
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Ferruh Öztürk is a Professor of Automotive Engineering Department at Uludağ University. He received his BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Boğaziçi University, İstanbul, Turkey, and PhD in Mechanical and Manufacturing Systems Engineering from Bradford University, UK. Before joining Uludağ University, he worked at TOFAŞ-FIAT automotive factory in Bursa, Turkey. His major research interests include vehicle design and dynamics, computer aided design and optimisation, neural networks and advanced manufacturing technologies. He has several publications in the area of automotive engineering, computer aided engineering and artificial intelligence.

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This special issue on ‘Recent Advances in Design, Test and Simulation Techniques in Automotive Engineering and Mobility Research’ is devoted to *7th Automotive Technology Conference OTEKON 2014*, which was held in Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey, 26–27 May, 2014. The conference represented the continuation in a series of conferences, which are held in every two years and aim to promote the research and education to solve the current and future challenges in vehicle design, development and manufacturing.

Today, the automotive industry faces new challenges that are characterised by the necessity to produce higher-quality and lower-priced products to the markets while keeping the need to satisfy the safety and environmental requirements. The key to the success of a sustainable future for the automotive industry is to achieve further progress and developments in safety and environmental performance by achieving technological progress and innovation in vehicle design, development and manufacturing. OTEKON conferences are a major platform to disseminate recent developments in the area of automotive engineering and to exchange the knowledge of advances in the theory and practice of vehicle design, development and manufacturing, including wide variety of aspects in automotive engineering. The conference covered a range of presentations, including keynote speakers, industrial presentations and poster sessions, which brought together participants from academia and industry to share the knowledge and to disseminate recent developments in the area of automotive engineering. The main goals of OTEKON 2014 are to:

- support the research and the advances in automotive engineering to overcome the current and future challenges.
- present cleaner and safer vehicles with innovative and intelligent vehicle concepts to meet the challenges for sustainable mobility.

All papers accepted to conference were subject to review process prior to presentation at the conference. Authors of selected papers were invited to submit an extended version of their papers to this special issue. The papers were selected to represent the broad range of vehicle design and development topics, ranging from theoretical issues to practical applications in the automotive industry. The selected papers were assessed by independent international and national assessors. Then, 22 papers were accepted to be published, 18 as research papers and four as Technical Notes.

As Guest Editors, we thank the Editor-in-Chief of IJVD, Dr M. Dorgham, for providing the opportunity to publish this special issue from the *OTEKON 2014 Conference*. We are grateful to the reviewers who helped us during the reviewing process and selection of the papers. We thank to authors for their contributions, and the reviewers and IJVD Journal Managers and IJVD Submission Managers and Editors for their help in bringing this issue to its current form.