
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Jose Arturo Garza-Reyes is a Senior Lecturer in Operations and Supply Chain Management at the Centre for Supply Chain Improvement, Derby Business School, The University of Derby, UK. He has published a number of articles in leading international journals and conferences and two books in the areas of quality management systems and manufacturing performance measurement systems. He is a co-founder and editor of the *Int. J. of Supply Chain and Operations Resilience (IJSCOR)*, and has participated as guest editor for special issues in various international journals. His research interests include general aspects of operations and manufacturing management, operations and quality improvement, and supply chain improvement.

Vikas Kumar is a Senior Lecturer in Strategy & Operations Management at Bristol Business School, University of the West of England, UK. He has published a book, 6 book chapters and more than 60 articles in leading international journals and conferences including the *International Journal of Production Research, Expert System with Applications, and Production Planning & Control*. He is a Co-founder and Editor of the *Int. J. of Supply Chain and Operations Resilience* and serves on the editorial board of around six international journals. His current research interests include supply chain management, process modelling, service innovation, and service operations management.

The manufacturing sector of a country is a key indicator of its economic development and growth. Manufacturing is an important activity that creates jobs, produces goods and materials required by every society, and is also a source from which a significant amount of a nation's wealth and technological development is generated. Designing, developing and integrating optimum manufacturing systems, technologies, services, and best practices to meet the needs of their customers are key elements for manufacturing organisations to achieve and realise competitiveness. This special issue aims at presenting the latest developments in the management, adoption and optimisation of manufacturing

technologies, and its integration to other functional areas of an organisation. Therefore, this special issue of the *International Journal of Engineering Management and Economics (IJEME)* entitled 'Manufacturing operations management and optimisation' presents some of the latest technological developments in the manufacturing arena. It includes extended versions of selected papers presented at the 23rd International Conference on Flexible Automation and Intelligent Manufacturing (FAIM) in Porto, Portugal, 26–28 June 2013, as well as other contributions from leading researchers and academics. The specific topics covered in this special issue include:

- management and integration of products and manufacturing services
- multi-level performance measurement in manufacturing
- knowledge, change, and risk management in manufacturing
- value creation by sustainable manufacturing
- manufacturing on demand
- lean and agile manufacturing; challenges in lean management
- lean six sigma
- beyond lean and new manufacturing paradigms
- logistics for manufacturing
- green and lean supply chains, logistics, and procurement
- operations planning and control; scheduling
- operations optimisation
- resource efficient, sustainable production systems
- quality management systems
- business excellence models (i.e. EFQM, Malcolm Baldrige, Deming, etc.)
- total quality management
- six sigma
- human resources and technological factors
- social aspects, health, and safety in manufacturing
- manufacturing education and training
- other related topics.

From the submissions of articles made to this special issue, six papers that represent excellent and state-of-the-art research work that spans from a variety of leading edge research in the area of Manufacturing Operations Management and Optimisation were selected.

All these articles were peer reviewed according to the usual high standards of *IJEME* and Inderscience. Thus, our deep thanks go to the highly qualified and thorough referees that contributed to the review process of this special issue. They greatly contributed to the

high quality standards of the final manuscripts. In our view, the selected papers represent excellent contributions to the area of Manufacturing Operations Management and Optimisation.

The guest editors and the *IJEME* hope that this special issue will make a good reference material and be of great use for engineers, researchers, and academics that wish to improve their manufacturing operations and processes as a key strategy to overcome the current challenges faced by manufacturing companies.