

Preface

Wojciech Blajer · Janusz Fraćzek

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This special issue of *Multibody System Dynamics* contains selected papers that were presented at the ECCOMAS Thematic Conference on Multibody Dynamics held in Warsaw, Poland, during the period of June 29–July 2, 2009. Two hundred and twenty researchers and students from twenty seven countries in Europe, North and South America, and Asia attended this important scientific meeting to discuss problems and new research directions in the field of multibody system dynamics. The presentations made at this meeting included papers on various topics related to flexible body dynamics, formulations and numerical methods, optimization theory, contact and biomechanics problems, efficient methods and real-time applications, control and robotics, software development and education, vehicle systems and miscellaneous multibody applications. The meeting was a unique opportunity for the exchange of ideas, and achieved its goal of bringing together researchers and students who are actively involved in multibody system research.

As members of the Organizing Committee of the ECCOMAS Thematic Conference on Multibody Dynamics 2009, we would like to express our appreciation for the efforts and excellent presentations made by our colleagues. Their work contributed to the success of this meeting. The papers contained in this special issue reflect the high quality of the work presented at this conference. In particular, we would like to thank the authors who contributed to this special issue, and we hope that the research presented in these papers will be of important and lasting value to the readers of the journal of *Multibody System Dynamics*.

Guest Editors

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W. Blajer

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Technical University of Radom, ul. Krasickiego 54, 26-600 Radom, Poland

J. Fraćzek (✉)

Institute of Aeronautics and Applied Mechanics, Warsaw University of Technology, Nowowiejska 24, 00-665 Warsaw, Poland

e-mail: jfraczek@meil.pw.edu.pl