



## EVA Europe Initiative Lifts Off with a Successful EVA-1 Conference

*By Kym Henderson, CPM Vice President, Research and Standards*

The Earned Value Analysis (EVA) Europe initiative has achieved “lift off” with the inaugural Earned Value-dedicated conference in continental Europe. This successful first was held at the prestigious European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2009. As an added and unexpected bonus, “the world’s largest particle physics experiment made its first collisions during the conference.” More information on EVA-1 Europe is available from <http://www.eva-europe.eu/2009/>.

The EVA Europe initiative arose from a meeting of interested Europeans I called in the lead-up to the EVA-13 [United Kingdom(UK)] Conference held in London on 10–11 June 2008. The response to the proposal at this meeting was enthusiastic. The Organising Committee of the EVA Europe Conferences initiative was the key outcome with later decisions to select CERN in Geneva for the inaugural conference. A local organizing committee was then established with the first Conference held around 18

months later. A special acknowledgement was made for the efforts and contribution of Nicholas Montandon (a dual Swiss–Australian citizen) in supporting the conference, which was critical to its success.

The founding members of the EVA Europe overall organising committee are:

- Pierre Bonnal (Switzerland)
- John Ferguson (Scotland – resident in Switzerland)
- Kym Henderson (Australia)
- Jurgen De Jonghe (Switzerland)
- Stephan Vandevoorde (Belgium)
- Mario Vanhoucke (Belgium)
- Steve Wake (UK)

Over 70 delegates attended the conference, a creditable achievement for an inaugural conference and particularly so in the difficult economic circumstances of the global financial crisis. Economic issues had a significant impact on interest levels translating into conference attendance due to heavily constrained business travel budgets; however, delegates attended from at least 18 nations, including beyond Europe

(Left to right across pp. 12–13) Lyn Evans explaining the work at CERN in the opening keynote address. Mr. Walt Lipke from Oklahoma, USA, introducing a favourite topic in the academic track. Conference Chair Steve Wake thanking PMI-CPM President Susan Wood for her keynote address. International Academic Track EVM collaboration (left to right) Kym Henderson (Australia), Walt Lipke (USA), Mojtaba Zarei-Kesheh (UK), Stephan Vandevoorde (Belgium), Mario Vanhoucke (Belgium), and Pierre Bonnal (Switzerland).



from as far away as Venezuela, Australia, and Kazakhstan, while some dedicated Americans chose to forgo the pleasures of Thanksgiving week to also attend.

American attendees included PMI-CPM President Susan Wood, who accepted an invitation to attend from the organizing committee. Susan gave the keynote address on day 2 that summarized the USA experience with earned value management (EVM) and offered some pertinent advice and hard-won lessons learned based on this experience for proposed European implementations of the method. Uniquely, to the best of our knowledge, for EVM-focused conferences, this conference included a dedicated academic track, complete with papers and publication of proceedings.

The EVA Europe organizing committee charter is dedicated to promoting earned value and integrated performance management in Europe, with a self-sustaining EVA conferences program. While members of the organizing committee belong to a range of professional bodies, the committee operates independently. It aims to work with all interested professional and other bodies to promote earned value in Europe.

Following the success of the EVA-1 Europe Conference, the conference will be “leaving the Headquarters of Hadrons” with the EVA-2 Europe

Conference to be held in Belgium at the University of Ghent on 24–25 Nov 2010. A local organising committee with Professor Mario Vanhoucke as president has been established with the Conference website already commissioned at <http://www.eva-europe.eu/2010/>. EVA-2 Europe will be held at Het Pand, the Cultural Centre of Ghent University. Het Pand is a former Dominican monastery dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, located in the historical centre of Ghent on the banks of the river Leie.

The long standing EVA UK conferences also continue apace, with the EVA-15 (UK) Conference to be held on 16–17 June 2010 at the historic Armourers’ Hall in London, with accompanying specialist workshops to be held on 14–15 and 18 June 2010. See the conference ad on p. 22 for more information.

## Taking EVM Global

The Governing Board has supported these European initiatives as part of PMI-CPM’s outreach and advocacy mission of promoting EVM globally. I am sure that all members of the global EVM community will be pleased with the success of the EVA Europe initiative. It promises to provide an ongoing viable forum for the promotion of EVM in Europe and beyond as already seen by the success of the EVA-1 Conference at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland.

