Preface

The design and analysis of trading agents and electronic trading systems in which they are deployed involve finding solutions to a diverse set of problems, involving individual behaviors, interaction, and collective behavior in the context of trade. A wide variety of trading scenarios and systems, and agent approaches to these, have been studied in recent years. The present volume includes a number of papers that were presented as part of the Joint International Workshop on Trading Agent Design and Analysis and Agent-Mediated Electronic Commerce which was collocated with the Autonomous Agents and Multi-agent Systems (AAMAS) Conference in Hakodate, Japan, in May 2006.

The Joint TADA/AMEC Workshop brought together the two successful and well-established events of the Trading Agent Design and Analysis (TADA) and Agent-Mediated Electronic Commerce (AMEC) Workshops. The TADA series of workshops serves as a forum for presenting work on trading agent design and technologies, theoretical and empirical evaluation of strategies in complex trading scenarios as well as mechanism design. TADA also serves as the main forum for the Trading Agent Competition (TAC) research community. TAC is an annual tournament whose purpose is to stimulate research in trading agents and market mechanisms by providing a platform for agents competing in well-defined market scenarios (http://www.sics.se/tac). The AMEC series of workshops presents interdisciplinary research on both theoretical and practical issues of agent-mediated electronic commerce ranging from the design of electronic marketplaces and efficient protocols to behavioral aspects of agents operating in such environments. The merging of the two workshops was a unique opportunity for researchers working in agents and multi-agent systems, artificial intelligence, operational research, economics and game theory to explore issues pertinent to the development of agent-populated electronic markets. The collection of papers in this volume provides a glimpse into this wide field of research.

The papers presented at the workshop contribute to the theory and practice of agent-based electronic trade and commerce addressing both the agent level and the system level. The papers presented included work directly related to TAC, work related to generic markets and trading scenarios, theoretical and experimental studies, automated negotiation, market mechanism design as well as strategy design.

We hope that this collection of papers will be a useful resource for researchers, practitioners and students working in automated trading and electronic marketplaces.

March 2007

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