

## From the Editor-in-Chief

**Kimon P. Valavanis**

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Dear Colleagues,

August, or around the month of August, is usually the time period where I, my Assistant, the Springer team and the Editorial Board members start discussions about planning ahead. If there is something different and/or unique, if you wish, about our Journal during the last 3–4 years, is the constant desire to make things better; the wish is here, live and vivid, but the results will show later on.

Indeed, as you know, we have gone to 16 issues per year, published in four Volumes, but in 12 printings with a quarterly published ‘double’ issue. This, obviously, has increased the number of published papers per year, but not the acceptance rate! On the contrary, I would like to inform you that the reviewers are very critical and very thorough doing their job. This pleases me, because we aim at publishing the highest quality papers.

However, I must share with you *one* important shortcoming we *must* overcome: the time it takes to complete a paper review. I have stated repeatedly that it is our goal to provide decisions within 120 days. I am the first to admit that we have not delivered on this promise, or better, we are not consistently delivering. One may find many reasons why this is happening, and to some degree, one may also come up with many valid excuses. I will not do that. I will only state that we are aware of the situation, we are making every effort to ‘reduce’ the time it takes to review a paper, but under no circumstances we will sacrifice quality.

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As we plan ahead, and as we finalize our goals, I will keep you informed and I will report to you. The first item of action will be to renew the Editorial Board in 2011, as most of the current members complete their term. We aim at a more diversified board.

In the mean time, enjoy the issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Valavanis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimon P. Valavanis  
Editor-in-Chief