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Christoph Bussler Dieter Fensel (Eds.)

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Preface

The 11th Conference “Artificial Intelligence: Methodology, Systems, Applications – Semantic Web Challenges” (AIMSA 2004) continued successfully pursuing the main aim of the AIMSA series of conferences – to foster the multidisciplinary community of artificial intelligence researchers, embracing both the theoretic underpinnings of the field and the practical issues involved in development, deployment, and maintenance of systems with intelligent behavior. Since the first conference in 1984 AIMSA has provided an ideal forum for international scientific exchange between Central/Eastern Europe and the rest of the world and it is even more important nowadays in the unifying Europe.

The current AIMSA edition is focused on Semantic Web methods and technologies. The Internet is changing the everyday services landscape, and the way we do things in almost every domain of our life. Web services are rapidly becoming the enabling technology of today's e-business and e-commerce systems, and will soon transform the Web as it is now into a distributed computation and application framework. The emerging Semantic Web paradigm promises to annotate Web artefacts to enable automated reasoning about them. When applied to e-services, the paradigm hopes to provide substantial automation for activities such as discovery, invocation, assembly, and monitoring of e-services.

One hundred and seventy-six interesting papers were submitted to the conference. Each paper was reviewed by at least three independent reviewers. The programme committee selected for the conference program 56 high-quality contributions. 52 of them were prepared in time to form the current volume. These papers concern a wide spectrum of artificial intelligence areas, e.g., ontology engineering, Semantic Web tools and services, but also some traditional AI topics, e.g., knowledge representation, machine learning and data mining, natural language processing, soft computing, multi-agent systems, e-learning Systems, intelligent decision making, and intelligent information retrieval.

AIMSA 2004 invited two keynote speakers: Jeffrey T. Pollock from Network Inference for his contributions to AI business applications, and Darina Dicheva for her work on Semantic Web approaches to e-learning.

We would like to thank the AIMSA program committee and the additional reviewers for their hard work in helping make this conference a success.

July 2004

Christoph Bussler
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