The International Conference on Parallel Problem Solving From Nature (PPSN) has been one of the most respected high-quality international conferences in Natural Computation since 1990. Its eighth biennial conference (PPSN VIII) will be held in the heart of England, Birmingham, on 18-22 September 2004.

Natural Computation is the study of computational systems that use ideas and get inspiration from natural systems, including biological, ecological, physical, chemical and social systems. It is a fast-growing interdisciplinary field in which a range of techniques and methods are studied for dealing with large, complex and dynamic problems. PPSN VIII will showcase a wide range of topics in natural Computation including, but not restricted to: Evolutionary Computation, Quantum Computation, Molecular Computation, Neural Computation, Artificial Life, Swarm Intelligence, Artificial Ant Systems, Artificial Immune Systems, Self-Organising Systems, Emergent Behaviours, Machine Perception and Applications to Real-World Problems.

The conference emphasises original theories and novel applications of natural computation. Researchers, practitioners and students from academia and industry are invited to submit their original papers to this conference.

World-leading researchers in the field of natural computation will present keynote speeches and tutorials at the conference. The conference proceedings will be published by Springer in its LNCS series. A number of specialist workshops will be run just before the main conference.

**Paper Submissions**

Authors are invited to submit papers presenting original results in the field of natural computation by 26 March 2004. The format should follow Springer Verlag LNCS style, ([http://www.springer.de/comp/lncs/authors.html](http://www.springer.de/comp/lncs/authors.html)) with no more than 10 pages. Only electronic submissions will be considered. Papers in postscript or PDF files can from 1st November 2003 be submitted through [http://events.cs.bham.ac.uk/ppsn04/submissions](http://events.cs.bham.ac.uk/ppsn04/submissions)

**Conference homepage:** [http://events.cs.bham.ac.uk/ppsn04](http://events.cs.bham.ac.uk/ppsn04)

**Important Dates**

- **26 March, 2004**: Submission
- **28 May, 2004**: Acceptance
- **18 June, 2004**: Final Papers
- **18 – 22 September, 2004**: Conference