



The 11th International Conference on Accelerator and Large Experimental Physics Control Systems

Oak Ridge National Laboratory • P.O. Box 2008 • Oak Ridge, TN, 37831-6477 • USA
neutrons.ornl.gov/icalpcs07 • icalpcs07@sns.gov • October 15-19, 2007 • Knoxville Convention Center • Knoxville, TN

Foreword

The 2007 International Conference on Accelerator and Large Experimental Control Systems (ICALEPCS 2007) was held October 15-19 at the Knoxville Convention Center in Knoxville, Tennessee. The conference was hosted jointly by the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and by Jefferson Laboratory in Newport News, Virginia, with support from the host laboratories and from the U.S. Department of Energy. The Program Committee was chaired by Karen White of Jefferson Lab (now at ORNL) and the Local Organizing Committee was masterminded by Conference Administrator Lori Lane. Dave Gurd was the Conference Chair. The conference was organized along the same lines as earlier conferences in this series, with a single plenary stream of oral sessions supplemented with poster sessions on three afternoons. Oral and poster presentations covered all aspects of modern control system design and experience for large experimental physics projects including accelerators, fusion devices, telescopes, high-energy particle detectors and even the Mars rovers.

The program attracted more than 350 participants, of which 42% were from Europe, 48% from the Americas, and 10% from Asia. In all, 22 countries were represented. Papers presented totaled 261, including 23 invited and 48 contributed orals in plenary sessions and 190 posters in three afternoon poster sessions. The quality of these presentations was uniformly high, attested by a consistently full lecture hall through the entire week. Prizes for excellent posters were awarded to Piotr Bartkiewicz (DESY), Francoise Gougnaud (CEA), Francois Saint-Laurent (Euratom-CEA), Freddy Severino (BNL), David Beltram (ALBA) and Raimund Kammering (DESY). An industrial exhibit by 10 companies that provide equipment to control system builders complemented the poster sessions.

The weekend preceding the conference featured three satellite meetings. More than 150 members of the EPICS collaboration—the largest such assembly ever—met both Saturday and Sunday. The Tango collaboration met on Sunday, and an unexpectedly large crowd gathered to discuss computer security issues at a workshop organized by CERN. A number of ad hoc technical meetings were also convened during the conference week.

A team of editors from the Joint Accelerator Conference Website (JACoW) began editing the proceedings the week before the conference, and it was possible to announce at the conference close that all papers that had been submitted on time had been processed and could be seen on the JACoW website. Thanks to Charlie Horak, proceedings editor, Christine Petit-Jean-Genaz, JACoW Secretary, and the entire international team of experienced editors for this accomplishment.

At the closing session Friday afternoon, the technical program was summarized by Program Chair Karen White. Among many other observations, she pointed out the pervasiveness of JAVA and its many applications across the community; the continued and expanding investment in databases and related technologies, including the use of relational databases for archiving; the rapid development of a variety of general-purpose and platform-independent GUI builders and tools, often with new ease-of-use features; software technology presentations linking and applying various combinations of CORBA, Java, Eclipse, CSS, Oracle, Python, XAL, IDE and the Grid. She noted in the discussions of hardware technology that while the use of VME continues, there is increased use of FPGA, more embedded controllers, and improved timing systems. The line between hardware and software continues to blur. While the collaborations continue to thrive and rivalry flourishes, there were hopeful signs of some collaboration between the collaborations, in particular with the possible shared development of Control System Studio (CSS) tools. Karen also observed that the conference presenters focused heavily on technology and that there was less attention paid than in earlier conferences to issues of customer satisfaction, human factors, development process, and metrics.



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All work and no play makes for a less than fully satisfying conference, and the conferees had opportunities to mix and socialize during a preconference reception and at the conference dinner that featured live bluegrass by Misty River and a fascinating talk on the history of accelerators at ORNL given by Alex Zucker. Approximately 120 participants took time on Saturday to visit SNS and the ORNL Computer Center. Finally, many visitors took the opportunity to visit the nearby Smoky Mountains on the weekend following the conference. (Some may even have played hooky for that purpose during the conference).

Thanks to the International Scientific Advisory Committee, the Program Committee, and especially to the hard-working Local Organizing Committee, as well as to the dedicated staff, IT Team, and JACoW editorial team for making ICALEPCS 2007 a resounding success. Thanks also to the industrial exhibitors, and especially to all participants—without you there can be no conference. Those of us who have had so much fun putting together ICALEPCS 2007 in Knoxville look forward to seeing you all again at ICALEPCS 2009 in Kobe, Japan.

Dave Gurd, Conference Chair

Karen White, Program Committee Chair