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## Preface

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### António Sérgio Pouzada

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**Biographical notes:** António Sérgio Pouzada is a retired Full Professor in Design with Polymers of the University of Minho. He headed research on design with plastics at the Institute for Polymers and Composites. He coordinated the networks Plastinet of the program ALFA (1995–2007) for academic cooperation with Latin America in the field of engineering with polymers, and Plastics in Engineering of the program SOCRATES/ERASMUS (1998–2000) with 30 European universities. His research addressed the design of plastics products and hybrid injection moulds for thermoplastics, micro-injection moulding, and tribological issues associated to the operation of injection moulds. He authored more than 300 publications.

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PMI, the biannual ‘Polymers and Moulds Innovations Conference’ is an established forum for the exchange of knowledge between academia and industry on new developments in the fields of plastics design and processing, additive manufacturing, and innovation on tooling.

During PMI 2014, the 6th edition of PMI, organised jointly by the University of Minho and the Ghent University, in Guimarães, Portugal, over 60 peer-reviewed papers were presented in areas of research strongly focused in new advances in composites and technologies, and also the practical implementation of new processing concepts, under the topics of:

- additive manufacturing
- advanced polymeric composites
- biomedical polymer applications
- developments in polymer processing
- moulds and mould making innovations
- polymer processing simulation
- rapid tooling
- sustainable polymer processing
- trends in product development

Following the advice of the conference Scientific Committee, a selection of high-quality contributions was suggested for this special issue of the *International Journal of Materials and Product Technology*. The selected papers were subjected, in an extended

version, to the normal peer reviewing policy of the journal. Therefore, this publication will definitely be a useful and timely repertoire of the works presented at PMI 2014.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the editorial staff of *International Journal of Materials and Product Technology*, as well as the conference proceeding editors and scientific committee, for their strong support and encouragement for this special issue. I also must express appreciation to all the contributors and the peer reviewers of the papers for their time and effort. Last, but not the least, I want to acknowledge the fundamental effort and support of my friends and co-chairmen of the PMI 2014 Conference, Jean-Pierre Kruth, António Pontes and Ludwig Cardon. *Int. J. Materials and Product Technology*, Vol. 52, Nos. 1/2, 2016.