
Editorial

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Significant advancements have been made in the development of manufacturing processes and management. Innovations in manufacturing include developments in lean manufacturing, process development and integration, manufacturing security and nanomanufacturing. Therefore, this Special Issue of the *International Journal of Manufacturing Technology and Management* presents the current state-of-the-art in 'manufacturing innovations'. The papers presented in this issue are based on presentations made during the 23rd International Manufacturing Conference held from 30 August to 1 September 2006 at the University of Ulster, UK. The conference was opened by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ulster Prof. Richard Barnett followed by a plenary session. Prof. Sir Bernard Crossland, FREng, FRS, gave a talk on, "Where now in Engineering Manufacturing in Ireland?" and Prof. Waqar Ahmed (University of Ulster) gave a presentation about "Nanomanufacturing: An Emerging New World". A wide range of innovations in manufacturing were covered during the conference including: Business Strategy and Supply Chain Management; Industrial Automation and Process Control; Industrial Engineering, Operations Management and Education; Manufacturing Processes and Technology; Materials Technology; Micro and Nanomanufacturing; Product Development, Concurrent Engineering and Quality; Simulation; and Manufacturing Systems. The conference proceedings contain many of

the presentations (Proceedings of the 23rd International Manufacturing Conference, Editors: D.M.J. Harris, R.B. Clarke, W. Ahmed, M. Morgan and W. McKnight, 2006), but a selection of papers included in this Special Issue are specially extended versions of the conference presentations selected to represent innovations in manufacturing and are expected to enlighten readers of the *International Journal of Manufacturing Technology and Management*. We are grateful to authors who contributed to this Special Issue. The papers presented in this Special Issue have been refereed by peer reviewers who are experts in their field and have returned their reviews in a timely fashion. We wish to thank them for their reviews. Special thanks to Professor Mohammed Dorgham of Inderscience Publishers for his continued support and guidance and for agreeing to publish this Special Issue.