UAS Special Volumes in Jint

Vol. 73, Issues 1–4, Vol. 74, Issues 1–2 (months January to May 2014)

K. P. Valavanis

Published online: 7 December 2013
© Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! Peace, health, happiness and prosperity to all of you. I hope that all your wishes and dreams become reality.

We are starting a new cycle in JINT with increased responsibilities, with an enhanced Editorial Board and members with also enhanced roles. This is a ‘must’ in order to accommodate our readership and potential authors. We continue to aim at publishing the highest quality papers and provide timely responses to authors. We aim at reducing the cycle from initial submission to online paper appearance (assuming acceptance) to 6–7 months. Looking over the past years, even though statistics do not always reflect reality, the percentage of contributed accepted papers is less than 25 %; however, when we consider the

special and invited issues this percentage increases to 30 %.

We renew our commitment to excellence. We are on the right path. The number of JINT cited papers (the absolute number of citations per calendar year) has been on the rise since 2006, and we are determined to continuing this pattern. We expect your support and we count on your contributions.

We start this New Year with a Special Volume in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), otherwise now known as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)—the ICAO recommended definition. UAS are still on the rise and the spectrum of possible civilian/public domain applications widens, although integration into the national airspace is still far away. Regardless, research and development continues to be strong and results and findings are being reported.

This six-issue combined work at hand (Vol. 73, Issues 1–4, Vol. 74, Issues 1–2) reports on the latest advances in:

- UAS Control and Navigation Challenges
- Micro and Mini UAS Challenges
- UAS Fail-Safe and Fault-Tolerant Design Challenges
- Aerial Manipulation Challenges

K. P. Valavanis (✉)
Journal of Intelligent and Robotic Systems,
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
School of Engineering and Computer Science,
University of Denver, Denver, CO 80208, USA
e-mail: Kimon.Valavanis@exch.du.edu

- UAS Path Planning Challenges
- UAS Vision and Sensing Challenges
- UAS Applications and Testbeds

All papers have been reviewed twice by experts in their field and also by members of the Editorial Board. We expect that these papers will serve as reference for the interested scientist and engineer, researcher, practitioner and end user.

As always, we welcome your opinion and feedback.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Valavanis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimon P. Valavanis
Editor-in-Chief