

Editorial Introduction

On behalf of the Editorial Board and ABEPRO, we are happy to deliver the second issue of volume 5 (2008) of the Brazilian Journal of Operations & Production Management. We appreciate all professionals who have supported and contributed to the editorship. The accomplishment of this issue would not be possible without the work of our editorial review board. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their contribution to the journal referral process.

We hope the readers find the articles in this issue a useful source within the scope of production engineering and operations management.

Editorial Farewell

It is time for changes. The present issue of the BJOPM is the last one for which we take editorial responsibility. I (Paulo Cauchick Miguel) have been at this job for half dozen years. My fellow editors, and particularly Sérgio Gouvêa da Costa, as well as members of the Editorial Advisory Board, helped as much as they could. Nevertheless, considerations of deadline pressures, distance, and other factors dictated that I be the person in charge of the journal's day-to-day operations.

Of course, there are a number of persons we would like to thank. First of all, the previous and current board of ABEPROS's Executive Directors, namely the previous ABEPROS's president: Nivaldo Coppini, Paulo Selig, and Osvaldo Quelhas. They have always supported the journal, even when navigating in turbulent waters in which this publication almost sunk. Believe us, there is much 'friendly fire'¹, i.e. people who do not want to see the journal to take off.

But we would not like to talk about the negative experience. It is time to move on, for the next phase of the journal. For revigorating the process of journal editing a new editor is coming after a selection process conducted by ABEPRO Editorial Board (see p. 109). Dr. Helder Gomes da Costa assumes the editorship. Naturally, we have complete confidence in this new editor and wish him success.

¹ It is an expression meaning fire from one's own side or allied forces, as opposed to fire coming from enemy forces, and was originally adopted by the United States military.

In this Issue

The present issue has five up-to-date papers from some researchers from Brazil and the United Kingdom. Investigations of theoretical nature, simulation and case studies were used as research methodology approach by the authors.

The first paper by Marco A. Buseti and Eduardo Portela presents a design methodology applied to reconfigurable processes in the context of agile manufacturing systems. It presents the cyclic three stages of the methodology – modeling, synthesis and implementation – followed by a correspondent mathematical formalism. They conclude the paper presenting an experiment carried out with a manufacturing system prototype.

Trying to fill the lack of research focused on the biofuel in Brazil, Adriana Leira, Silvio Hamacher and Luiz Felipe Scavarda analyse the biodiesel supply chain developed from oil plants in Brazil. The authors conducted fact-finding field trips to companies that are part of the biodiesel productive chain in the State of Bahia, in Brazil, by interviewing 42 participants of those companies. An economic evaluation model was developed to evaluate the integrated chain of biodiesel production technically and economically. They generated and analysed 204 scenarios.

Making use of a Balanced Scorecard (BSC) in the context of Multiple Criteria Decision-aid (MCDA), Mônica M. Leal Canedo and Adiel Teixeira de Almeida propose a multi-criterion model so as to prioritize Electronic Government projects, the scope of which is to provide electronic services from Government to Citizen - G2C (initiatives on behalf of citizens and companies). The work shows that in the context of the governance model proposed, some conditions should be taken into account in order to integrate the use of BSC and MCDA.

In the forth paper by Viviane L. Dias de Mattos, Pedro Alberto Barbetta, Dalton Franciso de Andrade and Robert Wayne Samoryl, the authors considered generalizations of methods which use 2K or 2K-p unreplicated factorial designs. Box-Meyer, Harvey, Brenemann-Nair and Bergman-Hynén methods were considered and compared by Monte Carlo simulations, analysing sensitivity and specificity indicators. They also included joint generalised linear models (joint GLMs) in the comparison. From the achieved results, the authors indicate the applicability of the analysed methods, in terms of efficiency and simplicity.

The last paper is presented by Breno Nunes and David Bennet, from Aston Business School in the UK. Based on the theoretical analysis of the contribution of the modular production system characteristics used in the automotive industry for Green Operations Practices (GOP), the authors discusses the possible contributions from modularity and industrial condominiums towards enhancing environmental performance in the automotive industry.