

# **ARTES travel report**

## **Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation, ETFA, conference 2001**

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### ***Location***

The conference was held in Antibes- Juan les Pins, France, in October 15 – 18. Juan les Pins is situated on Côte D'Azur between Nice and Cannes, which is a very beautiful area, but quite expensive.

### ***The Conference***

ETFA is an IEEE (more specifically Industrial Electronics Society, IES) conference and was held for the 8<sup>th</sup> time.

ETFA is the largest IEEE event dedicated to factory automation and emerging technologies in factory automation, since 1992 it has been hosted by leading academic and research establishments around the world.

The aim of ETFA is to provide researchers with a platform to report on their recent developments in new and emerging technologies and the potential applications to factory automation.

Many of the papers that are submitted to ETFA are later published in the IEEE transactions on Industrial Electronics.

Before the actual conference started, on October 15, there were some very interesting keynote presentations about ways to track vehicles using GPS, GPRS and such. The application for this technology was very wide, from rescue services to the police finding out if you are speeding (not good:).

I attended the conference to present a paper: "*Improved Handling of Soft Aperiodic Tasks in Offline Scheduled Real-Time Systems using Total Bandwidth Server*", authored by Gerhard Fohler, Giorgio Buttazzo, and me. I presented the paper on the first day of the conference, during the first session after lunch.

The ETFA conference had 4 parallel sessions, and a lot of papers were presented since the presentation time was only 15 minutes. This setup was new for me, the conferences I usually attend has no parallel session and 25-minute presentations. The quality of the presentations was very varied, as usual, but in general they were good. For me the sessions about Ethernet communication was most interesting and come closest to my own research. I attended the few sessions that contained these presentations and also the sessions with some other form of communication topic. Most communication topics were about fieldbuses and similar technologies, since it's a factory automation conference. But the introduction of Ethernet into factories is starting to slowly build up some speed.

I also made some good contacts with people involved in the Ethernet communication topic.

As summary I think it was a very interesting conference, and it had very varied topics, which I think is good. This gives you the chance to meet people from totally different fields of research.