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DAAAM International Vienna
DAAAM Estonia



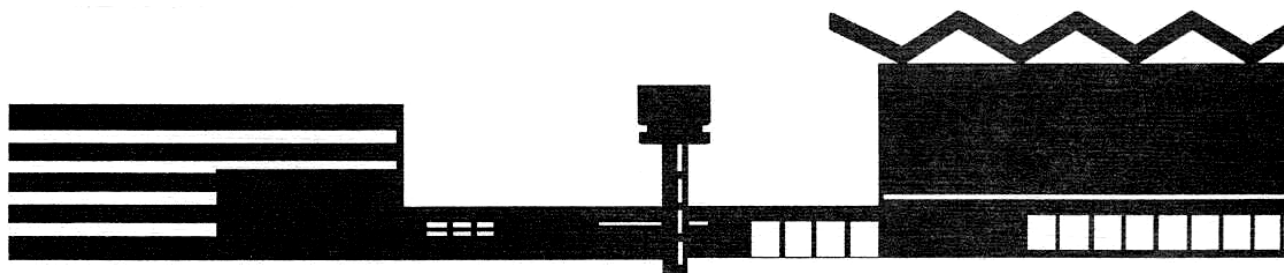
PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING –
NEW CHALLENGES TO SME
29-30TH APRIL 2004, TALLINN, ESTONIA

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INNOMET

EDITED BY
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TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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Preface

This year the fourth international conference is organised and we can tell about the beginning of the tradition. For those first taking part in that conference a short acquaintance is introduced.

DAAAM International was founded, based on the idea and initiative of B. Katalinic, on November 5th, 1990 at the Vienna Symposium, in order to mark the 175th anniversary of the Vienna University of Technology. The purpose of DAAAM International is to provide a world forum for engineers, scientists and industrials to present and discuss the current status and impact of advanced manufacturing and automation. During its existence the activities of DAAAM International are supported from the scientists and experts from many countries all over the world.

One of the very important activities is organizing of DAAAM International Symposium. The main objective of the Symposium is to provide a world forum, which annually take a part in Middle Europe to exchange knowledge, experience, results and information related to various aspects of the advanced manufacturing and modern automation.

So, the main aims of DAAAM are:

- Exchange of people, scientific and technical information.
- International co-operation among scientists and engineers.
- Create the opportunity for contacts among young scientists.
- R & D, education and industrial application.
- To co-operate with other national and international organisations in matter of common interest.

As consequences, this very fruitful idea has developed on the national level as well. Estonia is very active member and has participated in the DAAAM International events. In this year we are marking the tenth year from the first participation in the DAAAM International conference in Maribor. As the acknowledgement it has also been presented in Scientific Committee of DAAAM International (member is Professor Jyri Papstel). At national level the activities are concentrated to organize annual conferences. The first national conference in 1995 was declared as a conference for young scientists. Due to large interest in 1st National Conference the Second National DAAAM Conference was organized in 1996 for all interested scientists and researcher. The main aim of this conference was to provide forum for scientists to present their activities and results and find partners. Now the international conference takes place every second year.

In this year the 4th international conference will take place under the motto *Industrial Engineering – Innovation as Competitive Edge for SME*. The worldwide globalization give new opportunities as well as issues new challenges related to industrial engineering particularly distributed engineering and manufacturing. This is especially important for the SME as the most serious partners in the manufacturing network. Hence this conference is the place for declaration the state of the art in the field and acquaintance SME with the new challenge and new opportunities.

We are glad to say that our colleagues and friends were very active and met this idea enthusiastically. Their commitment and enthusiasm was one of the main driving forces in the course of organizing this meeting. Hereby we wish to thank, on behalf of worldwide DAAAM International community, all the authors, reviewers and members of National Organizing Committee for their efforts that made this conference possible and successful.

President of DAAAM International



Professor, Dr. Branko Katalinic
Vienna, 2004-04-02

President of DAAAM Estonia



Professor, Dr. Jyri Papstel
Tallinn, 2004-04-02