From the Editor-in-Chief

Kimon P. Valavanis

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Dear Colleagues and readers,

At first, I want to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. May all your wishes and dreams come true and become reality. I also want to take this opportunity to thank wholeheartedly the Springer team (Nathalie, Anneke, Marie Veth and Joey) for the wonderful job they do on a day-to-day basis and for their tremendous support. Last, but not least, I express my gratitude to all Editorial Board members who are one of the main reasons this journal improves every year. To those who leave the Editorial Board for new and perhaps better things, I am honored and proud to have worked with you, and I look forward to future collaboration again. To the ‘new comers’, welcome aboard; I know you will be successful.

It is this last statement that I will use as reference point to continue this editorial. The new Editorial Board is diverse, spread, and it includes a well balanced group of people with respect to complementarity of skills. However, as I have said in the past, we will keep on enhancing the Board, to add more expertise. The list of the 2011 Editorial Board members is included in this issue for your information.

I am pleased to state that our journal’s impact factor has improved again. I believe that JINT is earning the respect it deserves – and this is the outcome of everybody’s hard work: from the authors, to the reviewers, to the Editors, to the Springer team. However, this should be just the ‘beginning’. There is a long way to the top, and even if one reaches this point, there is an even harder and more difficult task to stay there. Clearly, we are not there, but it is nice and healthy to dream about it, and I wish that you share this dream with me.

To reach our goal, we need to publish the best quality papers; we need to be consistent in our decisions and recommendations; we need timely responses to the authors. Most important of all – and this is becoming an issue for many journals – we

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must be sure that we publish archive and prototype work. I am very concerned with ‘double publications’ and plagiarism. As such, I commit to do my best to minimize such unfortunate situations, and I plea my case to the Editorial Board members to check twice as hard each paper they receive for review.

Effective January 2011, papers submitted to JINT will be classified officially (by the author) as: Regular, short, survey, invited, special issue papers. The same classification will apply to the UAV papers, too. We believe that in this way, we offer better justice to our readers, and we also offer better service to the authors of those papers.

We are considering adding a ‘multimedia feature’ to our journal for a special type of papers – we will report on this at a later time. In any case, we are always on the look for more, innovative, better things to offer without sacrificing the quality of the publication.

This large issue at hand is actually a Special Volume (four issues) on Unmanned Aircraft Systems. It consists of enhanced and revised versions of peer reviewed papers that were initially presented in the 3rd International Symposium on UAVs, which took place in Dubai, in June of 2010. The aim of the Volume is to present the recent advances in UAVs and their application to diverse domains. The theme areas of the Volume are diverse, while the specific topics (papers) in each area present and discuss different problems and challenges that need to be overcome. We feel that this Volume is informative and of value to our audience.

Enjoy the issue! As always, do not forget to submit your work, organize a Special Issue, give us your feedback and ideas. Happy New Year again.

Kimon P. Valavanis
Editor-in-Chief

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