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## **Editorial**

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### **Guest Editor: G.S. Dangayach**

Turbulent and uncertain marketplaces throughout the world are the result of intense competition, changes in manufacturing management, developments in manufacturing technology, environmental changes, rapid advances in information technology, developments in process materials, opening up of economies, shortening of product life cycles, and advances in physical and biological sciences. The transition of production systems to new organisational forms and managerial practices under pressure of radical changes in competition, marketplaces, technologies, and socio-economics has attracted much research attention. It is becoming increasingly important for manufacturing organisations to articulate clear and coherent manufacturing strategies that support their long-term business objectives.

The business environment across the globe is becoming more and more competitive. Manufacturing is the most important competitive asset for an industrial organisation. Recognising this, a call for papers for a special issue on 'Manufacturing Strategy' was issued by the *International Journal of Manufacturing Technology and Management*.

The objective of this special issue is to create a forum for exchange/update knowledge between practitioners and researchers. This special issue contains theoretical contribution, strategic frameworks, case studies and empirical investigations emphasising different aspects of manufacturing strategy. An overview of the papers included in this special issue is presented hereunder.

Manufacturing strategy and supply chain strategies should be linked. This is emphasised by Lockamy in his paper '*Linking Manufacturing and Supply Chain Strategies: A Conceptual Framework*'. Based upon an analysis of the strategy formulation literature, the paper introduces a conceptual framework for accomplishing the aforementioned linkages.

Dangayach and Deshmukh in their paper '*Advanced Manufacturing Technologies: Evidence from Indian Automobile Companies*' presented the findings of an exploratory survey on Advanced Manufacturing Technologies (AMT) administered in Indian automobile companies. The objective of the survey was to assess the status of advanced manufacturing technologies, identify advanced manufacturing technologies relevant to Indian automobile sector companies, identify competitive priorities, and assess the degree of investment in advanced manufacturing technologies.

Process planning for aircraft assembly is a very complex task. Arnold, Ramulu, and Rao investigates the effectiveness of assembly simulation as a process planning development aid in their paper '*Importance of Assembly Simulation as an Aid for Process Planning for an Aircraft Assembly Operation – Perspective From Experience*'.

Pun and Chin in their paper '*A Comparative Analysis of Strategy Determinants in Manufacturing: Some Findings in Shanghai and Hong Kong*' investigate common success factors, problem areas and strategy choices of manufacturing firms in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Heterogeneous objects, composed of multiple materials, are now increasingly being used in engineering applications. The paper by Tandon and Kant '*A Modelling and Manufacturing Strategy for the Heterogeneous Solids*', presents an approach to modelling and represents heterogeneous objects by integrating the material information along with geometry/topology in the solid model.

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