
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Pablo Cortés is a Full Professor in Industrial Engineering at the University of Seville. He has been author of more than 200 publications, being more than 60 in highly reputed *JCR* journals. He is also editorial board member of several journals and has been appointed as Guest Editor for different special issues such this one. He has been Project Leader in a high number of RTD projects funded by the Administration and private companies. He is also evaluator and consultant for the Spanish Agency for Research, and the 7th FP and Horizon 2020 RTD Programmes of the European Commission.

Jesús Muñuzuri got his PhD in Industrial Engineering at the School of Engineering of the University of Seville, where he is an Associate Professor. He has completed research stages in the Universities of Delft (The Netherlands) and Lyon (France), and has acted as the national expert in the Bestufs European Network for City Logistics. His research work is focused on the fields of transport and logistics, with special interest in urban transport and intermodal freight transport, evaluation of policies and preferences and application of operational research to industrial engineering problems.

José Guadix studied industrial engineering and obtained his PhD in the School of Industrial Engineering at the University of Seville, Spain, in 2004. His research interests include operations research and revenue management. He has been consultant for several leading service companies and Regional Government Administrations since 2000. Currently, he lectures at the School of Industrial Engineering of the University of Seville as Associate Professor.

Engineering management is an expertise of engineering that appears strongly linked to diverse concepts of management and engineering. In fact, it is a specialised form of management that is concerned with the application of engineering principles to business practice. Example areas of engineering management are organisational management, administrative and planning abilities of management, product development or any other field that employs personnel who perform an engineering function from a management perspective.

However, the engineering management concept in the 21st century is overpassing these concepts and is extending to a systemic vision of all the fields and departments of the productive and service systems in an integrated way. In addition, engineering and management concepts present a horizontal perspective influencing on most of the organisation areas. The way in which engineers solve management problems present specific characteristics, and in the same line, the management of engineering problems requires other specific perspectives.

Therefore, the multipolar characteristics of nowadays problems require a multifaceted analysis, and engineering management arises as the key-enabling discipline capable of tackling such challenge. In this line, the approach to tackle current real-life problems requires an analysis that is strengthened when a collaborative management approach is implemented. The motto of this special issue focuses on this vision.

Thus, engineering management in collaborative environments appears as a toolbox of key-enabling skills and abilities providing the most efficient management of complex processes or systems. It relates to the capabilities of designing, developing and implementing integrated solutions for complex systems associated with economical, staff, knowledge, information, equipment, energy and materials subsystems.

This special issue covers and focuses on the topics that are described above. All of them are good examples of the rigorous and serious research being undertaken to support complex decisions in the field of engineering management in collaborative environments.

The papers submitted to this special issue were reviewed thoroughly by the referred reviewers and we on behalf of the chief editor Professor Corrado lo Storto extend our sincere thanks to all the authors and the reviewers. The ten papers, which are included in this issue, have been chosen to give a wide coverage to engineering management to support a broad variety of complex problems in different fields.