
Welcome note

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Biographical notes: Eleonora Bottani is an Associate Professor of Industrial Logistics at the Department of Industrial Engineering of the University of Parma since 2014. Previously, she acted as a Lecturer for the same department. Her research activities concern logistics and supply chain management issues, including, among other, intermodal transportation, supplier selection, analysis and optimisation of supply chains, supply chain agility, supply chain modelling and performance analysis, and, more recently, the use of RFID technology on the optimisation of logistics processes and supply chain dynamics. She is the author (or co-author) of more than 100 scientific papers, referee for more than 50 international scientific journals, editorial board member of five scientific journals, and Associate Editor for one of those journals. She is the Editor-in-Chief and co-founder of the *International Journal of Supply Chain and Inventory Management*.

Roberto Montanari is a Full Professor of Mechanical Industrial Plants at the University of Parma. He graduated (with distinction) in 1999 in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Parma. His research activities mainly concern equipment maintenance, power plants, food plants, logistics, supply chain management, supply chain modelling and simulation, and inventory management. He has published his research in approx. 60 papers, which appear in qualified international journals and conferences. He acts as a referee for several scientific journals, editorial board member of two international scientific journals and co-founder and editor of the *International Journal of Supply Chain and Inventory Management*.

Dear reader,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of the *International Journal of Supply Chain and Inventory Management*!

The idea for this new journal, which is part of the Inderscience Publisher, originated approx. two years ago, from the research activities we carried out starting from 2008. In that year, we started studying supply chain management and inventory management problems with the use of simulation techniques. The results of our first study are published in the paper titled ‘Supply chain design and cost analysis through simulation’ [by Bottani, E. and Montanari, R. (2010) *International Journal of Production Research*, Vol. 48, No. 10, pp.2859–2886]. In a subsequent work, we studied supply network design with simulation techniques [cf. Bottani, E. and Montanari, R. (2011) ‘Design and performance evaluation of supply networks: a simulation study’, *International Journal*

Business Performance and Supply Chain Modelling, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp.226–269]. When preparing those works and studying the related literature, we found that there are several issue related to inventory management, supply chain and logistics that could be investigated, exploiting both simulation techniques, analytic models and intelligent algorithms. At the same time, we noticed that there were no scientific journals expressively devoted to the interdependences among those topics, resulting in the related literature being fragmented and disseminated among several general purpose journals. We came to the conclusion that there was the need of a journal expressively devoted to the topics of inventory and supply chain management, since this is an emerging research field, with potentials to generate a wide number of research papers in the future.

Our initial idea with this journal was thus to provide a suitable outlet for these research papers. Indeed, we expect that the *International Journal of Supply Chain and Inventory Management* will provide a specific outlet for research devoted to the interdependences between inventory management and supply chain management. We hope that the journal will become a research platform for researchers operating across the areas of the inventory management and supply chain management, highlighting both theoretical results and practical applications.

We are therefore very happy to see that the first issue of our new journal became a reality and hope the journal will grow in time and will attract submissions at international level.

About this issue

This first issue of *International Journal of Supply Chain and Inventory Management* is also a special issue collecting the best papers from the ‘WIN-LOG 2013’ (2013 International Workshop on Innovation in Logistics) conference. We have decided to support this scientific event, as well as the subsequent editions, because of the relevance of the topics addressed to our journal. A detailed description of the contents of the special issue is included in the editorial of the guest editors.

Acknowledgements

This journal would not be possible without the support of high quality editorial board members and associate editors. We thank all them for their support to the success of the *International Journal of Supply Chain and Inventory Management*.

We also thank the guest editors of this inaugural issue, Professor Francesco Longo and Professor Yuri Merkurjev, who managed the submission and review process of the papers included in this issue.

We hope you will enjoy reading the first issue of the *International Journal of Supply Chain and Inventory Management*.