

Welcome Message

Welcome to SPLC'23, the 27th ACM International Systems and Software Product Line Conference. Looking back to the previous SPLC issues, the conference has been established as a thriving ground for practitioners, researchers, and educators working in areas related to systems and software product lines. With the increasing size and complexity of software, efficiently supporting software processes becomes an extremely important task. SPLC'23 acted as a venue fostering knowledge exchange and learning about the state of the art in software product lines as well as new practices, trends, innovations, insights from industrial applications, and new challenges.

SPLC'23 was held at Hitotsubashi Hall in Tokyo, Japan, from August 28 to September 1, 2023. SPLC aims at combining research excellence with industrial impact and relevance. Participants have been offered a perfectly balanced conference program that includes high-quality basic research as well as industry and SPL in practice papers combined with workshops, demonstrations and tools, challenge solutions, a doctoral symposium, tutorials, journal-first papers, and three keynote talks. Moreover, SPLC'23 hosts an Industry Variability Challenges Workshop, which brings practitioners and researchers together to discuss the challenges regarding variability that companies are currently facing, and a panel on this year's special theme: Intelligent Software Product Lines. Following the conference, a special issue on this theme will appear in Elsevier's *Journal of Systems and Software*.

The conference received 101 submissions: 52 research papers, 10 research artifacts, 15 industry papers, 2 journal-first papers, 1 workshop proposal, 2 challenge solutions, 9 demonstration and tool papers, 3 doctoral proposals, 2 tutorials, and 5 workshop papers. Based on at least three reviews per submission and after intensive discussions among the committee members, 20 research track papers (7 thereof as short papers), and 7 industry and SPL in practice track papers (1 thereof as short paper) have been selected for presentation at the conference (resulting in acceptance rates of 38% and 47%).

Special thanks go to keynote speakers David Benavides (University of Seville), Marianne Huchard (University of Montpellier), and Hideto Ogawa and Kentaro Yoshimura (Hitachi, Ltd.) who supported the conference in terms of sharing their experiences, insights, and visions for future topics. We are also grateful for the hard work of the program committee and track chairs which helped to assure a high-quality conference. Furthermore, we want to thank the organizing team for contributing to the success of the conference, including local chair, proceedings chair, finance/sponsors chair, student volunteers chairs, registration chairs, publicity chairs, industry liaison chair, and web chair. Final thanks are due to the sponsors, which include pure-systems, Hitachi, and ACM.

Sincerely,

Paolo Arcaini, Maurice H. ter Beek, Gilles Perrouin, Iris Reinhartz-Berger, Miguel R. Luaces, Christa Schwanninger, Shaukat Ali, Mahsa Varshosaz, Angelo Gargantini, Stefania Gnesi, Malte Lochau, Laura Semini, Ivan Machado, Silvia Regina Vergilio, Rick Rabiser, Tao Yue, Xavier Devroey, Mónica Pinto, Hironori Washizaki, Lea Gerling, Jacob Krüger, Goetz Botterweck, Natsuko Noda, Fuyuki Ishikawa, Mitsuhiro Kitani, Tsutomu Kobayashi, Yuta Yanagi, Xiao-Yi Zhang, Zhenya Zhang, Nobukazu Yoshioka, and Stefan Klikovits