FOREWORD

Mechatronics 2012

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Mechatronics 2012

Guest Editors

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Following the 2010 conference held at ETH Zurich, the 13th renowned International Mechatronics Forum Conference—Mechatronics 2012—took place from 17–19 September 2012. Held in Austria for the first time, it was jointly organized by the Johannes Kepler University and the Austrian Center for Competence in Mechatronics (ACCM).

In accordance with the Local and International Organizing Committee, we opened new avenues to make this conference more attractive, particularly to industry. Mini-symposia were set up devoted to specific topics. This proved successful in attracting certain scientific communities and groups and gave the conference a broader scope and a more colourful appearance. Another successful attempt was to involve industry more strongly than in previous conferences.

The conference’s character was influenced by the approach and the specific mechatronic problems of the Linz area in industry, teaching and research. This concept of showcasing the local situation in mechatronics in these areas could be valuable for the future conferences; the international mechatronics community could get an overview about the different interpretations of mechatronics and could form informed opinions about different approaches.

Around 150 lecturers from 23 countries around the world covered a broad spectrum of approaches to mechatronic problem solutions, of new technologies, scientific and engineering methods and methodologies. Authors of conference papers in the area of sensors and measurement technology were invited to submit extended papers for publication in this special feature in Measurement Science and Technology, which were all fully peer-reviewed. The topics of the papers that are now collected in this special feature illustrate this variety, from the application of measurement systems to microsystems and algorithms.

We are grateful to the editors of Measurement Science and Technology for the opportunity to provide a glimpse of the results presented at the conference and would like to thank IOP Publishing staff for the efficient handling of the entire publication process!