Minutes of the RTA 2004 Business Meeting

June 3–5, Aachen, Germany

recorded by Ralf Treinen

RTA 2004 Steering Chair:	Aart Middeldorp
RTA 2004 Program Chair:	Vincent van Oostrom
RTA 2004 Conference Chair:	Jürgen Giesl

The business meeting of RTA was held on Friday, June 5, 18:00. The meeting opened after a moment of silence in memory of Harald Ganzinger.

1 Report of the 2004 Program Chair (*Vincent van Oostrom*)

The call for papers was issued in October 2003, and again in December 2003.

The submission process had two stages: in the first stage only an abstract was expected, and in the second stage one week later the final full submission was expected. 52 abstracts were submitted in the first stage, and 43 final submissions were received in the second stage.

The program committee of RTA 2004 had 14 members. Every paper had at least three reviews. The submissions were refereed during one month. The program committee took its decision during a one week discussion held by email. The reviewing process and the PC discussion was managed using Andrei Voronkov's *PC Expert* system.

19 papers were accepted for publication in RTA 2004.

The *best paper award* was split equally among the papers *Monadic Second-Order Unification is NP-Complete* by J. Levy, M. Schmidt-Schauss, and M. Villaret, and *On the Modularity of Confluence in Infinitary Term Rewriting* by J. G. Simonsen.

The authors of submissions and accepted papers came from the following countries (ordered by top-level domain):

Country	Submitted	Accepted
.at	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
.ar	$\frac{2}{3}$	–
.br	$\frac{2}{3}$	–
.cn	1	–
.com	$\frac{2}{3}$	–
.dk	1	1
.de	$4\frac{1}{3}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$
.edu	$3\frac{13}{15}$	1
.es	$3\frac{1}{15}$	$1\frac{2}{3}$
.fr	$9\frac{6}{15}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
.in	$\frac{1}{2}$	–
.jp	6	4
.net	$\frac{2}{3}$	–
.nl	5	4
.pl	1	–
.sa	1	–
.uk	$3\frac{2}{3}$	1
Total	43	19

A. Middeldorp asks how the number of submissions to RTA 2004 compares to the numbers of previous conferences. V. v. Oostrum answers that the 2004 number of submissions is the all-time low.

2 Report by the 2004 Conference Chair (*Jürgen Giesl*)

RTA 2004 was the only main conference of the 2004 *Federated Conference on Rewriting, Deduction, and Programming* (RDP). The following workshops were part of RDP and took place in the days before the main conference:

- Annual Meeting of the IFIP Working Group 1.6 on Term Rewriting
- International Workshop on Termination (WST)
- International Workshop on (Constraint) Functional and Logic Programming (WFLP)
- International Workshop on Rule-Based Programming (RULE)

- International Workshop on Reduction Strategies in Rewriting and Programming (WRS)
- International Workshop on Higher-Order Rewriting (HOR)

These are the same workshops than at RDP'03, except the International Workshop on Unification (UNIF) which this year will be part of IJCAR'04.

The workshops had a very positive effect to RDP, increasing the number of participants and leading to multiple contacts between related areas.

The registration fee for RTA was very low (160€ in case of early registration, plus 20€ basic RDP fee). This is one of the lowest registration fees in the history of RTA. Several factors made this low registration fee possible:

- generous support by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) who contributed 14.700€. This amount covers for more than half the expenses of RTA'04.
- lecture halls where provided by the university without any fee
- all the organization was done by volunteers; paid assistance was only used for the processing of credit card payments.

The participants of RDP and RTA came from the following countries:

Country	RDP	RTA
Germany	28	18
France	24	14
Spain	12	7
USA	12	10
The Netherlands	11	9
Japan	9	8
Austria	6	4
Denmark	4	3
Belgium	2	–
Italy	2	1
UK	2	2
Australia	1	–
Canada	1	1
Israel	1	–
Portugal	1	–
Total	116	77

There is a question from the floor why there was no special student registration rate at RTA'04. J. Giesl justifies the flat fee by the fact that the registration fee was already very low for everybody.

3 Proposal of New Steering Committee Members

Franz Baader, Pierre Lescanne and Aart Middeldorp are leaving the steering committee since they have been on the committee for three consecutive years.

