

Editors note

The scientific Journal Strojarstvo has, over fifty three years of continuous publication, been the herald of scientific and technical achievements in mechanical engineering in Croatia, and, it could also be said, neighboring countries that gravitate to this part of Southern Europe. It is primarily a journal of theoretical and professional aspects in mechanical engineering but it is not uncommon to have published papers from related branches of the applied Technical sciences, for example: naval engineering, electrical engineering or other branches. Papers from the Natural sciences disciplines have also been published in Journal Strojarstvo, which is not odd since the scientific branches of physics and chemistry form the basis in the field of mechanical engineering. A confirmation of the importance of the Journal's continued publishing is the interest of authors visible through a relatively large number of received papers. The editorial staff has included an array of improvements into the process in order to optimize the organizational aspect of the Journal's publishing, one of which is the migration to digital peer review. This would enable a larger number of papers to be reviewed in a shorter timeframe as it streamlines the communication between the editorial staff, reviewers and authors. The high scientific and technical standard of the published papers are a result of the great effort of the Editorial staff and reviewers that have volunteered and cooperated in the publishing of the Journal for years. The indexing in SCI and Current Content databases confirms the Journal's quality over the years. A regular publishing schedule is necessary to maintain indexing continuity, not just the quality of published papers and the Editorial policy. Unfortunately, during the past three years the Journal wasn't published with the accustomed regularity due to financial reasons. Along with the comprehensive volunteer work of the Editorial staff and the reviewers, the sources of financing for the Journal are the call for proposals by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of Republic Croatia and sponsorships and donations from companies active in the field of mechanical engineering. The recession in the fields of mechanical engineering and naval architecture and industry this year overall has resulted in smaller subsidies which caused the publishing to be exclusively dependant on the subsidy by the Ministry's call for proposals, that was insufficient for the financing of pre-production, editing and printing of the Journal. The unfortunate result of this was the delayed publishing of the last three issues of this volume.

The general direction of society indicates that the financial support for the following year 2012 will not be abundant. The publisher, The Croatian Union of Mechanical Engineers and Naval Architects and other relevant contributors from the field of Mechanical engineering have to analyse the problem of the Journal's financing and find new ways to keep this, for the field of Mechanical engineering important, scientific journal publishing regularly while keeping the established quality. The Editorial staff will do everything possible in these difficult circumstances to have the Volume 54 for year 2012 edited and published in time to ensure the continuity of Journal Strojarstvo.

For the Editors,
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