

Editorial Introduction

Finally, after some changes in the chain of command of ABEPRO (the Brazilian Production Engineering and Operations Management Association), we have managed to publish the first issue of volume 2 (2005) of the Brazilian Journal of Operations & Production Management. A number of persons should be acknowledged in this effort, especially those who work with ABEPRO. They are: Paulo Selig, current president, Maria Rita Assumpção Alves, and Osvaldo Luiz Gonçalves Quelhas. Moreover, special thanks are due to Adiel Almeida, from UFPE, Marcius Carvalho from CenPRA, and Sílvia Pires from UNIMEP. Their support and contributions to the editorship have been excellent.

For this issue, we had nearly twenty submissions (including a couple of papers submitted to volume 1, 2004, which were already in the process of double-blind review). Five of them were rejected up-front by the editor and editorial advisory board because they were out of the scope or their contents were not strong enough to be included in the review process, either by their weak theoretical background or poor research methodology. Six papers were rejected by the referees and the remaining still in the review process due to a number of reasons (e.g. adjudication). Concerning the result of the present issue, three competitive papers from Brazil, one paper from Portugal, and one paper from Brazil and the UK were accepted.

The accomplishment of this first issue would not be possible without the work of our editorial review board. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them. They have provided the journal with a high level evaluation, surely contributing to the authors and the referral process. The reviewer's insightful comments have helped the authors of the selected papers to enhance their articles.

I hope the readers find the articles a useful source within the scope of production engineering and operations management. Please enjoy them.

In this Issue

Once again we have a rich mixture of qualitative and quantitative approaches as well as theoretical and empirical research in this issue. The first paper begins with an empirical article from Portugal, by António Carrizo Moreira on new product development at inter-firm level. The paper presents four case studies to exemplify the supplier's perceptions to inter-firm product development involving differently endowed firms. Next, Maysa de Magalhães and Antonio Fernando Costa present an economic-statistical model for a control chart. Considering the proposed model, a sensitive analysis is undertaken. A quantitative data analysis is also considered in the third article by Sueli Mingoti and Otaviano Neves. The objective of the paper is to present estimators for the variance of autocorrelated processes

by using geostatistics methodology. The study is complemented by a Monte Carlo simulation study showed that the proposed estimators have good performance. Then, Rogerio Serrão and Paulo Dalcol discuss the alignment of actual manufacturing flexibility, considering the scope and achievability factors of five flexibility dimensions, and important aspects of management priorities and manufacturing performance. The article includes a field work involving five small companies. In our final article, Flavio Fernandes, Moacir Godinho Filho e Maurice Bonney, from the University of Nottingham, presents a proposal for integrating materials flow, production control and quality control. A case study is carried out from which results shows that the proposal contributes effectively to operations management at the shop floor level.

This issue concludes with some call for papers of international conferences on operations management and production research.

The journal expects to count on the research community by considering the journal as the outlet for publication of their research work mostly related but not limited to the research areas defined by ABEPRO¹.



Paulo A. Cauchick Miguel
Editor of BJO&PM

¹ Production Management; Quality Operations; Economic Management; Ergonomics and Work Safety; Product Development; Operational Research; Strategy and Organizations; Technology Management; Information Systems; Environmental Management; Education issues in operations management.