EDITORIAL

The next issue of *The International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology*, Volume 8 Number 1 will incorporate the sister Springer journal *Robotersysteme* which has been published in Germany. Professor R Dillman, of Karlsruhe University, who has been an Editor-in-Chief of *Robotersysteme*, will join me as joint Editor-in-Chief of the enhanced IJAMT.

Currently, *Robotersysteme* is published four times per year, while IJAMT is published six times. Approximately an equal number of papers in *Robotersysteme* are published in English and German. The format of both journals is almost exactly the same but *Robotersysteme* includes one-page reports on Conferences and Doctoral Theses.

All the additional robotics papers in the next issues of IJAMT will be in English. This will give readers of IJAMT a wider coverage of the important and expanding area of robotics applications in advanced manufacturing technology.

Papers on robotics applications in IJAMT can, as in the past, be submitted to either Editor-in-Chief. Instructions for authors have been almost identical in both journals. If necessary the number of pages in future issues of IJAMT will be increased to avoid increasing the length of queue of papers waiting to be published.

In the last year over 10% of the papers submitted to IJAMT have been related to robotics. This percentage has been increasing and indicates the growing importance of robotic applications in advanced manufacturing technology. Robotic applications in AMT are currently in a relatively early stage of development, in particular applications are restricted by the lack of suitable general purpose vision systems, versatile force and touch sensors and programming means such as generally available knowledge based task oriented languages. Many of these developments will find application in all areas of AMT.

Robotersysteme subscribers who are receiving this issue of IJAMT with the last issue of *Robotersysteme* can receive six issues of the enhanced IJAMT next year for the price of four issues of *Robotersysteme*. They will, through IJAMT, also have access to a wide variety of potential and actual robotic application areas in manufacturing.

I trust that the increased coverage of robotics and potential robotic application areas will enhance the value of Volume 8 of IJAMT to our existing and new readers.

PROFESSOR B J DAVIES
Editor