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## **Editorial**

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Agent technology has been emerging over the last decade as a powerful new computing paradigm, but only recently has it assumed a more industry-relevant importance. Over the last few years, the area of *Agent-Oriented Software Engineering* (AOSE) has been establishing itself as a unique sub-discipline of computing. This new journal offers a highly focused, peer-reviewed quality journal in which research results pertinent to AOSE can be published, read and widely disseminated.

The objectives of the journal are thus to establish a communication vehicle for researchers and practitioners to promote, publicise and exchange ideas relating to the interface between research and commercial adoption of agent technology within the software engineering community. A further objective is to bring together the two relevant communities of agent technologists and (traditional) software engineers. Although software engineering necessarily encompasses research and application, an individual paper in the journal may address one or both of these aspects. If a proposal is purely theoretical, some application areas need to be indicated although empirical proof will not necessarily be required for publication in the journal.

Each issue of IJAOSE will usually consist of a number of fully refereed, submitted articles. Some issues will contain a subsection (perhaps the whole issue) devoted to extended and re-refereed papers from AOSE focused conferences. We intend to keep a strict balance between these various kinds of papers, favouring issues focussing on regular submissions. Notwithstanding, the editors welcome suggestions for special issues and special sections. These can be initiated in terms of a specific focus (for example, a planned forthcoming issue on modelling languages) or offered as a set of extended papers from a prestigious conference or workshop. In this latter case, papers already published in short form as a conference paper will only be accepted in IJAOSE after substantial extension, revision and full refereeing within our quality-controlled system.

IJAOSE is a quarterly journal and we hope the forthcoming issues, with the mix indicated above, will be of interest, will provide citable ideas and, most importantly, will cement the interface between software engineering and agent technology.