Editorial

FOREWORD

Surely each one of you has encountered a situation which made you wonder about the importance of automatic control systems. Probably the easiest way to answer this question is to imagine briefly the absence of automatic control. It does not take much to realize that, without all the modern devices and systems for whose operation automatic control is essential (the majority of electronic devices, heating or cooling appliances, means of transport, etc.), our everyday life would be reminiscent of ancient times. And, as a matter of fact, the roots of automatic control systems may even be traced back to ancient times. But it was with the industrial development that its importance actually came to the fore. Particularly over the past couple of decades the field reached such a level of maturity that the development of intelligent systems, smart structures and similar systems that were perceived as futuristic not a long time ago, is now a reality.

The scientific conference *Systems, Automatic Control and Measurements* (SAUM) gathers researchers in this attractive field of work. It also recognizes the multidisciplinary character of the field and, hence, works from the fields of modeling, measurements, system identification, robotics, management and industrial processes, etc., are also included in the conference scope. The backbone of this issue of *Facta Universitatis series Mechanical Engineering* are the selected papers presented at the SAUM 2016 conference hosted by the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Niš, and organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Niš. The papers have been properly modified and extended to meet the journal standards. Further articles originating from regular submissions are included in the issue so that hopefully a rather interesting, challenging and inspiring set of articles is offered to a vast audience.

Vlastimir Nikolić
Guest Editor

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