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The eighth IEEE International Conference on Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation (ETF'A'01) was held October 15 – 18 in Antibes – Juan les Pins, France. ETF'A is the largest IEEE conference dedicated to Factory Automation. I went there, with the help from the ARTES mobility fund, to present a paper written by my supervisors Hans Hansson, Christer Norström and Sasikumar Punnekkat. The paper “A Simulation Bases Method for Estimating the Reliability of Distributed Real-Time Systems” is produced within the same topic as my research project and therefore it was no problem for me to hold the presentation.

The conference was very good with people from both academia and industry. Sad though, was that many US researchers did not show up on the conference since of the “fear of flying” effect. Good though, was that the conference program was printed with respect to this, so no sessions in the program was cancelled.

The first day was dedicated to be a “hands on” day with speakers from industry, and they gave nice presentations mainly about technical solutions/products with integrated GSM/GPRS modules for monitoring of vehicles. The following days contained 4 parallel sessions running several different “tracks”, for example Factory Communication (which I attended), Automated Manufacturing Systems and Real-Time and Embedded Technology to mention a few. One nice thing with this conference is its wide range of topics, which allows for conference participants to listen to talks on other research areas than just talks within their own field of research.

The sessions were held in quite small rooms, which allowed people to not use microphone. During the 3 conference days I saw many interesting talks, and some that I think can be useful for my research. I also exchanged contacts with some people that I will follow up.

The overall arrangements around the conference were very good. The included lunch buffet was appreciated since the large amount of small dishes served, consisting of many and strange types of food. The gala dinner was also very nice with really good food. The location for the conference was good, Juan Les Pins, with a great range of accommodations and restaurants.

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