeks from now!

On behalf of the organising committee,

Wil Thissen

General chair IEEE SMC2004

<http://www.ieeesmc2004.tudelft.nl>