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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** S.T. Button received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the State University of Campinas, UNICAMP in 1990. He is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Materials Engineering, School of Mechanical Engineering, UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil. His current research interests include numerical simulation and optimisation of metal forming processes.

L. Schaeffer is currently Professor at the Department of Mechanical and Metallurgical Engineering at the “Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul” – UFRGS University and is the Coordinator of the Mechanical Transformation Laboratory (LdTM/UFRGS), Porto Alegre, Brazil. He received his PhD in Mechanical Forming at Rheinisch-Westfälischen Technischen Hochschule/Aachen, R.W.T.H.A, Aachen – Germany in 1982. His current research focuses on mechanical forming process.

P.A.F. Martins received a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Instituto Superior Técnico, TULisbon, Portugal in 1991. He attained Habilitation (Agregação) in 1999 in recognition of his work in the numerical and experimental simulation of metal-forming processes. His research interests include metal forming and, more recently, metal cutting and he was awarded in 2005 with the AM Strickland Prize by the Manufacturing Division of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, UK. He is coauthor of three books and one international patent and published more than 150 papers in international

journals and conferences. He belongs to the editorial board and is reviewer of several international journals.

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This issue of the *International Journal of Mechatronics and Manufacturing Systems* contains selected papers on metal forming technologies that were presented at the 4th COBEF and at the 27th SENAFOR held in Brazil in 2007.

The first edition of the Brazilian Conference on Manufacturing Engineering (COBEF) was held in February 2000 at Curitiba and the conference is presently established as a forum for discussing and promoting innovative aspects of basic and applied research in the field of manufacturing technologies in Brazil and Latin-America.

SENAFOR started as a national seminar on forging technology in 1982 at Porto Alegre with the aim of bringing together researchers and engineers working in industry to share their expertise and experience and to identify needs and development directions for the forging industry in Brazil. The success of SENAFOR and its growing international visibility led the organisers to upgrade the seminar into an international conference in 1996 with focus in bulk and sheet metal forming technologies.

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