

## From the Editor-in-Chief

**Kimon P. Valavanis**

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Dear Colleagues,

I wish you a Happy New Year, full of health, happiness, prosperity, success, and may all your wishes become reality.

I take this opportunity to thank all the past, currently serving and joining members of the Editorial Board for what they have done, for what they are doing and for what they will do to help improve JINT. I express my most sincere gratitude to the Springer team (Nathalie, Anneke, Gabriela, Joey and now Marie Beth) for ‘keeping up’ with us, and to Dina for keeping me ‘under control’.

We start this New Year with high hopes and with new initiatives. As a start, and for the first time, the whole Editorial Board members and our photos are included in this Volume.

From now on we will publish 16 issues per year, one Volume every quarter, with issues 3 and 4 in each Volume being double issues, thus we will still have 12 printings per year. The overwhelming number of submitted papers and all other related activities are forcing us to respond to our readers and accommodate them in the best possible way. In parallel, we will have the flexibility to publish special issues every year! We still aim at publishing the best papers, we are still very selective, we will continue to thrive for excellence.

JINT is improving. This has been the third year in a row where our impact factor is higher than the year before. Even though I have heard arguments that impact factors

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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: kvalavan@du.edu

may not reflect reality at all times, I take it as a sign of finding our place under the sun. Somehow, I believe that in the next few years we will have the respect we certainly deserve. We should keep up the good work and work even harder.

The issue at hand is a special issue on Unmanned Aircraft Systems. It includes peer reviewed extended and enhanced versions of papers accepted and presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on UAVs, which took place in Reno, NV, in June of 2009. The list of papers is included. The areas covered by the papers are:

- UAS Modeling, Control and Identification
- UAS Navigation, Path Planning and Tracking
- UAS Vision and Vision-Based Systems
- Landing and Forced Landing
- Simulation Platforms and Testbeds
- UAS Applications

I hope you enjoy the issue.



Kimon P. Valavanis  
Editor-in-Chief

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e-mail: tzafesta@softlab.ntua.gr



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University of Denver, CO, USA  
e-mail: Kimon.Valavanis@du.edu



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ELKE, Technical University of Crete  
e-mail: fragkedaki@gmail.com



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 e-mail: mettler@aem.umn.edu



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 e-mail: paul@coe.drexel.edu



Dr. Zoran Vukic  
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 e-mail: zoran.vukic@fer.hr



Dominique Sauter  
 Nancy-University, France  
 e-mail: dominique.sauter@cran.uhp-nancy.fr



## EDITORS

Dr. Beno Benhabib  
 University of Toronto  
 e-mail: benhabi@mie.utoronto.ca



Dr. Stjepan Bogdan  
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 e-mail: stjegan.bogdan@fer.hr



Dr. Sesh Commuri  
 University of Oklahoma  
 e-mail: scommuri@ou.edu



Dr. Aydan M. Erkmén  
Middle East Technical University  
e-mail: aydan@metu.edu.tr



Dr. Rafael Fierro  
University of New Mexico  
e-mail: rfierro@ece.unm.edu



Dr. Hui Jun Gao  
Harbin Institute of Technology  
e-mail: hjgao@hit.edu.cn



Dr. Fumiya Iida  
CS & AI, MIT  
e-mail: iida@csail.mit.edu



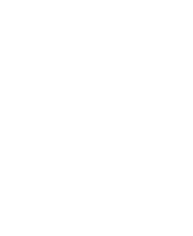
Dr. Sanjay Joshi  
UC Davis  
e-mail: maejoshi@ucdavis.edu



Dr. Abderrahmane Kheddar  
France  
e-mail: kheddar@iup.univ-evry.fr, abderrahmane.kheddar@aist.go.jp



Dr. Derek Kingston  
WP Air Force Base  
Derek.Kingston@WPAFB.  
AF.MIL



Dr. Fumitoshi Matsuno  
Kyoto University  
e-mail: matsuno@me.kyoto-u.ac.jp



Dr. Giovanni Muscato  
Università degli Studi  
di CATANIA  
e-mail: gmuscato@dees.unict.it



Dr. Dan Popa  
ARRI, UT Arlington  
e-mail: popa@arri.uta.edu



Dr. Nilanjan Sarkar  
Vanderbilt University  
e-mail: nilanjan.sarkar@vanderbilt.edu



Dr. Javier Ruiz-del-Solar  
Universidad de Chile  
e-mail: jruizd@cec.uchile.cl



Dr. Yuan Yan Tang  
Hong Kong Baptist University  
e-mail: yytang@comp.hkbu.  
edu.hk



Dr. Costas Tzafestas  
National Technical University  
of Athens  
e-mail: ktzaf@softlab.ece.  
ntua.gr



Dr. Miklos Vajta  
University of Twente  
e-mail: m.vajta@math.  
utwente.nl



Dr. Ljubo Vlacic  
Griffith University  
e-mail: l.vlacic@griffith.  
edu.au



Dr. Long Wang  
Peking University  
e-mail: longwang@pku.  
edu.cn



Dr. Jing Xiao  
U of North Carolina —  
Charlotte  
e-mail: xiao@uncc.edu



Dr. Nikos Tsourveloudis  
Technical University of Crete  
e-mail: nikost@dpem.tuc.gr



Dr. Ali Goktogan  
Australian Centre for  
Field Robotics, USYD  
e-mail: a.goktogan@cas.edu.au



Dr. Ahmad Rad  
Simon Fraser University  
e-mail: arad@sfu.ca

