A. Kluge welcomed all to the meeting and introduced M. Husejko to the EUG. He has recently joined IT as part of the EDA support team.

Approval of minutes EUG 25 (John/Pierre)
Speaker: John Evans (CERN)

There were no comments on the minutes

News from IT
Speakers: John Evans (CERN), Pierre Baehler (CERN)

There have been across the board budget cuts announced by IT for 2011. This will also include the ELEC budget that will probably need to be cut by 20%. This would probably affect mostly the investment budget as maintenance costs are incompressible.

J. Evans presented the latest proposed budget for 2011. There had been some reductions made for some budgets. In some cases, these could be justified due to reduced maintenance costs but some would impact on investment (NOTE: subsequent to this meeting, the investment budget was again raised to CHF55k).

IT announced that all CERN EDA tools will gradually be moved to CMF.

A. Kluge asked a number of questions regarding the proposed change:
- Why move to CMF?
  IT members responded by saying that it would be easier for users to install the software. It would also allow IT to know on which PCs the software was installed.
- Would tool updates be forced automatically?

  Tool updates would be made only on request and older versions could again be made available in case of problems. A new CMF installation would be done for each update. S. Haas remarked that this could lead to a very large number of installation versions.
  C. Soos added that some tools either have the means of updating automatically or a method where the user can ask to update from a vendor web-site. He asked how this would affect the base CMF installation and, more specifically, uninstallation. IT will try and disable all update possibilities to try and avoid this situation.

Software on Windows7, Support for old FPGAs installed in LHC (J. Evans)

Almost all EDA tools were either officially supported on Windows 7 or reported by the manufacturer as working with no reported bugs. A notable exception was the Xilinx tools. These were due to be supported in the next release.

J. Evans presented the outcome of a survey that had been made concerning the legacy devices and software needed for the LHC era.

The support for approximately 75 devices had been made and there were many different software versions requested. It was noted that IT was asked to continue to make available software that is not even currently supported by the department.

IT will make available 'key' software versions testing e.g. last version where a vendor's device was supported, on remote servers for user testing. The legacy software will be always available. IT will verify that this software will run with the latest vendor licence files.

IT will also make available the latest or evaluation versions of software for testing. The test and evaluation versions will only be temporarily available. The two different categories will be clearly marked on the servers.

J. Evans then remarked that this was considered a reasonable solution for an already existing platform. However, it was apparent from the survey results that there were very many combinations of tools and devices possible. He proposed that a possible solution would be to set up "project" machines that could be later saved as VMs. EUG considered this an interesting approach that could be further investigated in the future.

Support and plans with development boards
Speaker: Michal Husejko (Warsaw University of Technology)

M. Husejko presented the progress made in providing the Remote Desktop Servers for the legacy and testing programs as described in the previous agenda item. The machines and programs offered will be made available via a web-page.

Tool purchases - Programming FPGAs in radiated environment
Speakers: John Evans (CERN), Pierre Baehler (CERN), Michal Husejko (Warsaw University of Technology)

Mentor has recently released a Precision version that includes the possibility of automatically adding TMR and other radiation-mitigation techniques. Initial contact has been made with Mentor regarding possible acquisition.

Report on Information exchange group on the use of FPGA's in radiation environments and unofficial lists of commercial electronics parts somehow tested under radiation
Speakers: Alex Kluge (CERN), Tullio Grassi (FNAL / Univ. of MD)

News from the PCB work shop TE-MPE
Speakers: Betty Magnin (CERN), Fabio Formenti (CERN)

A. Kluge welcomed F. Formenti back to the EUG. He has now assumed
responsibility as head of the workshop.

F. Formenti then presented the latest news from the workshops.
Two new companies have been added to the list of recognised
suppliers and will be used in the future. A. Kluge asked if an
individual has used a company, would it be possible to ask if they
could be used again. F. Formenti said each case would be considered
individually.

Two FSUs have been recruited to bring the total of personnel up to
19 FSUs and 14 staff.

A. Kluge commented that symbol creation delay still seemed too long
in many cases.

High speed simulation working group and application example
Speakers: Csaba Soos (CERN), David Porret (CERN)

C. Soos presented work that had been done by himself and D. Porret.
During the discussion it was asked if CERN had the Turbo Package
Analyser software available (investigation by J. Evans after the
meeting confirmed that it is not available with the present CERN
configuration).
The work showed a detailed signal-integrity analysis. When
questioned regarding Power-Integrity analysis, C. Soos responded
that the tools were available to do this but had not yet been
undertaken.

News about technical training
Speakers: Silvia Schuh (CERN)

S. Schuh gave a list of courses to be given. These included one on
Electrostatic discharge.

CERN is also investigating the possibility of broadcasting the
series of Oxford University courses. There will also be a C++
course offered for embedded system developers. J. Evans asked what
the target devices were but the information was not available.

G. Rinella added that he was very happy with the recently given
course by Istvan Novak.

S. Haas added that it would be interesting to add courses on
verification, PSL and other topics in the area.

Need for new tools or IP cores

J. Evans said that possible acquisitions included Agilent ADS and
also the AWR Filter tool.

J. Bento said that BE was interested in acquiring concurrent
licences of the Visual DSP++ software. He asked if IT would take on
the responsibility of installing the necessary server and making
available any future updates. IT agreed to assume this
responsibility.
There had been interest expressed in acquiring a DMA IP core but no
definite request had been made by any group.

AOB

P. Baehler announced that P-CAD would be stopped in February 2011.
Autovue, a tool to access, view and digitally annotate technical
documents will be made available from CMF.