

# *Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents*

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## **San Francisco Press Release**

### **AGENTS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO**

FIPA held its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in San Francisco from 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. The meeting was hosted by Fujitsu Laboratories of America Inc. with further support from the Intelligent Agent Society of Japan.

The meeting venue was Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf, which was a convenient location for viewing the Independence Day fireworks on the evening of Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, soon after the reception by the hosts. However, Monday was a working day for all FIPA members. FIPA is currently progressing its 1999 work-plan through five technical committees as follows:

- An architectural overview, which provides key abstractions needed for agent-based software. The existing FIPA specifications are to be seen as reifications of that architecture.
- The means of providing globally unique names to all agents that are publicly created.
- Means of representing FIPA protocols and the creation of a library of approved content languages to be used by FIPA agents.
- Demonstration of field trials of FIPA specifications taking into account FIPA based software produced by FIPA members and consideration of interoperability issues.
- A specification of wireless based nomadic applications using agent technology.

On Wednesday afternoon (7<sup>th</sup> of July), a European consortium of FIPA members demonstrated their work on a set of three field trials that have been implemented using FIPA agents. The work has been carried out in a project called FACTS funded partly by the European Commission's 4<sup>th</sup> Framework research program. These field trails have been created to validate FIPA specifications. The consortium was in effect reporting their work and lessons learnt from it to the rest of the FIPA body.

The architectural study that is underway is setting a new intellectual foundation for the future of FIPA. If this work is approved by FIPA then it will lay the foundation for its year 2000 work-plan. One FIPA plenary session, therefore, was devoted to the consideration for FIPA 2000 issues. FIPA has therefore begun to discuss what it will do next year. These discussions will be finalized at the October 1999 meeting of FIPA, which is due to take place in Kawasaki City in Japan and will be hosted by Hitachi. The October meeting is scheduled to approve the specifications produced in 1999.