

Preface

Product development is changing since its early beginnings. Especially since the time of industrialization the speed of this change has constantly grown. The 1960 saw the introduction of computers into product development. The development of computers and software are amazing artefacts. Product development methods have been generated for the use in teaching as well as for the use in industrial processes. Most of the methods have been created without the usage of computers. That means that even today conventional methods are still dominating and large numbers of tools and systems are used for the support of product development processes. However, still missing are methods of computer integrated product development.

»The Future of Product Development« comprises 68 papers from more than 20 countries. It is a collection of current industrial views and of research results. Three major industrial companies outline their demand for better product development, followed by the major vendors in the field giving their reply. The remainder are papers on current RTD.

The conference can be seen as a mirror of international tendencies in product development in the year 2007. It shows the urgent need for change in product development and for new solutions. The presentations in this conference are therefore of direct help for the industry and stimuli for ongoing discussions on enhanced product development. In this sense the presentations and the connected discussions are in turn initiating new research.

Despite its complexity the program is very much focused. Without the activity of the international program committee the conference program never could have been assembled. The merits for content and quality of the papers belong to them only.

Without the sponsors the whole approach, including the industrial and scientific exhibition as well as the large number of talks would not have been possible. Our grateful thanks go to all of them.

CIRP, the International Academy of Production Engineering has a long tradition in conducting Design Conferences. It is a great pleasure and obligation that Berlin was chosen for the 17th CIRP Design Conference. For the first time the conference was jointly promoted by CIRP and the Berliner Kreis – Wissenschaftliches Forum für Produktentwicklung e.V. (scientific forum for

product development, a group of german speaking professors working in the field of product development). This co-operation is a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas between industry and academia.

The proceedings give a very precise overview about the state of the art and ongoing changes in product development. We hope that they are of help for the industry as well as for research and teaching.

For all their special encouragement and help I would like to thank my chief engineers Helmut Jansen, Christian Kind and Uwe Rothenburg and the members of my group.

I thank the publisher as well as the typesetting and image editing team for their creative support in preparing the proceedings for print.

Berlin, March 2007
Frank-Lothar Krause