

Preface

The present book includes a set of selected papers from the third “International Conference on Informatics in Control Automation and Robotics” (ICINCO 2006), held in Setúbal, Portugal, from 1 to 5 August 2006, sponsored by the Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC).

The conference was organized in three simultaneous tracks: “Intelligent Control Systems and Optimization”, “Robotics and Automation” and “Systems Modeling, Signal Processing and Control”.

The book is based on the same structure.

Although ICINCO 2006 received 309 paper submissions, from more than 50 different countries in all continents, only 31 were accepted as full papers. From those, only 23 were selected for inclusion in this book, based on the classifications provided by the Program Committee. The selected papers also reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the conference. The diversity of topics is an important feature of this conference, enabling an overall perception of several important scientific and technological trends. These high quality standards will be maintained and reinforced at ICINCO 2007, to be held in Angers, France, and in future editions of this conference.

Furthermore, ICINCO 2006 included 7 plenary keynote lectures and 1 tutorial, given by internationally recognized researchers. Their presentations represented an important contribution to increasing the overall quality of the conference, and are partially included in the first section of the book. We would like to express our appreciation to all the invited keynote speakers who took the time to contribute with a paper to this book, namely, in alphabetical order: Oleg Gusikhin (Ford Research & Adv. Engineering), Norihiro Hagita (ATR Intelligent Robotics and Communication Labs), Gerard T. McKee (University of Reading) and William J. O’Connor, University College Dublin.

On behalf of the conference organizing committee, we would like to thank all participants. First of all to the authors, whose quality work is the essence of the conference and to the members of the program committee, who helped us with their expertise and time.

As we all know, producing a conference requires the effort of many individuals. We wish to thank all the people from INSTICC, whose work and commitment were invaluable.

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