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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Alain Bernard, PhD, was Associate Professor during 1990–1996 in Centrale Paris. During 1996–2001, he was Professor in CRAN, Nancy I. Since 2001, he has been Professor at Centrale Nantes and Dean for Research (2007–2012). He is researcher in IRCCyN laboratory (UMR CNRS 6597) in the ‘Systems Engineering: Products Performances Perceptions’ team. His main research topics are KM, PLM, information system modelling, interoperability, enterprise modelling, systems performance evaluation, virtual engineering, and additive manufacturing. He has published about 250 papers in refereed international journals, books and conferences. He is vice-chairman of IFIP WG5.1 and chairman of CIRP STC Design.

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This special issue of the *International Journal of Product Development* has been built with extended versions of nominated papers and awarded best papers presented during the CIRP Design 2010 conference. The CIRP Design Conference is an official conference from the CIRP (International Academy for Production Engineering); this was the 20th issue of this event.

The conference has been very productive on the scientific point of view, despite ‘the cloud’ from the volcano in Iceland, and all the negative consequences on attendance. But fortunately, electronic communications allowed the speakers who had transportation difficulties to present their contributions through videoconferencing system.

The sessions of the CIRP Design 2010 Conference were constituted with papers that relate to the actual topics concerning design and mainly on the Global Product Development point of view.

This special issue gives a very relevant and representative view of the actual trends in Global Product Development, considering different aspects that engineers have to take into account during Design phase. Selected papers for this special issue mainly relate to conceptual, organisational and technological issues, with some interesting inputs on models, methods, frameworks, tools and applications for Global Product development.

As the Global Product Development topic is very important for academic structures, industrial companies and more generally, the civil society, it is important to underline the fact that many sponsors have decided to support this event. We kindly thank all of them for their support.

We also thank the honorary President, Prof. Michel Véron, former President of the CIRP, all the scientific committee members and all the reviewers of these extended versions of selected papers for their active and very important contribution to the scientific quality of this special issue.