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Dear Colleagues:

To begin with, we certainly hope that you like the new cover of JINT. We believe it reflects the state-of-the-art in the field of robotics and robotic systems. We are thankful to all who have made this possible. The Editorial Board members Tauseef Gulrez and George Nikolakopoulos provided suggestions and recommendations for the cover layout; a ‘young and promising engineer’, Panos Valavanis, searched for images, and, last, I sent everything to the Springer team to come up with final layouts. Our Anneke (Ms. Anneke Pot), worked with Mark Golebiowski (Springer NY, Freelance Journal Cover Designer) to produce the final JINT cover layout. I personally believe that we are on the right path to further improvement and acceptance as a unique journal in autonomous robotics systems.

Next, I would like to offer clarifications regarding peer reviewed accepted papers. Submitted papers are registered in the system as regular, short, survey and review papers. The peer review process is the same for all types of papers. It is obvious that survey and/or review papers are accepted as such (following the review process). However, it may be

the case that a submitted paper as ‘regular paper’ may be accepted as ‘short paper’ – not the other way around. This is not a ‘JINT thing’; we all know that this happens with most of top publications (i.e., IEEE transactions). The differences between a regular and a short paper are basically known and they are similar in major transactions/journals. The main point I wish to make clear to all authors, and mostly young authors, is that each peer reviewed accepted paper counts as an original publication – no exceptions.

As always, we will keep you in the loop with monthly updates.

Enjoy the issue.

Kimon P. Valavanis
Editor-in-Chief

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