

FIPA	30/1/98
FOUNDATION FOR INTELLIGENT PHYSICAL AGENTS	Palo Alto USA
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Press Release - not so secret agents found in California

FIPA, a non-profit organisation established in 1996 to promote the deployment of emerging agent-based applications, services an equipment, released FIPA 97, its first specification in late 1997.

At HP Laboratories in Palo Alto in January 1998, some 60 agent experts from 50 companies worldwide began to extend the existing FIPA 9 functionalities. 22 proposals were submitted in response to the call for technologies for incorporation into a new set of specifications called FIPA 98 to be delivered by December 1998

FIPA 98

In response to the proposals, In Palo Alto FIPA initiated a number of studies and which will comprise new items in the FIPA98 specification.

- An agent mobility platform that will provide the means to build agent systems where processes can move between different computers
- Security in agent systems , including the softer issues of authentication and trust
- The all important Agent/Person interface. How one designs agent systems that bend to the user rather than vice-versa
- Ontology - Adding meaning and understanding to vocabulary

In addition to the international application trials initiated in 97, a new broad application of 'manufacturing' has been identified; a trial specification will be established to further validate the FIPA technologies. The results of these international field trials defined in FIPA 97 will be evaluated and any necessary changes in the FIPA97 specifications issued as FIPA97.2.

A 'FIPA Academy' has been established . Academics from around the world will be appointed to the academy providing opportunities for academic researchers to contribute to the FIPA agenda

Note to Editors

Description of FIPA 97

FIPA 97 comprises seven parts, as follows.

Part 1 provides a normative framework to manage a set of agents, both static and mobile.

Part 2 specifies the agent communication language.

Part 3 defines standard mechanisms to incorporate non-agentised software within an agent-based software.

These three parts are definitional and have a normative value in the sense that compliant products need to adhere to these specifications. FIPA 97 further provides information to users about the use of FIPA 97 technologies to make a few well-defined applications. Four of these have been defined in parts 4 to 7.

Part 4 is concerned with Personal Travel Assistance.

Part 5 deals with Personal Assistance for a personal schedule.

Part 6 provides to the user an intelligent interface for the filtering and retrieval of audio-visual information.

Part 6 utilises agent technology to provide dynamic Virtual Private Network (VPN).

The text of FIPA 97 is available at <http://cselt.it/fipa/>