Despite the Virus, the Special Issue for the 16th Pegasus Student Conference

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Dear Reader

Aerotecnica Missili and Spazio has decided to host again a special edition dedicated to the PEGASUS Student Conference (PSC) which should have been held at the University of Pisa, on April 23–24, 2020 and, unfortunately, has been missed due to the worldwide sanitary emergency of the Covid-19.

PEGASUS (Partnership of a European Group of Aeronautics and Space Universities) is the partnership of the best European aerospace universities and currently has 28 members in 11 different European countries. Today, more than 2000 aeronautical engineers graduate from the member institutions of PEGASUS each year.

The objective of PEGASUS is to offer highly relevant educational and research programs and thereby attract the best students and scientists. Coordinated developments, exchange of staff and students and innovation are the basis on which these objectives are achieved.

The PSC is reserved for Masters students who have graduated from the PEGASUS Universities not more than 1 year before the date of the conference. It offers them a unique opportunity to get together, to exchange experiences, traditions and to create opportunities at international level.

The Conference is organized on the basis of competitive selection. The first selection is operated at local level since each University is allowed to present not more than three papers.

The written papers are then evaluated by two professors from different countries to the author(s) of the paper, recognized as experts in the covered topic.

The final, combined score is obtained after the oral presentation at the conference. Unfortunately, this year, the oral presentations have been not organized because of travel restrictions and impossibility to organize a “classical” in presence conference.

Consequently, this year the selection of the best papers have resulted only from the analysis of the written papers.

However, to keep the spirit of the conference and wishing a quick ending of such pandemic situation, the special issue of the journal has been maintained with the hope, next year to come back to a standard Student Conference.

The PEGASUS Community likes to thank the Editorial Board of Aerotecnica Missili and Spazio Springer Journal for offering the opportunity of a special issue dedicated to this conference, recognizing the importance and the credit that the PSC has achieved in the aerospace scientific community. All the papers have been additionally revised by new referees, to keep the high-quality standards of the Journal.

On behalf of all the PEGASUS Universities and their representatives, we express our gratitude to Aerotecnica Missili and Spazio for hosting the best papers in their special issue and we hope to maintain this link for the future editions of the PSC.

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