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CSK Corporation Launches VDMTools in Japan

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CSK Corporation is a large Japanese software house. In 2004 CSK acquired the IPR for VDMTools from IFAD A/S (Odense, Denmark). On 3rd and 4th of August 2005 CSK launched the free use of VDMTools in Japan at two VDM Symposia in Osaka and Tokyo. These simultaneous Japanese/English translation symposia were attended by approximately 80, respectively 120 CSK customers. The symposia were half day afternoon events (1:30–5:30 pm) which featured 50 minute talks by the three authors of this news item as well as by Messrs. Shuichi Sekiya and Taro Kurita of Felica Networks, a subsidiary of Sony, NTT/DoCoMo and Japan Railway West.

The symposia were opened by CSK director Teiichi Aruga¹ who motivated the use of formal techniques in future software developments, especially of embedded systems in Japan.

The talks overviewed different issues in connection with the industrial uptake on formal techniques. Bjørner's talk overviewed a number of formal development issues — from domains via requirements to software design. Larsen reviewed a number of industrial uses of the IFAD VDMTools now owned by CSK Corporation. Shuichi and Taro reviewed the use of VDM and VDMTools in the industrial scale development of security-critical software for a new generation of smart cards. And Araki put the above and many additional formal software development issues, including sociological issues, in a larger context.

We report on this industrial event as we believe it to be of significant news value to the readers of FACS FACT: One of the largest Japanese software houses, itself with a history of several successful VDM-based developments, purchasing the leading tool set of a leading formal methods approach, and creating, now, a VDM Consortium of users of that tool set now as public domain software.

The CSK VDM Symposium was organised by Messrs. Masahiko Suzuki (CSK) and Shin Sahara (CSK) — the latter known to many FACS FACT readers and FME Symposia goers. For more information on VDM you may browse www.csk.co.jp and click the VDM icon.

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¹CSK, with Mr. Teiichi Aruga, is a member of ForTIA, the Formal Techniques Industry Association founded at FM'03, Pisa, and featured now at Industry Days at FM'02, FM'03 and, most recently at FM'05.