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Contents of the esim-volums 5 and 6

The Working Group 5.7 of the International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP WG 5.7) was founded in 1978. Formally dedicated to "Computer-aided Production Management", IFIP WG 5.7 has been focusing on "Integration in Production Management" since several years. Considering the scope of interest during the first two decades of the group's existence, integration, as in the first part of the group's name, certainly still encompasses the application of computer tools. Today, as a result of the economic development around the world, it also comprises the integration of production processes within an enterprise as well as the networks of enterprises.

The second part of the group's name addresses the field of application, namely production management. Research activities and solutions in industry have traditionally been dominated by topics like facility and machinery equipment management, material supply and warehousing concepts and tools, configuration of production programmes, strategies for order processing and computer tools to support the design and control of production systems, only to mention a few aspects.

From October 5th to 9th, 2003 the Working Group "Integration in Production Management" of the International Federation of Information Processing" (IFIP WG 5.7) held its annual Working Conference in Karlsruhe (Germany). This conference was hosted by the ifab-Institute of Human and Industrial Engineering of the University of Karlsruhe. Hence, to address the important human-related aspects in the manufacturing, this Working Conference was devoted to the "Human Aspects in Production Management".

This volume 5 of the esim-European Series in Industrial Management contains the enlarged abstracts of the presented papers. They reveal numerous problems within this topic, often leading to more questions than answers or solutions. Thus, this conference pointed out a broad field for further research work as well as the need for solutions in industry.

As usual, this Working Conference was also open to other current topics in the field of productivity management. The enlarged abstracts these papers are presented in volume 6 of this series. Following main streams of forerunning conferences, the management of supply chains and production networks is focused as well as questions related to managerial strategies, shop floor control and design of manufacturing systems. Beyond this, innovative issues are discussed in the field of life cycle management, knowledge management and distributed simulation. Thus, the IFIP WG 5.7 Working Conference 2003 in Karlsruhe also contributed to now evolving problem areas of production management.