

# *Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents*

Source: L. Chiariglione

99/4/16

fipa9403.doc

## **Nice Press Release**

### **AGENTS CONTEMPLATING ARCHITECTURES AT COTE D'AZUR**

FIPA members were honoured to be hosted by France Telecom at Nice for their 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the second of the 1999 round. They were very well looked after, well fed and entertained while they focused on their business of creating new specifications – their most ambitious yet.

Their main aim at this meeting was to scope the work to be carried out by October this year. To accomplish this they had invited yet more ideas on a set of well defined issues at the last meeting in Seoul – the sixth call for technologies. FIPA is working with five technical committees this year labeled A to E. These committees digested the 20 responses that had been received (along with the good food that was on offer). The committees worked hard during the week in order to scope out the work that can be reasonably accomplished by October.

Most of the technical committees are by now (the end of the Nice meeting) well advanced in their work plans for the year. The highlights of these work plans are:

- Work on the definition of a reference architecture that will help developers with various matters concerned with the implementation of software agents enabled products
- A revised version of Agent Management System which is compatible with the architecture specification
- Enhanced specifications for the transport of agent communication messages
- A specification for agent configuration
- An innovative scheme for the naming of agents
- A requirement specification for FIPA approved languages that may be used to specify the content of information in an agent message, together with a library of such languages
- An approach for specifying agent communication protocols and a library of some useful protocols that can be used by the developers
- A scheme for the development of brokerage functions within agent communities
- Support for agents working over wireless devices within nomadic systems

As a consequence of this ambitious work plan FIPA has found it necessary to issue yet another call for technologies, its seventh. This is not its usual modus operandi, but is necessitated by the need to address urgency of promoting applications of the technology. The main element of the call is the solicitation of a specification for a transport protocol for wireless connectivity. Wireless systems are currently receiving much attention and their specific requirements need to be catered for with some urgency.

Furthermore, FIPA is proactively promoting the adoption of agent technology by funding work on a showcase application of agent technology that will demonstrate the value of FIPA technologies to a wide audience. For this purpose, FIPA is soliciting bids to build such an application. The bids will be evaluated in a few week's time so that the work can begin as soon as possible. This call for offers is open to FIPA members and their partners.