

**Thomas Schmidt** is the head of the computer centre of FHTW Berlin. He studied mathematics and physics at Freie Universität Berlin and University of Maryland, USA. In 1993 he received his PhD in mathematical physics for a work in a many particle theory of quantum mechanics done at the theory group of the Hahn-Meitner-Institut Berlin. Since the late 1980s he has been involved in many computing projects, especially focusing on simulation and parallel programming, distributed information systems and visualisation.

His current fields of interest lie in the areas of networked multimedia applications and telelearning where he has continuously conducted numerous projects on national and international level. He has published more than 40 contributions to scientific journals and conference proceedings.

**Matthias Wählisch** is a member of the networking group of the computer centre of FHTW Berlin. He is studying mathematics and computer science at Freie Universität Berlin. His major fields of interest lie in networking protocols where he looks back on four years of professional experience in project work and publication.

**Hans Cycon** received his diploma in physics in 1975 and his PhD in mathematics in 1979 and his Habilitation in 1984 from the Technical University Berlin, Germany. From 1985 through 1990 he worked in co-operation with Siemens on software development and software engineering for digital telecommunication systems. He taught mathematics and physics at the Telekom Fachhochschule Germany and since 1995, he is a Professor at FHTW Berlin teaching mathematics and signal processing. His publications fields (including a book) are mathematical physics and signal processing i.e., image coding. Hans is leading several projects in developing wavelet-based still image and video compression codecs. He is member of the German delegation of the ITU/ISO standardisation committee for JPEG 2000 still image standard.

**Mark Palkow** is presently the Managing Director and Chief Developer at the daViCo Gesellschaft für digitale audiovisuelle Kommunikation mbH that he founded in 2000. He received his diploma in communication engineering from the Fachhochschule Telekom Berlin in 1996. Since then he has worked on several research projects at FHTW Berlin, the Old Dominion University Norfolk and the Heinrich Hertz Institut Berlin, all concerned with efficient video encoding, including MPEG 4 and Motion JPEG 2000, as well as multipoint conferencing and collaboration tools.