Four candidates have been nominated:

- *Maria Paola Bonacina* (Verona, Italy)
- *Jürgen Giesl* (Aachen, Germany)
- *Delia Kesner* (Paris, France)
- *Vincent van Oostrum* (Utrecht, The Netherlands)

The statements of the four candidates are distributed to the assembly.

4 Proposal for the 2006 Program Chair

The only candidate for the position of the 2006 program chair is *Frank Pfennig* (Carnegie Mellon University).

5 Proposal for the 2006 Conference Chair

In 2006, RTA will be part of the *Federated Logic Conference* (FLoC) to be held in Seattle, WA, USA. The conference will be held in a hotel at the end of August.

The only candidate for the position of the 2006 conference chair is *Ashish Tiwari* (SRI).

6 Voting

The vote is conducted by secret ballot.

The result of the vote for the 2006 program chair and the 2006 conference chair is

	Yes	No	Blank
RTA 2006 program chair *Frank Pfenning*	34	1	1
RTA 2006 conference chair *Ashish Tiwari*	34	1	1

Hence, Frank Pfenning is elected as 2006 program chair, and Ashish Tiwari is elected as 2006 conference chair.

The result of the vote for the new steering committee members is

	Number of votes
Maria Paola Bonacina	12
Jürgen Giesl	32
Delia Kesner	25
Vincent van Oostrum	31

Hence, Jürgen Giesl, Delia Kesner and Vincent van Oostrum are elected as new members of the steering committee.

7 Progress Report of the 2005 Program Chair (*Jürgen Giesl*)

The 2005 program committee is now constituted. The composition of the program committee covers all areas related to RTA, and comprises both experienced researchers and fresh members. Most countries active in RTA are covered by the composition of the committee.

A call for papers has been issued and distributed with the RTA'04 registration kit. RTA'05 seeks a broad spectrum of papers from high-level theory over system descriptions to applications of rewriting.

RTA'05 will have 3 invited speakers which are currently under discussion by the program committee. The constraints are that one of the three invited speakers will be common with TLCA, and one will be from Japan (for reasons of funding).

RTA'05 will be very early in the year. Nevertheless, the 2005 program committee tries to maintain deadlines that are as late as possible:

- Abstracts: November 12, 2004
- Full paper: November 19, 2004

These deadline are later than the deadline of TLCA. Since the RTA deadlines are already as late in the year as possible there will be no room for deadline extensions, so submission deadlines are strict!

8 Progress Report 2005 Conference Chair (*Hitoshi Ohsaki*)

RTA 2005 will be part of *Rule Based Deduction and Programming* (RDP'05), together with the conference on *Typed Lambda Calculi and Applications* (TLCA'05) and several workshops. RDP'05 will take place April 19 through April 23 in Nara, Japan. RTA will be during the first three days, followed by the RTA workshops on the last two days. TLCA will start with two workshop days, followed by three main conference days. As a consequence, only one day (April 21) will have the two main conferences in parallel. The common conference dinner will be on April 21.

RDP'05 will be held in the *Nara-Kon* new public hall which is located in the great park of Nara, close to most of the numerous attractions of Nara. The conference building has to lecture rooms (seating 168, resp. 500 people). There are two workshop rooms with a capacity of 48, resp. 130 seats.

The organizing committee is trying to ensure low registration fees. Registration fees are projected to be around 160–180€ for early registration, and around 210–230€ in case of late registration.

Air tickets to Japan are lowest at this time of the year. Nara is easy to reach from Kansai International Airport (Osaka).

Inexpensive hotel accommodation (in the price range 45–65€ for a single room) will be available. Some of these have to be reserved even before the early registration deadline, while others can be reserved at any time. For part of the rooms the Japan Tourist Bureau will help with handling the reservations.

9 Proposals and Discussions from the Floor

A. Middeldorp shows statistics of the numbers of submissions, accepted papers, participants, and registration fees at past RTA conferences. His conclusion from these statics are that

- Federation of RTA in FLoC does not guarantee a high number of submissions
- Registration fees are higher when RTA is part of FLoC.

There are no other proposals or discussions from the floor. The business meeting closes at 18:35.