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Kimon P. Valavanis¹

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Dear Colleagues:

I start this Editorial by sharing with you that in 2021 we received a total 1151 submitted papers, one less than the record number of 1152 received in 2020. I personally believe that this is outstanding news regardless of how this number is interpreted. This achievement carries ‘extra weight’ because of the pandemic that has affected all of us – personally, and professionally.

Make no mistake: this achievement is YOURS, and nobody can take it away from you. It is the authors, the reviewers, the handling editors, the Springer team, and everybody else involved in this process who has contributed to reaching this level – I am just the facilitator here. So, the challenge that lies ahead of us is to ‘keep up the good work’ and do even better. Sustainability and improvement are two key words to help us climb on the top – and stay there. Let us hope that 2022 will be an even better year.

Next, I would like to share with you an important issue that has come to our attention (we are the receivers). We must address it as it may negatively impact JINT. Authors of submitted papers should be careful with the number of self-citations and JINT-based citations in general. Only essential references must be included in the paper. We will revisit this

issue once we have all details explained, and we share the information with you.

Colleagues, we have worked together from different posts for a long time. Now is the time for one more push to do better. From this side of the road, my side, I can only promise to work harder and assist you in publishing the best papers.

As repeatedly said, we welcome your feedback and comments, recommendations, and suggestions.

Enjoy the issue.

Kimon P. Valavanis
Editor-in-Chief

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✉ Kimon P. Valavanis
Kimon.Valavanis@du.edu

¹ D. F. Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science,
University of Denver, Denver, CO 80208, USA