Preface

These are the proceedings of the German conference on Multiagent System Technologies (MATES 2003), which was the first conference organized by the German special interest group on Distributed Artificial Intelligence to promote the theory and application of agents and multiagent systems. Its goals were to cover the whole range from the theory to applications of agent and multiagent technology and reflect the national and international state of the art. The conference provided an excellent interdisciplinary forum for both researchers and members of business and industry to present and discuss the latest advances in theoretical work on and prototyped or fielded systems of intelligent agents.

Building on the sequence of agent-related events in Germany in the past, such as VDI 1998 (Chemnitz), VertIS 2001 (Bamberg), and KI 2002 (Aachen), MATES 2003 was exclusively devoted to agents and multiagent systems, and the cross-fertilization between agent theory and application. In addition, it built on the success of the past international workshop on "Agent Technology and Software Engineering (AgeS 2002)", and the international symposium on "Multiagent Systems, Large Complex Systems, and E-Businesses" (MALCEB 2002). MATES 2003 was co-located with the fourth international Net.ObjectDays conference in an exciting event held in Erfurt during September 22–24.

The MATES 2003 conference featured a sequence of regular and invited talks of excellence given by leading experts in the field. Among these were two keynotes, an invited talk and 18 paper presentations selected from 49 submissions. The conference talks covered a broad area of topics of interest, such as the semantic web and issues of interoperability, agent-based engineering, systems and applications, models and architectures, and issues of collaboration and negotiation. The result of the review of all contributions by an international program committee is included in these proceedings, rich in interesting, inspiring, and advanced work on research and development of multiagent systems. During the conference, tutorials were held on adaptive agents, agents and the semantic web, and interaction protocol design in multiagent systems.

The MATES 2003 conference was organized in cooperation with the Distributed Artificial Intelligence chapter of the German Computing Society (GI). In addition, we are very much indebted to our sponsors, whose financial support helped to make this event possible and contributed to its success. The sponsors of MATES 2003 were:

Net.Object Days
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We are also grateful to the authors and invited speakers for contributing to this conference, as well as to all the members of the program committee and the external reviewers for their very careful, critical, and thoughtful reviews of all submissions. Finally, our thanks go to each of the brave members of the local

organization team of Net.ObjectDays in Erfurt for their hard work in providing MATES 2003 with a modern, comfortable location, and an exclusive social program.

We hope you enjoyed MATES 2003, and will help us to make MATES a successful conference series with many events to come!

July 2003

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