

Preface

Over the past 16 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 to mechatronics and system design. Conference DAAAM Baltic 2012 brought together researchers from the academic communities and industry to explore trends in product and manufacturing development based on the use of IT and computer systems, as well as to share their experience and to foster collaboration. The DAAAM Baltic focus encompasses theoretical and practical methodologies, resolving technologies of CAD, CAE, MPC and many others, considering completeness, dynamics of change, new technology insertion, complexity, integration, and time to market. Our society needs engineers and managers having technological knowledge, global vision and professional management knowledge in order to meet the challenges of the new age. We emphasize the importance of European initiatives towards *Factories of the Future* and technology platform *Manufuture*, and hope to give our contribution by bringing scientists, entrepreneurs and industry specialists together for the exchange of future visions, based on scientific research and case studies.

The DAAAM Baltic 2012 conference continued the mission of a series of conferences, which is aimed to give for scientists of the Baltic Sea region an opportunity to introduce their research results and to find partners. In 2012 over two hundred proposals for presentations were reviewed, 130 papers sent by authors from 16 countries were accepted.

DAAAM Baltic meetings are regional conferences, organized under auspices of Danube Adrian Association for Automation and Manufacturing in cooperation with DAAAM International Vienna, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonian Academy of Sciences, BALTECH Consortium, IMECC, Federation of Estonian Engineering Industry, Association of Estonian Mechanical Engineers and Tallinn City Enterprise Board. This special issue contains selected papers, presented at the 8th International DAAAM Baltic Conference 2012.

Tauno Otto
Chairman of the Steering Committee