Editorial

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Biographical notes: Enzo Gentili is full Professor of Special Technologies at University of Brescia. He began his research in the field of metal plasticity (wire and tube drawing, deep drawing, forging, extrusion forging and the ring test). His research interests are the use of FEM in metal plasticity and metal cutting optimisation, total quality management, preventive and improving systems for quality control and safety management. He is author of several publications and editorial member of a number of journals.

Industry has been the base of prosperity and modernisation. However, today, we see industry through different eyes. Today we must consider the quality of the product and the expectations of the customer. If we want to succeed, internationally, and within the constraints of the present industrial market, we must take into account both the customer satisfaction and needs. Over the last 20 years, improved technology and information technology have contributed in making these demands possible and reasonable. Design of products, improved process planning, maximised resource scheduling and the streamlining of production flow through factories are all well established and an essential part of Computer Integrated Manufacturing. The future depends of flexibility but this will in turn depend on installation costs. Therefore we need to provide a highly efficient and reliable computerised production process. The increasing complexity of products, production structures and processing procedures combined with turbulent market expectations, resulting in a growth of product variability, individualisation and a time reduction, have set new frontiers for business manufacturing. Furthermore, nowadays firms are facing a hard global competition that compels them to improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of their systems. Considering these circumstances, it is important to elaborate innovative methodologies and new strategies tat will increase industrial performance.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Manufacturing Technology and Management* is devoted to 'Innovative approach in technology and manufacturing management' and aims to provide a forum for the dissemination of information about this subject.

I would like to conclude this editorial by thanking all the authors who, through their papers, have shared their research and technical knowledge with the readers of this special edition of the *International Journal of Manufacturing Technology and Management*: without their enthusiasm and hard work, it would have been impossible to produce this outstanding edition. I would also like to thank the reviewers who kindly gave up their time and offered to judge and select the papers. Finally an acknowledgment to my staff in Brescia for their contribution and organisation in the day to day management in making this a successful publication. I hope that you, the reader, will benefit, from this publication, in your future research projects.