Preface

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The 18 selected papers from the 2009 Multidisciplinary International Scheduling Conference: Theory and Applications (MISTA) that was held in Dublin (10–12 August 2009) are spread across two issues.

The 2009 conference was the fourth in the series. The first was held in Nottingham in 2003, the second in New York in 2005, and the third in Paris in 2007. The fifth conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona (9–11 August 2011) and it will also have a special issue of the Journal of Scheduling associated with it.

The aim of the MISTA conference series is to bring together scheduling researchers and practitioners from all disciplines that engage in scheduling. The conferences attract submissions from areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, Engineering, Manufacturing, Mathematics and Operations Research. The scope of the conferences covers a wide range of techniques and applications including (but by no means being limited to) Delivery Scheduling, Heuristic Search, Evolutionary Algorithms, Local Search, Machine Scheduling, Job Shop Scheduling, Rostering, Timetabling and Sports Scheduling. The MISTA

website (<http://www.mistaconference.org>) contains much more information.

MISTA 2009 was attended by about 100 people and 98 oral presentations were given. These consisted of 52 full papers and 46 abstracts. Both the abstracts and papers appeared in the conference proceedings and they are all available from the conference web site (<http://www.mistaconference.org>).

Following the conference, authors were invited to submit revised versions of their papers to a special issue of the Journal of Scheduling. The 18 accepted papers (spread across two issues) are those that received supportive reviews after undergoing a review process in keeping with the expectations of an internationally recognised journal.

We would like to thank all those that carried our reviews for both the MISTA conference and for the special issue. We recognise the time and effort involved in providing high quality reviews, and we are extremely grateful for all their help. Without this support from the international scientific community, neither the conference, nor the special issue would have been possible.

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