

Editorial Introduction

On behalf of the Editorial Board, we are happy to deliver the first issue of volume 5 (2008) of the Brazilian Journal of Operations & Production Management. We appreciate all the academicians who support and contribute 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.

In this issue we have the pleasure of announcing that Barbara Flynn of Indiana University and Robert Young of North Carolina State University, both from the USA, are now part of the editorial advisory board. Sérgio Gouvêa da Costa and I have formally invited them and we are honoured they kindly accepted.

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

In this Issue

The present issue has five competitive and up-to-date papers from some researchers from Brazil and abroad. The articles consider qualitative and quantitative methods as the methodological research approach.

The first paper is from Portugal by Maria do Rosário Moreira and Rui Alves. It surveys Just-in-Time (JIT) implementation in Portuguese manufacturing firms. An important contribution is the identification of most common difficulties for JIT implementation, so that Portuguese firms that can be prepared to overcome those difficulties. In addition, a significant empirical implication of the study is that Portuguese firms should use Just-in-Time as a philosophy rather than as a solution for operations-related problems.

The Portuguese paper is followed by a joint research by Edson Pinheiro de Lima and Sergio Gouvêa da Costa, from Brazil and Jannis Angelis, from Warwick Business School in the UK. The authors propose a framework that represents reconciliation between research and practice in the field of operations strategic management system design, implementation and management. The main result is a synthesis of three frameworks that each addresses the design process in different levels: the performance management system life cycle model; the process approach for guiding design and implementation issues; and recommendations that synthesizes the design task.

The third article is a study by Marcela Machado and Antônio Branco Costa, who propose the joint use of two charts based on the non-central chi-square statistic (NCS statistic) for monitoring the mean vector and the covariance matrix of bivariate processes, named as the joint NCS charts. The joint NCS charts are recommended for those who aim to identify

the out-of-control variable instead of the parameter that was affected by the assignable cause: if only the mean vector or only the covariance matrix or both.

Sheyla Almeida, Roberto de Souza, José Curvelo Santana and Edias Tambourgi explores the sensorial analysis of Barbados cherry wines. The authors conduct an assessment by using a questionnaire to evaluate the effect of soluble solids and the concentration of fruit pulp on sensorial quality attributes (colour, flavour and aroma) of wines. Results showed that Barbados cherry wines were suave, and sweet and with moderate alcohol concentration. Flavour and colour of wines were characteristic of *acerola* fresh fruit. In addition, a statistical analysis was also undertaken to assess the sensorial attributes.

Finally, the fifth article, by Miguel Santoro e Marco de Mesquita, offers a simulation model to investigate the effect of the work-in-process control on due date performance in a job shop environment. The paper demonstrates that the simulation runs include different shop floor configurations, workloads and sequencing rules. The results reveal that due date performance is highly dependent on the work-in-process, particularly after the system reaches saturation. Additionally, the simulation model is useful to show job shop managers the effect of the work-in-process control in the due date meeting performance.

Once again, thank you everybody that contributes to the BJOPM. 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 ABEPRO.¹

This issue closes with ABEPRO's executive and ABEPRO's Editorial Board (NEA).

Paulo A. Cauchick Miguel and Sergio E. Gouvêa da Costa

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.