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## Editorial

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The Swedish Production Symposium (SPS) has assumed an important role in influencing public policy and has established bridges between academia and industry. The growing importance of production is strongly recognised globally, and we as production colleagues are facing growing challenges in sustainability concerns and an upcoming digital paradigm shift. To be at the forefront of production development the symposium offers opportunities to share cutting-edge research on these matters. The symposium offers presentations in a wide range of topics within production area. The practitioners view is present in many of the submitted papers. This is a result of Swedish research funding agencies promoting strong collaboration between industry and academia, and we hope to see this industry – academy collaboration grows in the future. This special issue contains selected papers that display the latest progress and epitomises the breadth of Swedish production research.

This special issue includes a novel implementation of a production complexity index in the automation industry as well as a proposed new framework for to guide information consensus in the reduction of equivocality in process innovations. Additionally, work on the assessment of a production cost model in terms of its ability to adequately depict production sustainability is presented.

The issue also contains a description of an energy model to estimate the electrical energy consumption of 2D-belt robots used for material handling in multi-stage sheet metal press lines and an in-depth study of key prerequisites for core plants from an operational perspective.

The papers were selected from and recommended by the 7th Swedish Production Symposium (SPS16) hosted by Lund University in Lund, Sweden. The contents of these papers have been extended and the quality enhanced based on the constructive comments given by the distinguished reviewers. The guest editors would like to thank all authors and reviewers who enabled us in compiling this special issue dedicated to resource efficient manufacturing through interdisciplinary collaboration.