



ITEA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
FOR EUROPEAN ADVANCEMENT

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*ITEA is a Eureka strategic
cluster programme.*

Press Release

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Software test breakthrough wins ITEA Achievement Award 2005

The Board of ITEA – Information Technology for European Advancement – has selected the TT-Medal (Test & testing methodologies for advanced languages) project as the winner of the ITEA 2005 Achievement Award. This project has achieved a major breakthrough by developing a generic standardised solution for software system testing. TT-Medal offers great potential for European industry to achieve a reduction in test development and test execution time in the near future and, at the same time, fulfil demands for high product quality. The results provide a unique opportunity for European test tool suppliers and consultants to position themselves better in a world market that has been dominated by the USA.

More effective testing

Testing is a fundamental step in the development of a software-intensive system as it checks the compliance of the system to user requirements. However, it is extremely difficult to achieve exhaustively due to the very nature of software. To meet market demands for better and faster development, testing such systems should become more effective, provide a better indication of product quality and be more efficient.

TT-Medal developed generic standardised automated testing methodologies and tools based on the TTCN-3 testing language from the European Telecommunication Standards Institute (ETSI), applicable to different application domains – from transport to finance – and introduced it into the European industry. The Testing and Test Control Notation (TTCN) language is used to specify tests for many kinds of applications, including mobile communications, wireless local area networks (LANs), digital cordless phones, broadband technologies and Internet protocols.

The methods and tools developed in TT-Medal were validated in several demonstrators in the automotive, railway, financial and telecommunication application domains, proving the feasibility of a significant improvement in test efficiency, effectiveness and product quality. The results were disseminated through an impressive number of papers and publications, as well at several conferences, and laid out in a test training package that includes a book on TTCN-3 testing.

The TT-Medal project involved 67 person years and a budget of €9 million. It teamed up 11 partners – including telecommunications manufacturers, software test tool suppliers, software test consultancy firms, academia and research centres working in the testing research domain – from three European countries.

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Leading co-operative programme

The EUREKA ITEA Cluster is Europe's leading co-operative pre-competitive R&D programme for software-intensive systems (SiS). It was set up to strengthen European industry by establishing leadership in embedded and distributed software – the technology behind crucial applications in a wide range of industries from the automotive and aerospace sectors, through communications and consumer electronics to healthcare and environmental management..

Companies participating in ITEA share a vision of how to spread the use of digital software technology in the home, in businesses, on the move, in services and in software creation itself. The projects focus on building platforms and/or application program interfaces (APIs), proposing new architectures, and producing *de facto* or legal standards. They provide the basis for the next generation of products, systems, appliances and services that will be produced and sold worldwide.

This huge effort is based on close co-operation between Europe's national public authorities, the ITEA founding companies, a variety of small and medium-sized enterprises and start-up companies, universities and research institutes.

ITEA Achievement Award

The ITEA Board instituted the ITEA Achievement Award to reward high-level technical contributions based on true European collaboration that lead to significant results and thus further promote the programme and its goals. Each year this prestigious honour highlights a highly successful project that represents best practice. Major factors in deciding this year's award were innovation, exploitation and dissemination.

As ITEA aims to make Europe's industry more competitive, effective industrial exploitation of the results of projects is crucial. Such results can be used in various ways, for example via:

- Highly innovative solutions;
- Implementation of standards & the adoption and diffusion of platforms;
- New services based on the software, including those used within industries;
- Use of the software in basic network operations;
- Licensing & spin-offs; or
- Product sales (direct, in packages or via OEMs).

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