

Preface

Rapid Modelling and Quick Response - Intersection of Theory and Practice

This volume is a sequel of the 1st Rapid Modelling Conference proceedings volume that focused on Rapid Modelling for increasing competitiveness. The main focus of the 2nd Rapid Modelling Conference proceedings volume “Rapid Modelling and Quick Response - Intersection of Theory and Practice” is the transfer of knowledge from theory to practice, providing the theoretical foundations for successful performance improvement (based on lead time reduction, etc. as well as financial performance measures). Furthermore illustrations will be given by teaching/business cases as well as success stories on new software tools in this field as well as new approaches. In general, Rapid Modelling is based on queueing theory but other mathematical modelling techniques as well as simulation models which facilitate the transfer of knowledge from theory to application are of interest as well.

Together with the proceedings volume of selected papers presented at the 1st Rapid Modelling Conference “Increasing Competitiveness - Tools and Mindset” the interested reader should have a good overview on what is going on in this field. The objective of this conference series is to provide an international, multidisciplinary platform for researchers and practitioners to create and exchange knowledge on increasing competitiveness through Rapid Modelling. In this volume, we demonstrate that lead time reduction (through techniques ranging from quick response manufacturing to lean production) is very important but not enough. Additional factors such as risk, costs, revenues, environment, etc. have to be considered as well. We accepted papers that contribute to these themes in the form of:

- Rapid Modelling
- Case study research, survey research, action research, longitudinal research
- Theoretical papers
- Teaching/business case studies

Relevant topics are:

- Queueing Theory
- Rapid Modelling in Manufacturing and Logistics
- Rapid Modelling in Services
- Rapid Modelling and Financial Performance Measurement
- Product and Process Development
- Supply Chain Management

Based on these categories, the proceedings volume has been divided into six chapters and brings together selected papers which present different aspects of the 2nd Rapid Modelling Conference. These papers are allocated based on their main contribution. All papers passed through a double-blind referee process to ensure their quality.

While the RMC10 (2nd Rapid Modelling Conference “Rapid Modelling and Quick Response - Intersection of Theory and Practice”) takes place at the University of Neuchâtel, located in the heart of the city of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, it is based on a collaboration with the project partners within our IAPP Project (No. 217891, see also <http://www.unine.ch/iene-kje>). We are happy to have brought together authors from Algeria, Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the conference and this proceedings volume. First, we wish to thank all authors and presenters for their contribution. Furthermore, we appreciate the valuable help from the members of the international scientific board, the referees and our sponsors (see the Appendix for the appropriate lists).

In particular, our gratitude goes to our team at Enterprise Institute at the University of Neuchâtel, Gina Fiore Walder, Reinhold Schodl, Boualem Rabta, Arda Alp, Gil Gomes dos Santos, Yvan Nieto, who supported this conference project and handled the majority of the text reviews as well as the formatting work with LaTeX. Ronald Kurz created the logo of our conference and he took over the development of the conference homepage <http://www.unine.ch/rmc10>.

Finally, it has to be mentioned that the conference as well as the book are supported by the EU SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME - THE PEOPLE PROGRAMME - Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways Project (No. 217891) “How revolutionary queueing based modelling software helps keeping jobs in Europe. The creation of a lead time reduction software that increases industry competitiveness and supports academic research.”

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