From the Editor-in-Chief

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Dear Colleagues, readers and friends:

At first, I would like to wish you Happy New Year, with peace, health, happiness and prosperity for all. May 2019 be the year during which every wish becomes reality. Next, I want to thank wholeheartedly every single individual who has helped, and continues to help, JINT in any way, shape or form. My deepest gratitude goes to the Editorial Board members who coordinate all paper reviews, but also to the very many reviewers who review all submitted papers. Last, but not least, my thanks go to the authors who trust JINT to publish their work. This ensemble is the reason we publish JINT – you are the heart and soul of the journal. We, ‘the Springer team’ and the Editor-in-Chief try to serve you, and we promise to try even harder in 2019, and to reduce even more the paper review cycle from first submission to online publication.

January 2019 marks the beginning not only of a new year, but also of a new Editorial Board with a new structure and configuration. JINT now has a five-member Board of Governors whose responsibility is to oversee JINT practices, how JINT functions, and to suggest / recommend ways to improve it and make it more competitive. In addition, a six-member board has been assembled with one representative from each continent (North and South America, Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa), whose responsibility is / will be to recommend special issues by groups in their respective regions and to solicit top papers to be considered for publication in JINT. The rest of the Editorial Board members follow the previous year’s structure. Welcome aboard all new members and thank you for everything you have done past members.

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One very important issue I would like to, again, address in this first double-issue of 2019 is submitted paper overlap with prior published work: This is becoming a real challenge, and authors, perhaps rightly so, get frustrated when papers are returned for revision before consideration for review and publication in JINT. Publishers are now stricter when it comes to prototype and archive submitted work. Papers are run for authenticity and percentage of duplication – this protects the author(s), too, not just the publisher, I would like to make this clear. We, in JINT, after discussions with Springer, will process ‘by default’ contributed papers with overlap about 20%, and on occasion, with justification, with overlap about 25% - this will be the worst-case scenario. Papers with overlap of 30% or more will be automatically rejected, while papers with overlap between 25% - 30% will be returned for revision. Having stated the policy, please make sure that submitted / contributed papers meet these criteria.

This January-February double issue at hand is composed of mostly invited papers, a version of which appeared in the 2017 International Conference on UAS (ICUAS 2017). They have been reviewed extensively and they have been checked for overlap with prior work. The issue offers a wide spectrum of research and development projects on several aspects of unmanned aviation. It is informative and registers recent advances in the area.

Enjoy the double issue.

Kimon P. Valavanis
Editor-in-Chief

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