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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Michal Besterci joined the Institute of Materials Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences, in the area of composite materials, after graduating from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Technical University of Košice in 1961. In 1971 and 1987, he received his Doctoral as Candidate of Sciences and Doctor of Sciences. In 1992, he was named an Associate Professor, and in 1997, Professor of Material Engineering at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. He is an author and co-author of six monographs and six chapters in monographs. His 650 original scientific works have been published in journals and conference proceedings. He is a member of six editorial boards of journals.

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The special issue of *International Journal of Materials and Product Technology* 'Advanced composite materials design and optimisation' is focused on processing, quantification of microstructures as well as on characteristics of mechanical and technological properties of advanced composite materials. All authors in their publications in confrontation with literary sources give an overview of present status and research optimisation in the specific areas of metal composite and ceramic systems.

The invited papers of submitted reviews were accepted after review by independent referees and included in the special issue of the journal. Some contributions are theoretical, the others are oriented toward experimental investigation of microstructure and high temperature mechanical properties of composites.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the contributing authors in repeated manuscript preparation and the referees for their contribution to the high level of the papers. I hope this special issue will provide valuable information about the current state-of-the-art for technology and properties of wide range composites designed for structural applications.

I am very grateful to Dr. Mohammed A. Dorgham, the Editor-in-Chief, for his support of this special issue.