

Preface

The original intention of this edited book came from the discussion with Professor John Davies, the Chief Editor of the International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology (IJAMT), on the proposition to publish a Special Issue on the applications of virtual and augmented reality technology in manufacturing in September 2002.

We were overjoyed that the call-for-paper of this Special Issue had attracted favourable responses from many top researchers in this field. Mr. Anthony Doyle, Commissioning Editor (Engineering) and Ms. Christiane S Notarmarco, Corporate Sales & Journals Development Manager of Springer-Verlag London Ltd., suggested that instead of having a Special Issue in IJAMT, the papers could be edited into a book that would fit well into the manufacturing engineering collection of Springer. We were quite excited about this invitation and immediately contacted the contributors. The response from all the contributors was very positive and the proposal for a book was submitted to Springer-Verlag for evaluation. The good news that the Springer Editorial Committee had approved the publishing of the book was conveyed to us in July 2003. As the original intention was to be a peer-reviewed Special Issue, and all the papers were either in the process of being reviewed or had already gone through the reviewing process, we informed the contributors that the quality of each paper, now each chapter, had followed the same standard of a rigorously peer-reviewed international journal.

We intend this book to be of interest to researchers, graduate students and practising engineers involved in the simulation, training, design and analysis of manufacturing problems using AR and VR techniques. As VR and AR technologies are fast evolving, we certainly hope that this book can serve as a useful insight to the readers on the state-of-the-art applications and developments of such techniques at the time of compilation.

We are most grateful to the kind cooperation of all the renowned contributors who had promptly responded to all the questions and had painstakingly followed our requests for additional information. We would also like to thank Springer-Verlag for giving us this opportunity of publishing this book.

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