Editorial

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Biographical notes: Vijayan Krishnaraj is currently working as an Associate Professor in Production Engineering at the PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore in India. He received his PhD from the Anna University, Chennai and postdoctoral research from the University of Toulouse, France. His field of research includes machining and tool design. He has more than 15 years of teaching and research experience in manufacturing, especially in machining. He has published more than 50 papers in international and national journals.

Redouane Zitoune is an Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering at Paul Sabatier University (University of Toulouse, France), since 2005. His PhD work is focused on the manufacturing and machining (drilling and milling) of composite materials. His current research interests include damage analysis during drilling and milling of composite materials (with conventional machining and abrasive water jet machining) and finites elements simulation of machining. He is also interested in the thermal analysis of composite structures by using an optical fibres and finite element analysis. He has published more than 80 technical papers in national and international journals/conferences. In the area of machining of composite materials, he has organised the first national meeting in May 2012. This scientific event has been organised with the collaboration of the French Aerospace Lab (ONERA) and with the consent of the National Association for Composites MAterials (AMAC).

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J. Paulo Davim received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Porto in 1997, the Aggregate title from the University of Coimbra in 2005. He is presently a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Aveiro and the Head of Machining and Tribology Research Group. He has more than 29 years of teaching and research experience in manufacturing, materials and mechanical engineering with special emphasis in machining and tribology. He is the Editor of nine international journals, Guest Editor, editorial board member, reviewer and scientific advisory for many international journals and conferences. He has also published more than 50 book chapters and 350 articles as author and co-author in refereed international journals (more than 200 in ISI Web Science journals, h-index = 33+) and conferences.

The aerospace industries are driving the use of advanced materials such as titanium, nimonic alloys, inconal alloys, composites and demand for large monolithic parts. Its properties of the materials make them attractive and difficult to machine. Especially problems such as rapid tool wear and chatter. The special issue on machining of aerospace materials provide an in depth analysis towards machining titanium and composite materials.

The papers published have been selected after the peer review process. The papers include machining of titanium alloys, drilling of polymer matrix composites, electric discharge machining of polymer matrix composites and advanced materials. The guest editors and the editor would like to thank all the authors and referees for their time and unbiased evaluations of these articles.