



Foreword

Over the years DAAAM Baltic has been an international forum for researchers and engineers to present their research results in the areas of industrial engineering, manufacturing, and automation. During these years its scope has been expanded from design engineering, production engineering, production management, and materials engineering towards mechatronics and system design. The conferences DAAAM Baltic bring together researchers from academic communities and industry to explore trends in product and manufacturing development based on the use of information technology and computer systems, as well as to share their experience and to foster collaboration. The focus of DAAAM Baltic encompasses theoretical and practical methodologies, resolving technologies of computer-aided design, computer-aided engineering, and model predictive control and many others, considering completeness, dynamics of change, new technology insertion, complexity, integration, and time to market.

Our society needs engineers and managers with technological knowledge, global vision, and professional management competence in order to meet the challenges of the new age. We emphasize the

importance of European initiatives towards Factories of the Future and the technology platform ManuFuture, and hope to give our contribution by bringing scientists, entrepreneurs, and industry specialists together for the exchange of visions about the future based on scientific research and case studies.

DAAAM Baltic regional conferences are organized under the auspices of the Danube Adrian Association for Automation and Manufacturing in cooperation with DAAAM International Vienna, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonian Academy of Sciences, Federation of Estonian Engineering Industry, Association of Estonian Mechanical Engineers, Tallinn City Enterprise Board, Eesti Energia AS, Doctoral School of Energy and Geotechnology II, and Innovative Manufacturing Engineering Systems Competence Centre IMECC.

At the 9th International DAAAM Baltic Conference, held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 24–29 April 2014, 68 presentations were made and 110 scientists were registered. This special issue of the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences* contains selected papers presented at that conference.

Tauno Otto
Guest Editor